1999-2019
Uddami celebrates 20 years!

In 1999, a couple from California had the dream to improve the lives of underprivileged youth in India through practical job-oriented computer skills. They started in their apartment with just a couple of young people using laptops and slowly developed a computer center that has the capacity for twelve workstations.

In 2007, the founders, Alison Saracena and Bryan Forst, turned over the administration of Uddami Computer Training Center to the newly-formed Uddami India Foundation whose trustees were chosen from Uddami course teachers (Nivedita Pal and Harshamanjari Nanda) and one graduate (Rabia Khatoon). Since then the trustees have overseen the day-to-day operation of the school under the stellar supervision of Rabia Khatoon, who sadly died last summer at the too young age of 32.

Uddami India Foundation and the Uddami Computer Training Center have

risen from that devastating event determined to honor Rabia's dedication by continuing even stronger. It's been an amazing twenty-year journey for everyone involved!

Since its early years, Uddami did its best to keep its computer equipment operational serving the purpose of teaching keyboard typing, learning the basic office programs and accessing the internet. Updates to the latest versions of operating systems and software programs were not always a financial option.

Now Uddami's "computer guy" is an Uddami graduate, Arindam Dasgupta, who started his own computer consulting business. Arindam is in the unique position to understand Uddami's tech needs from the inside out. He has assessed each desktop and laptop for its hardware properties and software capabilities and created a spreadsheet with the unique information for each unit. Arindam was always available to do "work arounds", so Uddami did not suffer any downtime in teaching their eager students.

Thanks to you, our generous donors, Uddami was able this year to do a major upgrade of their equipment and is now operating on Windows 10 and Microsoft Office Pro with the ability to automatically get the latest updates and upgrades with enough memory to add other software programs that may be of benefit to the students' skill sets.

In that regard, we are pleased to announce that Uddami is adding the option for their students to learn the bookkeeping software, Tally (the Indian version of QuickBooks). The teachers are being trained in the software now and will offer a course by the end of the summer. Adjunct classes in Spoken English and Life Skills are already available to any student and by adding Tally, Uddami students can further enhance their chances for gainful employment.

Please join us in honoring Alison's and Bryan's 1999 dream-turned-reality, Rabia's heartfelt dedication, and Uddami India Foundation's continuing mission and vision for the future. Help us maintain the momentum Uddami is experiencing in 2019 with your own generosity.

The staff and students succeed because you inspire them by believing in Uddami's selfless efforts on behalf of the disadvantaged youth of Kolkata. We all thank you for your time and consideration and here's to another 20 years!!

header photo and photo of two women at the computer by Sarah Annay Photography

WE DEPEND ON YOU SO UDDAMI STUDENTS CAN DEPEND ON THEMSELVES.

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