



Kodai Friends International Annual Report 2024-2025





TABLE OF CONTENTS

03	A Letter from President Margaret Greene
04	Grants Awarded
11	Donors to KFI
13	Treasurer's Report
15	List of KFI Established Funds
17	Supporting Kodai Friends International
18	Board of Directors
18	Keep in Touch

Kodai Friends International Inc. serves to enhance the mission of Kodaikanal International School (KIS) and other educational organizations in Tamil Nadu, India that strengthen the values of KIS, through financial and administrative aid.

A Letter from the President, Margaret Greene



Dear Friends of Kodai School,

It's finally here! 2026 is the 125th Anniversary of our dear Kodaikanal International School, with many events and celebrations planned at the school throughout the year. We encourage you to visit KIS during this year of celebration. The events calendar can be found on KIS's website - so easy <https://www.kis.in/> - to help you decide when to plan your visit.

The school's 125th anniversary celebrations kicked off with the inauguration of the Schoeninger Center. Other big plans for the year include introducing endowed chair positions to strengthen the academic program. The condition of the historic Saint Peter's cemetery where many former faculty and others are buried has been cause for distress, and there is a plan in motion to repair and beautify it. Steps are also being taken to repair and protect the pipe organ at Margaret Eddy Memorial Church. Other big developments at the school include the revitalization of the Poondi campus for outdoor education and major signature projects, including the Stixrud Commons and the Center for Excellence (CEH), which remain on schedule.

Reinforcing any on-campus infrastructure investments, which the school funds, KFI provides support for scholarships, activities, and so much more. This year, donations to Kodai Friends International, which exists to support KIS and its community, were up by nearly 20% over last year. In addition, changes to the way the portfolio was invested yielded improvements in its earnings. KFI anticipates being able to continue to make significant distributions to the school in the coming years.

Over the past few years, we sharpened the division of labor between KIS and KFI, with KFI withdrawing from the fundraising and alumni relations roles. Recently, Tara Menon has taken up leadership of both the Development and Alumni Offices. She and Keith Ribeiro, Director of Marketing and Admissions, will continue to present grant requests to KFI based on the priorities the school has identified, with the KFI Board of Directors making decisions on the approval of these grants.

This year, we have taken steps to work more closely, and to make our KIS-KFI partnership clearer to potential donors. KFI will be more involved in fundraising programs run by the Development Office, while maintaining our fiduciary responsibility of not being a simple pass-through for funds, which could jeopardize our nonprofit tax status.

In June 2025, Dr Bradford Barnhardt took over as Principal of KIS. His previous role as the Vice Principal of Woodstock School is very welcome. Our shared experience of the spirit of a unique, successful school gives us all confidence in the future of KIS. Please come to Camp K on Labor Day weekend, as we hope Dr. Brad will be there, along with others from the school!

Warm wishes,

Meg

Margaret E. Greene, PhD
Class of 1979
KFI Board Chair



Grants Awarded in 2024-2025

Grants Awarded by KFI

Grants Approved and disbursed by Board of Directors in 2024-25 FY

Development Office (Tour)	\$18,732
Center for Environment and Humanity	\$5,000
Excellence in Education (Experts in Residence) Phases 1 & 2	\$66,491
DeJong Music Award 2025	\$1,500
KIS Scholarship Fund (Academic Years 24-26)	\$20,000
SEAR Scholarship (Academic Years 24-26)	\$46,765
Russell DeValois Scholarship (Academic Year 24-26)	\$10,000
Presbyterian World Mission Scholarship (Academic Year 24-25)	\$5,774
TOTAL FUNDS GRANTED IN 2024-25 FISCAL YEAR	\$174,262

Approved 2022-23 FY Grant amounts disbursed in 2024-25 FY

KIS Development Office (Remainder of \$67,000)	\$23,500
KIS Scholarship Fund (Remainder of STEM Scholarship)	\$10,000

Excellence in Education (formerly called Experts in Residence) | \$66,491

With the help of a large donation from Esther and Jim Rollen and additional support from KFI's Fund a Need basket, KIS has introduced a sustainable peer mentoring framework rooted in peer listening, built facilitation capacity among students and staff, and positively influenced school climate and belonging. The program is positioned for long-term continuation, ensuring the benefits of empathy, connection, and resilience remain embedded in KIS culture.

