

Ullas Trust Reaches Out to 36000 Children in a Single Year

...Conducts its 15th Annual Workshop for Ullas Young Achievers in Chennai

Chennai (India), September 01, 2012: Ullas Trust, a Social Initiative by Polaris Financial Technology Ltd., conducted its 15th Annual Workshop & awarded Young Achievers scholarships to 1200 students across 178 Corporation and Government schools in Chennai. Mr. Sunil Kumar, IPS, Inspector General of Police, Chennai, Dr. Radhakrishnan J, IAS, Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu and Mr. Devarajan K, Director of School Education, Government of Tamil Nadu, were Guests of Honor for the occasion. An interactive and one of a kind 'Diary of Dreams' workshop was conducted by Mr. Arun Jain, Chairman & CEO, Polaris to ignite the young minds.

Ullas Trust was started by the employees of Polaris in 1997, to recognize academic excellence in students from the economically challenged sections of society and nurture their 'Can Do' spirit. Ullas focuses on High School students during the most vulnerable phase in their lives – adolescence, strongly believing that during this period, any positive intervention creates a huge impact in nurturing their dreams and aspirations.

To shape these young, fertile minds, Polaris employees conduct two integrated and holistic programs- the weekend SUMMIT program that ignites the best among young minds and the 'Touch The Soil' program that enables employees to 're-connect with their roots'.

The unique weekend intervention program called SUMMIT, comprises a personality development module and a technology skill development module based on specially crafted lesson plans that encompass communication skills, confidence-building, memory skills, active team work, public speaking, leadership skills and computer lab sessions. 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 20 life skills intervention programs and annual workshops that help in honing their self-confidence and positivity.

Through the SUMMIT programs, Polaris employees get a special opportunity to mentor these students, thereby making positive interventions in their journey and towards achieving their aspirations. The SUMMIT programs conducted in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Hyderabad have helped Ullas reach out to more than 6000 students across India this year alone.

To transform young minds in the rural milieu, Ullas conducts its other program, 'Touch The Soil'. This unique program, through its 'Diary of Dreams' and 'Planning' workshop for Class IX and X students respectively, aims to spread the 'Power of Dreams' to high school students across villages in every district of the country. This year, 30,000 students have been reached through the 'Touch the Soil' program. This includes 151 schools covering 24000 students across all districts in Tamil Nadu and 134 schools covering 6000 students in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Speaking on the occasion, **Mr. Arun Jain, Chairman & CEO, Polaris Financial Technology Ltd.** said, “It is a humbling experience to watch the dedicated and humungous efforts of the Polaris employees in reaching out to 36000 young students in a single year. This is indeed a milestone in the history of the Ullas Trust. Our weekend enrichment programs called 'Summit' have been very nicely crafted to shape the thinking of High School students with 20 interventional modules. The ‘Diary of Dreams’ workshop that we are rendering today for over 1200 students reinforces the Power of Dreaming big and with conviction.”

About Ullas Trust

Ullas Trust, the Social Arm of Polaris Financial Technology was started in 1997 with an aim to integrate the employees 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, Mumbai and Delhi. Going beyond scholarships, the employees of Polaris act as “Mentors” to the Ullas Achievers by engaging them regularly on weekend enrichment programs. For more information, please visit www.ullastrust.org/

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