

NEWSLETTER 2020

Inspire



“NURTURING EXCELLENCE THROUGH EDUCATION”

“We have come a long way, but we have miles to go...”
- Shanmugam Muniandy (President)

Dear Inspirers,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to the Inspire 6th Annual General Meeting which happens to be the first online AGM for Inspire. It gives me great pleasure to note that since our society's inception 6 years ago, we have come a long way in fulfilling Inspire's objective to enable more Indian students from the B40 group to enrol in the public universities. We faced and overcame many challenges in our efforts to uplift the lives of the disadvantaged people in our community. Our highly successful flagship project, Inspire Financial Assistance, or IFA, has been our best community outreach programme thus far that helped us to attain our goal. From the funds collected in our past five IFAs, Inspire was able to help 478 underprivileged Indian students enrol in public universities by financing their initial payments.

There are many processes involved in making IFA a success, such as:

- a. Collecting donations from Inspire members and well-wishers of Inspire.
- b. Reaching out to the B40 youths in all parts of the country with our IFA application forms.
- c. Gathering as many completed applications forms as possible.
- d. Painstakingly vetting all the application forms to shortlist the deserving ones.
- e. Making telephone calls to every applicant to verify the particulars given.
- f. Selecting the most deserving students.
- g. Making all the necessary arrangements such as booking the venue, providing transportation for the students' and their family members, preparing refreshments, preparing the cheques, handling the technical aspects of the function, and so on.

All these processes need a lot of time and extremely high commitment from the Inspire members. I am happy to note that each year, the Inspire committee members, along with some members and friends of Inspire, had risen to the occasion. Therefore, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who had worked tirelessly to make IFA a phenomenal success every year.

I also would like to thank all the committee members, Inspire members and the many well-wishers for their generous donations every year. Without these donations Inspire wouldn't have been able to organise the IFAs successfully, or even function effectively as a community service society.

Besides IFA which is our main project, Inspire has also undertaken other social services. The full details are in the Secretary's report but here is a list of some of the more significant services that we have provided to the underprivileged in our community:

- a. We have been giving RM300 a month to Mr. Gopal from Sg. Petani who has had both his legs amputated, and is looking after his disabled son.
- b. We have been giving RM300 a month to Mr. Naren from Jalan Ipoh, KL who has lost his eye sight and is also suffering from diabetes.
- c. During Phase 1 MCO in March 2020 Inspire collected donations from its members and provided monetary aid to the needy people who had lost their source of income due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- d. During the same period, Inspire also received RM25000 from Hong Leong Foundation which was then used to fund food aid to the needy families.

The year 2020 has been a very challenging one for all of us. Due to the strict MCO regulations, we were unable to organise the usual IFA cheque giving ceremony in Klang Valley. After a rigorous vetting process, we not only made online payments to the most deserving recipients, but we also made arrangements to meet the recipients at eight locations in the country, namely Pulau Pinang, Kedah, Ipoh, KL, Seremban, Melaka, JB and Kuantan. All the committee members, with the help of some Inspire members, travelled to those locations and met with the recipients to explain Inspire's objectives and share information on how to adjust to varsity life.

It has been a great pleasure and honour to serve Inspire as its President, and I wish the new office bearers of Inspire all the very best. I hope they will serve the community with great commitment and dedication and take Inspire to greater heights. Thank you.

- Shan.



Mr. Gopal from Sg. Petani



Inspire 5th AGM, 8 March 2020



Keeping the INSPIRE members, recipients and well-wishers connected
GALLERY



INSPIRE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (IFA) 2020

Inspire's flagship project IFA 2020 surpassed all the previous collections by netting a total amount of RM273,678.17. In total, 434 donors contributed to the IFA2020. RM243,500.00 was disbursed to 157 students, which included 6 students from the University appeal cases.

Due to the RMCO, the "Meet the Students" programme was decentralized and conducted at 8 locations: Kuala Lumpur/Selangor, Negeri Sembilan, Malacca, Johor, Perak, Penang, Pahang and Kedah. Pictures of the recipients at the various locations are displayed below.

The Inspire committee would like to express its gratitude to the Inspire members, associate members and well-wishers for their tireless effort and generosity.



JOHOR – Venue: Govindasamy Pillay Wedding Hall, Rajamariamman Devasthanam

Total Recipients: 15, Committee Rep: Ganesan Krishnan, PIC (who assisted the on-site arrangements): Raja Selan Vadivellu. Other Inspirers that attended: Chandran Sinnasamy, Prasad Nanu, Sethulingam Ramalingam and Krishnasamy Muniandy.