The GenDerations Program at Kodaikanal International School was initiated in July 2024 when the school invited Mr. Stefan Hermann to conduct sessions for students as well as staff. Stefan Hermann is a German born author, social entrepreneur and an advocate for the re-invention of education.



GenDerations Mentoring International is a more-than-for-profit organization in Switzerland, India and the USA. The programs employed by GenDerations are designed to guide young boys and girls in their transition from adolescence to adulthood. GenDerations uses well-trained volunteer mentors to guide young people in acquiring a secure sense of identity, a mature orientation toward their lives, and the ability to recognize and articulate their feelings in resolving their own personal and interpersonal conflicts.

The aim of this program is to create a culture shift in the school and to create a safe, nurturing environment for students to thrive in. The focus is to train Grade 10 and 11 students to mentor Grade 8 and 9 students respectively with the help of school staff members as facilitators. The facilitators along with the Grade 10/11 Peer Mentors organise Circles for Grade 8/9 which has a certain structure and safety associated, enabling students to share their emotions about the transitioning aspects of their life while dealing with it in a healthy manner. The facilitators and peer mentors are expected to facilitate the circles in alignment to the progressive GenDerations Principles.

At KIS, the following training sessions were conducted:

1. June 2024: Peer Mentoring for selected Grade 10 students
2. July 2024: Facilitator Training for selected staff
3. January 2025: 2nd Facilitator Training for selected staff
4. January 2025: Adult Mentor for selected staff
5. August 2025: Peer Mentoring for selected Grade 10 students
6. August 2025: Peer Mentoring for selected Grade 11 students
7. August 2025: Facilitator Training for selected staff

In January 2025, following the Facilitator Training, a number of Circles were organised where the Facilitators-in-Training and Grade 10 Peer Mentors interacted with Grade 8 students within the norms of GenDerations which focuses on creating a safe environment.

KIS currently has 21 Grade 11 Peer Mentors and 17 Grade 10 Peer Mentors. Two Facilitator Certifications were conducted as well which resulted in 1 Lead facilitator, 1 Co-Facilitator and 2 Adult Mentors. The Facilitator Certification is a unique process which allows the facilitators to sit for the role of Lead Facilitator, Co-Facilitator and Adult Mentor; and involves their peers being the decision makers.

The intention is to continue the Circles with the current certified individuals while other Facilitators-in-Training continue to get the exposure to GenD Circles and can sit for Certification in 6 months, i.e. January. All the remaining training sessions and certifications can be done internally to strengthen the program.

The Financial Report as of May 2024 for the \$67,000 approved in June 2023 for 2023-24 Fiscal Year is as follows:

Phase 1 Expertise	\$6,010	Phase 2 Expertise	\$47,999
Phase 1 Travel	\$1,350	Phase 2 Travel	\$11,132
Total Amount Spent			\$66,491

KIS Development Office | \$23,500

The Development and Alumni Office at KIS have undergone a significant transformation during the course of 24-25, reflecting both internal transitions and external opportunities.

Kalyani Rhodes, Development Officer (2022-2025), left KIS at the end of Feb 2025. She helped establish the Development Office and supported the growth of KIS's philanthropic initiatives. **Manjusha Ninan, Alumni Coordinator (2018-2025)**, left KIS at the end of May 2025. She leaves behind a legacy of deep engagement and institutional memory.

With their departure, the school now enters a new phase of integration, innovation, and reorientation.

In line with KIS's vision of building a lean, high-impact team, the Alumni and Development roles are being merged into a single cohesive portfolio. A combined **Alumni and Development Coordinator** position has been created. **Tara Menon**, the new incumbent, brings strong cross-functional expertise and is expected to enhance continuity, improve data-driven donor/alumni strategies, and lead high-engagement campaigns in key international markets.

This ensures more efficient resource utilization, synergy between functions, and greater alignment with institutional priorities.

The renewal of KIS's FCRA license in March 2025 marks a turning point for the school's fundraising strategy going forward. The lapse in license last year, prevented access to funds from KFI in the KIS foreign currency account. In line with the license approval, the final amount for KFI's support of the KIS Development Office was disbursed. With the license being reinstated, KIS will strategically:

- Refocus fundraising efforts in international markets—particularly North America, Europe, Australia, and Dubai
- Re-engage alumni and donor networks that have previously contributed through international channels
- Enhance confidence and transparency for future international giving, especially in the lead-up to the 125th Anniversary Campaign
- Initiate clearance of pending backlog funds from previously approved restricted gifts
- Submit new Grant proposals for targeted support, including capital improvements, academic programs, and scholarship expansion

The Development Office is currently working with KIS Finance and KFI to prioritize fund utilization and strengthen grant reporting mechanisms. In recent years, the KIS-KFI relationship has been significantly strengthened. Accelerating the momentum on this collaboration is a critical component of the Development Office strategy.

