LETTER FROM ANNE GROSS, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At LIFT USA, we serve high-potential youth who have no access to quality education and face the threat of child labor. LIFT provides hope and educational opportunities that change the lives of the youth and their families, and ultimately impacts their communities.

I support LIFT because I know education is a gift that can never be taken away—it delivers opportunity in a way that nothing else does. Without children of my own LIFT affords me the best way I can pay-forward the blessings and abundance that has been gifted to me.

When I was in India, I met Prema, the youngest student at LIFT. Prema is 10 years old. Her father died of cancer when she was six, and his death was devastating, both emotionally and financially, for her and the entire family. Prema joined LIFT when she was in 3rd grade and now, in 5th grade, is thriving. Prema is bold, confident, energetic, and very intelligent (scores all A’s on her exams). She is also an excellent dancer and recently earned 3rd prize in a Tamil state dance competition in Chennai out of 75 participants. At LIFT, Prema is realizing her potential on all levels.

For three years, I have served as President of LIFT and Chair of the LIFT USA Board. Given my education, work experiences, and desire to make a difference in the world, I hoped I could achieve my goal by serving in this capacity, and I knew that I could make a difference just as each contribution makes a difference in the lives of LIFT students in India.

I am proud to be a part of the LIFT family – to help transform lives and create opportunities for youth that they could never have imagined. Each and every donor does the same when making a contribution to LIFT.

Thank you for helping to break the cycle of poverty for the children of LIFT.

In hope and gratitude,

Anne Gross
President, LIFT USA Board of Directors
Education

- 64 students are supported in grades three through college including two in graduate school.
- 66 percent; two-thirds of all students are female.
- For the 7th consecutive year, all 10th and 12th grade students passed their year-end exams. (LIFT has had a 100 percent pass rate every year students have appeared for exams at these grade levels).
- Four 10th grade students earned perfect exam scores. (Exams are crucial to college admission and a major determinant of future career possibilities).
- 100 percent of 12th grade students were accepted to university.

Leadership Training

LIFT 2.0, a group of five LIFT graduates who make regular contributions to LIFT, served as mentors and tutors at LIFT during the school year, often traveling a great distance to volunteer at LIFT.

Community Development

LIFT students raised and donated more than INR 53,000 (over US $800.00) to support a local orphanage, a mental health facility, and a home for people living with HIV/AIDS and INR 30,000 (over US $460.00) to support victims of catastrophic flooding in their state despite their own disadvantaged backgrounds.
LIFT USA hosted two successful events in 2015-2016. We are grateful to our generous supporters and committed volunteers for their time and treasure.

**OUR LIFT: From Hardship to Hope—Film Premiere**
On September 24, 2015, more than 100 LIFT supporters gathered at Kendall College for the premiere of OUR LIFT: from hardship to hope, a LIFT documentary film by Winding Road Productions. For the first time in Chicago, LIFT friends and supporters connected with the children in India in a whole new way; hearing directly from the students what a LIFT education has meant to their futures. LIFT raised more than $70,000 for housing, scholarships, and leadership education for the young people of LIFT.

**Benefit Concert with Funkadesi**
On May 6, 2016, LIFT hosted its first Benefit Concert with award-winning, multi-cultural band, Funkadesi. Guests enjoyed Indian fare, a live auction, and fantastic music at The Flower Firm, a unique and charming Chicago venue. Funkadesi, from Chicago, showcased its award-winning sound—a blend of Indian music with reggae, funk, and Afro-Caribbean grooves. LIFT raised more than $64,000 to support the program in India!
The LIFT USA Associate Board hosted two events in 2016. The UpLIFTing Yoga Retreat was held on February 20, 2016. Yogis gathered at Old St. Patrick’s Jack Wall Mission Center to stretch, breathe, and give back to the children of LIFT. A month later, on March 16, LIFT a Beer was held at Half Acre Brewery. Guests tasted great beers while supporting a great cause. Together, these events raised more than $2,000.00 for the students of LIFT.

Additionally, the Associate Board contributed to the Chicago community by volunteering with various organizations including Cards for Hospitalized Kids (CFHK), an internationally recognized charitable organization that spreads hope, joy, and magic to hospitalized kids across America through uplifting, handmade cards.

Associate Board of Directors
July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

Saachi Shah
Monica Kumar
Shivani Datta
Niyanth Anand
Reese Mugerditchian
Heena Waichulis
Parker Caldwell
Siely Joshi
Courtney Haynes
Chaitra Kotha

Board of Directors
July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

Anne M. Gross, President, Director
Thomas Fitzsimons, Treasurer, Director
Laura Field, Director
Michael Hobbs, Director
Liam Healy, Director
Jamels James, Director
Henry Munez, Director
Terry Nelson-Johnson, Director
Dr. Neill Peters, Director
Bhavan Suri, Director
Emily Whitney, Director
**LIFT USA**  
Statements of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets—Cash Basis  
*June 30, 2016 and 2015*

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<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>$224,467</td>
<td>$256,398</td>
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<td><strong>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
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**Total Liabilities and Net Assets**   
$224,467   
$256,398

*Note: 100% of Board Members (non-religious) provided financial support to LIFT during the 2016 fiscal year.*
Learn more or share your support

For inspiring stories and videos, please visit www.liftusa.org.

To get involved to support the students of LIFT, please visit www.liftusa.org/get-involved or email info@liftusa.org.

LIFT USA is a U.S. 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your donations to LIFT are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law.