MELAKA - Venue: Bgn Gujarati Vanik Sangh, Bandar Hilir, Melaka
Total Recipients: 7, Committee Rep: Ariwalagan, PIC: Ravi
Other Inspirers that attended: Ponniah, Michael, Jacintha, Ravi Thirupathi, Raku



NEGERI SEMBILAN – Venue: Wisma Ceylonese Hall, Seremban
Total Recipients: 24, Committee Rep: Param, PIC: Ambiga
Other Inspirers that attended: Malar, Sheela, Prasanth, Jaya Shankar, Veianthan (IFA2016)



PAHANG - VENUE: Greenleaf Hotel Kuantan Total Recipients: 2, Committee Rep: Rajagantham, PIC: Mr Mahendran, Pravin (IFA2019)



KEDAH - Venue: Sri Subramaniya Swami Devasthanam Hall
 Total Recipients: 14, Committee Rep – Kuhan, assisted by Sumitha, PIC: Ganesh & Magaletchimy
 Other Inspirers that attended: Gopal Kannan, Jegaathiswari (IFA2016) & Rinushlaadewi (IFA2018)



PERAK - Venue: Murugan Temple Sg Siput

Total Recipients: 37, Committee Reps: Shanmugam & Vasanthi, PIC: Kumaran

Other Inspirers that attended: Rajendran, Junior Rajendran, Viswa, Kumaram, Gevari, Meena Kumari, Dr. Prabakaran, Sita, Devaki (IFA2016) & Deven Kumar (IFA2017)



PENANG - Venue: Wisma Shri Gujarati (Gujarati Samaj)

Total Recipients: 17, Committee Reps: Kumanan, Gopal & Karpagam, PIC: Kumanan

Other Inspirers that attended: Priyaa Tharisiny Aruldass, Sharon Ebigail Amladass (IFA2017), Sathiaseelan (IFA2017), A. Gaayatheri (IFA2019), Harikumar Kumaran (IFA2019) & Arwinghanesh(IFA2019)



SELANGOR & KL - Venue: Gujarati Association Hall

Total Recipients: 31, Committee Reps: Dipak, Ravi V, Keamalatha, PIC: Kala

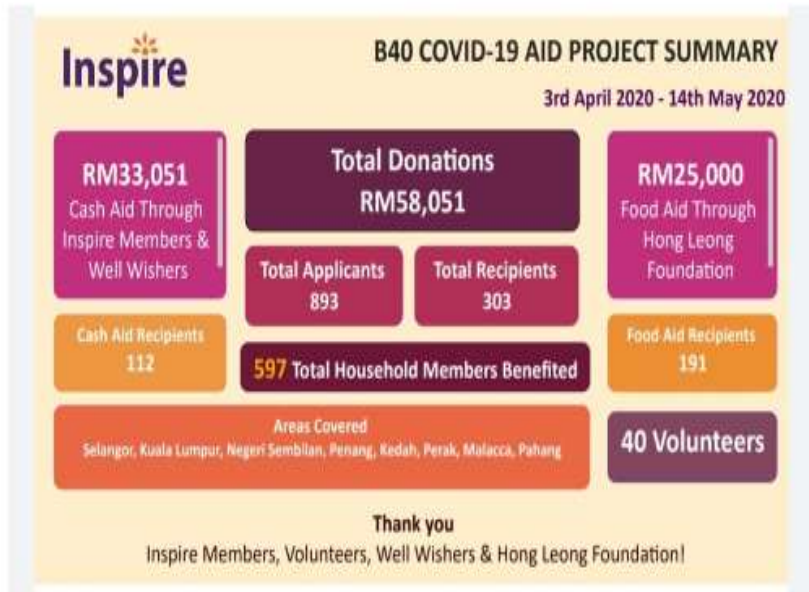
Other Inspirers that attended: Tamilselvi, Saroja, Elaveni, Raventharan, Jayakumar, Sutha, Lakshmi Nokanaidu, Sumangala, Nathan, Prasath, Harshana & Manjulla(IFA2016), Logananthini & Trisha(IFA2019)

INSPIRE B40 COVID-19 FINANCIAL AID & FOOD AID PROJECT
3rd April 2020 – 14th May 2020

This project was launched to assist needy families from the B40 income group who were affected by the MCO due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The project period was from 3 April 2020 to 14 May 2020. Two types of aid were provided. A Cash Aid amounting to RM 33,051 in donations received from 101 Inspire members and well-wishers were distributed to selected families. The Food Aid was carried out using a RM25,000 donation by the Hong Leong Foundation. The total amount disbursed in the two aid projects was RM58,051.