In May 2025, the KFI board approved the Annual Investment Grant. This Grant will be drawn from the interest on KFI's endowment and provide predictable, long-term support for KIS priorities, especially scholarships. The central pillar of KIS's fundraising strategy remains Scholarships, which drive diversity, access, and academic excellence. This goal aligns with KIS's mission to build a more inclusive and globally representative student body.

The fundraising priorities include (but are not limited to):

- Need-based scholarships for students from underserved backgrounds
- Merit-based scholarships to attract top talent
- Scholarships for students from conflict zones and international regions

For the AY 25-26, KIS will be utilizing the Annual Investment Grant to attract mission-aligned students to KIS via scholarships. A Grant proposal will be submitted at the Board Meeting in Aug 2025 for the 2025-26 Annual Investment Grant.

New initiatives at KIS include the following:

CEH Re-development

The plans to upgrade the existing CEH building at Swedish Hill are underway and architects have been selected after a thorough tendering and review process. Final costs and design plans have been submitted.

Center for Excellence (Stixrud Commons)

The existing facilities in the Library Block will be transformed into a state-of-the-art Center for Learning Excellence. This facility is intended to be a welcoming and flexible multi-user space for all categories of students and staff, with cutting-edge design, to extend facilities for innovation, research and learning, skills development, training, sharing best practices with world class technology and instruments with facilities relevant for the same.

The Ground breaking commenced in May 2025, and the project is aiming for completion in November 2026 to coincide with the end of KIS's 125th anniversary celebrations.



Going forward, the remaining funds will be strategically deployed to complete the institutional strengthening of KIS's Development function. Specifically, the balance will support:

- Further training for the Salesforce NFP CRM platform, with a special focus on database cleansing and integration with KFI
- Launch and Integration of the Alumni engagement portal
- Essential IT infrastructure for the Development Office, and
- Targeted digital fundraising campaigns through the anniversary year 2026.

These investments directly advance the grant's stated objectives of building a robust donor pipeline, enabling structured engagement, and institutionalizing repeatable fundraising systems. The focus is on consolidating long-term technology and process capacity rather than one-time activity, ensuring sustainable growth in alumni relations and philanthropic revenue.

A total of \$67,000 was approved by the KFI Board in June, 2023 for the second year of funding for the Development Office. Due to the pause in access to the FCRA, there was not any further expenditure this year. The Financial Report as of May 2025 is as follows:

Total disbursed as of May, 2023	\$43,500
Remainder of grant disbursed in 2025	\$23,500
Consultancy Fees	\$10,000
Travel	\$14,740
CRM and Software	\$17,819
Total Expenditure to Date	\$42,559
Total remaining funds at KIS	\$24,441

KIS Center for Environment and Humanity | \$5,000

With support from KFI, the Center for Environment and Humanity (CEH) at KIS hosted a collaborative, cross-cultural architectural workshop with three Master's students from the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) in Wales. The project was envisioned as a platform for sustainable material exploration, knowledge exchange, and community engagement, grounded in decolonizing research practices and environmental stewardship.



Two comprehensive workshops were conducted with multilingual facilitation, inclusive materials, and strong participation from students and local community members. A third session focused on internal CEH engagement and cross-institutional planning.

Two Lantana-wood benches were co-designed and built using local materials. A cob-brick prototype wall was initiated, and natural material experiments were added to CEH's exhibit for continued engagement. Educational presentations on Lantana's potential as a sustainable material, and natural building methods were shared bilingually. Bricks using Lantana and local soil were fabricated and evaluated. Recommendations were shared with CEH and ATREE.

An interactive community mapping session was conducted, generating insights into resource management, biodiversity, and infrastructure challenges.

CEH and CAT students worked together to collect soil samples and analyze clay content across different Kodai neighborhoods.

Over 90 individuals participated across the sessions, including KIS students, teachers, CEH volunteers, and local community members. Activities were designed to be visual, tactile, and multilingual. Participants expressed joy, curiosity, and a desire to continue exploring sustainable practices. The project reversed traditional research hierarchies by foregrounding community knowledge.

