

Ullas Trust Conducts Annual ‘Can Do It’ Workshop for Ullas Young Achievers in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, January 28, 2012: Ullas Trust, a Social Initiative by Polaris Financial Technology Ltd., conducted its Ullas Annual Workshop & awarded Young Achievers scholarships to 765 students across 100 schools in Hyderabad. The **“Can Do It”** workshop was conducted by Kedarnath Udiyavar, President & Head-Strategic Relations, Polaris Financial Technology Ltd., Aniruddha Dasu, Head-Ullas Executive Council, Hyderabad and Colonel Vidyasagar, Head-Ullas Trust in the presence of **Dr B.V. Pattabhiram, Renowned Psychologist and HRD Counsellor.**

The Ullas Trust was set up in 1997 by the employees of Polaris to ignite & shape the young minds of students from Corporation, Government and Government-aided schools across the country. Very early in its evolution, Ullas decided to focus its energies on students from economically challenged backgrounds going through the most vulnerable stage in their journey – adolescence! This would translate into students from Class (Grade) 9th to 12th. Ullas strongly believes that during this period, any positive intervention creates a huge impact in nurturing their dreams and aspirations.

Ullas Trust has created integrated and holistic programs to encourage the 'Can Do It' spirit in young students based on six guiding principles:

- 1) Maximum change in one’s thought process occurs between the ages of 13–16 years; any positive influence gets amplified
- 2) To bring anything to reality one needs to visualize it. When one pens his or her dreams on paper one’s own personal commitment to the dreams increases, increasing the chances of achieving the dream
- 3) A young mind learns through observations and by expanding one’s view
- 4) During the journey towards achieving dreams, if one’s thoughts are supported and discussed with a mentor, friend or guide, it inspires and accelerates momentum towards the goal
- 5) A young mind gets inspired by experiencing role models - only by observing role models can one even think about it
- 6) A young mind gets energized and further encouraged by recognition in a larger group

To shape these young, fertile minds, Polaris employees run a unique weekend intervention program called SUMMIT, which comprises a personality development module and a technology skill development module. The SUMMIT Program is graded from Level 1 to Level 4, with Level 1 beginning for Class IX and finishing with Level 4 for Class XII. Between Standard IX to XII, each student undergoes at least 24 intervention programs in the form of SUMMITs and Annual Workshops that help in honing their self-confidence and ‘Can Do It’ spirit.

Speaking on the occasion **Mr. Kedarnath Udiyavar, President & Head - Strategic Relations, Polaris Financial Technology Ltd.** said, "At Polaris, the joy of giving and the responsibility to give are ingrained in the very core DNA of the organisation. It is indeed a moment of pride for the entire Polaris family to witness the initiatives of the Ullas Trust reaching out to over 30000 students. The driving force behind Ullas Trust is to ignite and shape the thinking of high school students, during the most vulnerable stage in their lives - adolescence. Young Achievers of the yester years now have jobs in leading companies across the country and they, in turn, act as catalysts and role models for the next generation of Young Ullas Achievers."

Touch the Soil

The ultimate aim of Ullas is to reach out to the students in the districts and to have one mentor for every high school student who comes from an economically challenged background. In the future, this unique program aims to spread the 'Power of Dreams' to high school students across villages in every district of the country and has begun to take baby steps towards this vision in the districts of Tamil Nadu & Andhra Pradesh. Since its inception, Ullas Trust has awarded over 30,000 scholarships to students across India.

About Ullas Trust

Ullas Trust was started in 1997 with an aim to integrate the employees of Polaris with a larger community and nurture a "Can do it" spirit among the students. The Trust recognizes and rewards academic excellence through annual scholarships. The Ullas Trust has been organizing an annual workshop for the past 13 years, with the aim of exposing young minds to role models and achievers from the real world. Every year, the workshop culminates with the Trust awarding educational scholarships to students identified through a selection process from Corporation and Government schools in all districts of Tamil Nadu, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Delhi. Going beyond scholarships, the volunteers in the Trust act as "Mentors" to the Ullas Achievers by engaging them regularly on interactive sessions. Over the last 14 years, Ullas Trust has awarded over 30,000 scholarships to young minds across India.

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