The number of successful applicants who received the aid was 303 families. They were selected from a total number of 893 applications. The states that Inspire managed to reach out to were Selangor, Kuala Lumpur, Negeri Sembilan, Penang, Kedah, Perak, Malacca and Pahang. Some pictures of the recipients can be found below.

INSPIRE B40 COVID-19 AID PROJECT



INSPIRE B40 COVID-19 AID PROJECT SUMMARY





INSPIRE B40 COVID-19 AID PROJECT GALLERY



“Let us now focus on taking Inspire to the next level”
- Kuhan Gunaratnam (Vice President)

Vannakam.

The Inspire Society was formed in 2015 by a few USM seniors, who had the foresight to make a difference in our community through Education, thus the creation of the Tag line “Nurturing Excellence Through Education.” The founding members felt that education was the only way out of the vicious cycle of poverty that has been plaguing our society.

Over the years Inspire members and our friends from different states have been reaching out to assist our community wherever possible. It is our hope that these efforts undertaken by Inspire will help improve some aspects of their lives and raise their overall standard of living. We believe that when we educate a child, we will indirectly uplift the entire family, thus breaking the vicious cycle of poverty. This belief has been Inspire’s driving force over the years.

From that point onwards, there was no turning back. We started the Inspire Financial Assistance (IFA) project in 2016 to assist the needy students who have been offered places in local Public universities. In a matter of just two weeks, we raised RM81,000 and selected 39 students from a pool of 95 applications that we received for Public University enrollment.

These bright students did not even have the financial means to make the initial University entrance payment and would have not pursued their tertiary education if financial assistance had not been given. It would have been a shame if these students missed out on the opportunity offered to them to further their education.

It has been a truly inspiring five years. With God’s blessings, and the amazing support of our USM friends and family, who pledged their time, effort, generosity and passion, have allowed us to reach this amazing milestone and to ensure that a total of 478 students got a chance to further their education to the tertiary level.

Here is a quick re-cap of our previous IFA milestones:

- In 2016, we disbursed RM 81K and assisted 39 students
- In 2017, we disbursed RM 114K and assisted 55 students
- In 2018, we disbursed RM 150.5K and assisted 88 students
- In 2019, we disbursed RM 211K and assisted 139 students
- In 2020, we disbursed RM 243.5K and assisted 157 students

Each year, we receive more applications from B40 applicants, but due to our limited financial resources, we do the best that we can to assist as many students as possible. These are the main reasons why we feel that with your continued support we can make a positive difference in the lives of these bright students and indirectly uplift their families as well.

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to thank each one of you for your kind contributions. It means a lot not only to us but also to the lives of the students and their families. With your commitment and generous contributions, we know we can do so much more to assist our society to uplift their lives and get them out of the B40 bracket, and ultimately make it another INSPIRING journey for the deserving students.

Let us now focus on taking Inspire to the next level. We can only do this if we get more USM friends to volunteer their time and be a part of the Inspire committee family. We would also like to see more volunteers participating in the various projects that we have planned for the future. We have great hopes that what our USM friends started in 2015 will cause a chain reaction that would eventually raise the economic status of the B40 Indian communities in our society.

Let us all **Inspire** our society by 'Nurturing Excellence Through Education.' Thank you very much for giving us this opportunity. Nandri.

– Kuhan

“EDUCATE A CHILD AND UPLIFT A FAMILY”
– PERSATUAN KEBAJIKAN INSPIRE –

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Inspire would like to thank:

All Inspire members for the continued donations and project implementation support for our IFA2020 and inspire B40 Covid-19 MCO food aid programmes.

USM alumni for the continued donations and support for our IFA2020 and Inspire B40 Covid-19 MCO food aid programmes.

Hong Leong foundation for funding support for B40 Covid-19 MCO food aid programme.

Venue and food sponsors for the IFA2020 “meet the students” programme held at 8 locations.

Media and press for the coverage given for IFA2020.

All well-wishers and generous individuals, groups, associations and corporate donors for their contributions towards the betterment of the community in general.

Friends of Inspire who volunteered with ground-work for food delivery for the Inspire B40 Covid-19 MCO food aid programme.

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FOR A
BETTER
INSPIRED
TOMORROW

Inspire

Persatuan Kebajikan Inspire

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