The grant funds were fully utilized across the planned budget categories, ensuring both program delivery and meaningful community impact. Accommodation accounted for 8% of the budget, covering lodging for visiting CAT students during their time in Kodaikanal. 14% was allocated to food and refreshments, which supported meals for students, facilitators, and community participants during workshops and consultations. Travel represented 31% of the budget and included airport transfers, local transportation for participants, and field visits to Lantana hotspots as well as travel for community consultations. The largest portion, 47%, was directed toward workshop inputs. These included essential materials such as clay for cob experiments, Lantana sticks for building, wood and dowels for benches, and paint and printing supplies for community mapping. Funds also supported labor for debarking Lantana and preparing materials, as well as safety gear such as gloves. Together, these investments enabled the construction of Lantana-wood benches, cob prototypes, and hands-on activities that brought community members, CEH staff, and CAT students into a shared space of learning and experimentation.



KIS Development Office USA Tour | \$18,732

Corey Stixrud and Kalyani Rhodes both attended the KFI Board meeting held at Camp Kirchenwald (Camp K) over the Labor Day weekend (August 30th) 2024. Subsequently they visited/held engagement events with over 300 alumni in Camp K, New York, Portland, Seattle, Los Angeles and Denver. The key school strategic priorities were presented to the various groups with a great deal of interest shown in supporting the school initiatives.

The financial report for the tour is as follows:

Travel Costs	\$8,708.12
Hotels and Accommodation	\$3,796.96
Catering & Food for Events	\$6,227.16
Total Expenses for Tour	\$18,732.24



Scholarships Granted

SEAR Scholarship 2024-2026 (2 recipients) | \$46,765

Moe Phyu Aung (Class of 2026)

Moe joined KIS in Grade 11 from Myanmar. With a regular spot in the Principal's list, Moe has ended Grade 11 with a GPA of 3.85. Moe has recently been inducted into the National Honor's Society and is developing a keen interest in Psychology and Biology. In her own words:

"I sincerely appreciate Ms Maureen Aung-Thwin and all the donors for providing me with this valuable opportunity to study at KIS. KIS is not only a school for me; it has become my second home- it is a place where I met my friends, my precious teachers, and a lovely dorm parent.

Without this scholarship, studying for the IB diploma would be a significant burden for me, considering my family's financial situation. With the help of this scholarship, not only am I now able to study IB, but it also enables me to further develop my tertiary education. It has been one year at KIS, and I have participated in various clubs, including Rotary and Girls in STEM, among others. It is also an honour to be a part of SNHS and NHS. Being able to join activities like camping at Poondi and hiking, has also developed my mental resilience. As a scholarship student, I am trying my best to be a well-deserved recipient of this scholarship by maintaining my GPA of 3.85, my character, and my relationship with my peers. I sincerely believe that the school and its community will prepare me for my future and help me develop my skills for university studies. At this moment though I must admit, I am stressed with college applications!

Once again, I am incredibly grateful for everyone's support. Studying in such a nurturing and inspiring environment would not have been possible without your generous contribution. Thank you once again!"

Moe Phyu Aung (Class of 2026)



Thae Nandar Su (Class of 2026)

Thae Su joined KIS in Grade 11 from Myanmar. Studying Economics, Math and Physics at Higher Levels, Thae Su has consistently maintained high academic achievements with a GPA of 3.87. Recently inducted into the National Honors Society, Thae Su also has an interest in Finance and chairs the Finance Literacy Club on campus.

In her own words:



“My KIS journey has been nothing short of wonderful so far. Over the past year, KIS has really changed my perspective of life. Here, opportunities are everywhere and I believe I am making the most of them. I’ve managed to score A and A+ grades across most of my subjects maintaining a good GPA. I’ve been actively involved in a lot of extracurricular activities such as the Financial Literacy club, Science National Honour Society, Vanam Diaries and more. This year, I initiated a TEDx talk at school. Through these activities, I’ve made many new friends from diverse backgrounds which enriches my Kodi experience. While this academic year will be much more demanding with deadlines for IAs and EEs, I can say that I am maintaining a good balance between academics, extracurriculars and life in general. Things are hard at home with the political instability however KIS has been one of the things that keeps me hopeful about life. Lastly, I just want to express my deepest gratitude for this scholarship that made all of this possible. None of this would have happened without your unwavering contribution. Studying at KIS has genuinely changed the way I see the world and my future.”

Thae Nandar Su (Class of 2026)

KIS Scholarship Fund - STEM Scholarship for Women 2023-2024 | \$10,000 (Remainder from 2022-23)

Vedika Dave (Class of 2025)

Vedika Dave joined KIS in Grade 11. Vedika always showed an inclination towards sciences like Biology and Chemistry and went on to pursue Higher Levels in these IB subjects. A skilled dancer, Vedika was a constant in any school performance.

In her own words:

“Studying at KIS was a transformative experience for me. The IBDP has been an extremely rigorous program and it has stretched my abilities in several ways. I have also had the opportunity to connect with students from so many different backgrounds and I feel like these friendships will last a lifetime. I am thankful to all my donors who have made this journey possible for me.”

2024 Academic Year recipient, Vedika Dave



KIS Scholarship Fund - STEM Scholarship for Women 2025-2026 | \$10,000

Anastasiya Tserakhava (Class of 2026)

Joining us from Belarus, Anastasiya is known for her intellect, and deep passion for Science. Juggling an intense combination of Higher Levels in Physics, Mathematics and Psychology, Anastasiya has maintained a GPA of 3.82. An active ambassador for KIS, Anastasiya is constantly looking for ways to spread word about her KIS experience to her fellow country mates.

In her own words:



“My name is Anastasiya and I’ve been a student at KIS for a year now. At KIS, I’ve undergone a transformative journey where I learned a lot not only in the classroom but through the experience of living in a residential school. I have tried to engage with the vibrant social life here and by participating in events like Dorm Dance, Hiking (I completed 6 hikes in total last year!) and being part of the Psychology club. Thanks to the Award for Women in STEM, I keep pursuing my passion for science here. Collaborating with my classmates, we recently created biodiesel from used cooking oil and conducted an outreach session educating children from Kodaikanal about sustainability. My passion for Math has led me to winning 2 global distinctions at Math competitions organized by the University of Waterloo. This year I was honored to join the school’s NHS and plan to keep pursuing my dreams here. As the college application process is approaching, life has become more intense but I still find time to enjoy with my new friends. I sincerely thank my donors for my KIS experience and for changing my life.”

Anastasiya Tserakhava (Class of 2026)

KIS Scholarship Fund - Dennis Lettenmaier Award 2024-2026 | \$10,000

Navya Hariharan (Class of 2026)

Navya is a current Grade 12 student. A diligent student, Navya has been studying at KIS for over 4 years now and takes a consistent spot in the Principal's list for her academic achievements. Aside from her commitment for academics, Navya enjoys being part of the Advanced Choir group and is an active participant in our Hiking program. Navya concluded her Grade 11 with a GPA of 3.77 and is now channelling her efforts in applying for Medicine programs in the UK and beyond.



"I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to experience both education and residence at KIS through this scholarship. Last semester at KIS was an extremely busy yet fulfilling experience as I was exposed to a variety of events, clubs, and activities that made me grow as a person, not only academically but socially, emotionally, and physically. From hiking every weekend and earning a spot at Tahr camp, to performing at Kodi Unplugged and Rock Concert, to having fun and singing with the choir at music field trip, to running for Student Council as Creative Director and winning the position - all these experiences hold a close place in my heart. Being a part of so many helpful and uplifting clubs, including being a part of the social media team of Rotary Interact Club, a member of the National Honour Society, Girls in STEM, UNSDG Club, YouthRise, and SNHS, I had the opportunity to take up a lot of challenges and contribute to the Kodi community and student wellbeing. This year in KIS is my last, and I plan on shifting my full focus to my academics as I am planning to apply to medical school in the UK, which requires top grades and achievements. For this semester, I am focusing on getting my grades up in Chemistry and preparing for the UKCAT medical aptitude test. This year is going to be filled with discussions and decisions regarding college and my future after KIS, I am thankful to my donors for helping me experience this journey at KIS, which made me evolve as both a student and an individual."

Navya Hariharan (Class of 2026)

Russell De Valois Scholarship 2024-2026 | \$10,000

Anoushka Moudgil (Class of 2026)

Anoushka joined KIS in Grade 11. Partly Russian and partly Indian by ethnicity, Anoushka was a wonderful student with a keen interest in STEM subjects. Apart from her academic pursuits, Anoushka immersed herself in our Music and Hiking program.

In her own words:

"As my two years in KIS came to a conclusion, I left Kodai with a myriad of memories and experiences. Whether it was having discussions with my teachers, lounging on the library lawn with my friends, or just taking in the beauty of Kodaikanal out on hikes, everything KIS had offered me helped me grow. To grow in intellect, to grow in kindness, to grow in friendship and understanding. To me, these memories and experiences aren't just something to look back fondly on, but also lessons and reflections of how I was able to develop myself into a better person, and how I can keep developing myself further. For instance, KIS has helped me foster a stronger learning attitude to the point where right now, during the summer break, I can't help but try to teach myself some more German, piano and music theory! KIS has also helped me determine what I would like to continue doing. Though initially I was unsure if I could handle the intensity of Medicine, after much thought and encouragement from teachers and my career counselor, I feel confident in my choice of pursuing Medicine at Saint Petersburg State University. I would like to thank you dear donors once again for helping my reality take the shape that it did and for helping me set the stage for me to shape my future."

Anoushka Moudgil (Class of 2026)



De Jong Music Award 2025 (2 Recipients) | \$1,500

Mengutsunuo Shurhozolie (Class of 2025)

Mengutsunuo joined KIS in Grade 11 and carried a strong passion for music and performing arts. She was part of the advanced choir and performed at several stage events. Mengu was a recipient of the DeJong Award for Music for the academic year 2024–25. In her own words:



“I am filled with a lot of gratitude for this place has given me so much. From the friends I have made along the way to the encouragement that I have received from my teachers, KIS has led me to become who I am today. KIS has inspired and motivated me to develop my passion for music through many practices, rehearsals and performances. I have accomplished things that I never thought I could. As I move forward, I intend to pursue musical theatre through formal education, acting and live performances. I intend to improve my skills in voice and acting and exploring different genres of performing arts. Thank you for the award, I am very grateful for being a student at KIS!”

Mengutsunuo Shurhozolie (Class of 2025)

Adam Jo (Class of 2025)

Adam Jo has been a student at KIS since Grade 5. An avid bird watcher and hiker, Adam is a talented artist and has always been part of our advanced band and ensembles. Adam was a recipient of the DeJong Award for Music for the academic year 2024–25. In his own words:

“I’m deeply grateful for the opportunities I had at KIS to develop my musical skills and contribute to the school’s music program as a trumpet player, starting from the beginning, intermediate then the advanced band, as well as in various smaller ensembles that my friends and I formed. Concerts, celebrations, field-day marches, music field-trips and the ABRSM exams were an important experience during my time at KIS. I was also able to contribute to the worship in the chapel on many occasions.

This summer, before beginning my studies in Japan, I’ve been fortunate to stay musically active. I performed in a Wind Symphony concert in Budapest, joining rehearsals and the final performance with a combined ensemble from the Budafoki Fúvós Egylet (BFE) and the First Coast Wind Symphony from Florida, USA. I’m also planning to attend a music camp near Budapest with BFE in August.

In September, I’ll begin studying International Relations at Ritsumeikan University on a full scholarship. Thanks to the DeJong Music Scholarship, I was able to purchase a high-quality intermediate-level trumpet that continues to support my musical growth. While I’m not pursuing music professionally, I have made arrangements to join the Ritsumeikan University Wind and Marching Band—a near-professional level orchestra—and continue lessons, with a special focus on jazz.”

Adam Jo (Class of 2025)



Presbyterian World Mission Scholarship | \$5,774

KFI received a donation for scholarships, and has disbursed this to KIS. KIS awarded this scholarship to a new girl for the 2025/26 Academic Year, but she withdrew before the school term started. The school will award this scholarship for 2026/27 to another eligible recipient.



Donors to KFI

Kodai Friends International is deeply grateful to the following alumni and friends who contributed to the unrestricted and temporarily restricted funds of KFI between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025. Their generosity enabled KFI to provide important grants to support its mission. Donors who contributed after June 30, 2025 will be acknowledged in the 2025-2026 KFI Annual Report.

S – Staff, FS – Former Staff, P – Parent, GP – Grandparent, F – Friend, KFI – Kodai Friends International, WS – Woodstock International School, D – Deceased

\$10,000-\$30,000

Sandra Schoeninger, FS, D

\$5,000-\$9,999

Dennis Lettenmaier, F

\$1,000-\$4,999

Presbyterian Foundation, F
Kunal & Monica Kapoor, 1993
Lyn Krause, 1966, KFI
Glenn Rogers, 1974
Stephen (Mark) Bullard, 1980
Daryl Miller, 1971
Shrikant Ramamurthy, 1980, KFI
Norman Thoms, 1951
Raoul-Sam Daruwala, 1987
Nathaniel Ratnasamy, 1978
Bernadette Bradbury, 1986
James Estes, FS, P
Louise Cummings FS, GP

\$500-\$999

Nelson Hoffman, 1966
Gerald Nichol, FS, P
David Otten, 1969
Feler Bose, 1991
Kristina Aier, 2001, KFI
Wayne & Kathy Beckwith, FS
Steve Holler, 1974
Elizabeth Perkins, 1980
Peter Schmitthener, 1974
Christopher Sinclair, 1967
John Whitcomb, W, 1969
Kazi Huque, 1987
Jacquelyn Brooks, FS
Ronald Koepke, 1966
Priya Tandon-Rajkumar, 1986
Rebekah McNeill, F
Rohen Arya, F
Alyssa Augustus, F
Arpita Das, F
Kate Dewey, F
Anna Frye, F
Khushpreet Kaur, F
Rimsha Minhaz, F
Krishna Mody, F
Alex Schwaderer, F
Krish Sheth, F

\$250-\$499

Frank Emerson, 1956
Stan King, 1957
John Nyce, FS, P
John Gipson, 1973
L Edwin Martin, 1959
Ian Oliver, FS
Annette Stixrud, FS
Robert Trautmann, 1972
Bill Martin, 1970
Ashkay Birla, WS 2005
Bill Hagstad, 1970
Louise & John Riber, 1973

\$100-\$249

Jeff Jokl, 1977
Siddharth Gore, 2013, KFI
Mary Carruthers, 1957
Charles Gosselink, 1953
Shiv Narayan, 1995, KFI
Suresh Parampil, 1982
Mark Tegenfeldt, 1990
Sara Vananrooy, F
Beth Calwell, 1956
Cornelius Jones, FS
Sara Klemmer, 1963
Juntanee Krongboonying, 1976
Luis & Karen Tegenfeldt, 1983
Miriam McCreary, 1951
Joseph Rittmann, 1966, FS
Eileen Westenberg, 1964
Mary Lowry, 1964
Timothy Wheaton, F
Gina Cozzini, F
Cheryl Dosey, 1968
Margaret Graham, 1967
Diane Hoffman, 1962
Joanna Itoh, 1971
Emily Jeske, 1963
Grace Jones, 1976
Barbara Jones, 1977
Chris Parks, F
Laura Parks, F
Eileen Reimer, 1974
Steve Scruggs, 1980
George Thompson, 1952
Aashi Vel, 1996

\$100-\$249 (continued)

Keith Wiebe, 1980
David Rogers, 1960
Janice Green, FS
Donald & Julie Stengele, 1980
Alan Thompson, 1949
Martha Wilcox, 1961
Judith Blackbourn, 1965
Karen Papp, 1970
Prantik Nag, 1986
Jagat Sheth, 1987

Under \$100

Joel Otten, 1977
Aashi Vel, 1996
Joyce Martin, F
Sara Ann & Merrick Lockwood, 1961, FS, P
Sylvia Trautmann Rogers, 1973, KFI
Leslie Williams, 1964



Sustaining Members for 2024-2025

Sustaining memberships provide KFI with a dependable base of revenue. It is a monthly gift that can be paid in a convenient, ongoing way by choosing your giving level and your preferred method of payment – either online or mailing a check. To become a Sustaining Member online, go to [DONATE](#). Select the fund you wish to support, the amount you wish to donate, choose “Recurring Donation” with your choice of frequency, provide the requested information, and press the DONATE button. Checks may be mailed to KFI at 216 Viewcrest Rd. Bellingham, 98229. Sustaining memberships may also be established through Employee Giving Programs.



Akshay Birla WS '05
 Louise Cummings FS, GP
 James Estes & Evelyn FS, P
 Raoul-Sam Daruwala '87
 Bill Hagstad & Mary Beth '70
 Prantik Nag & Deepa '86
 Louise Riber '73
 Priya Tandon-Rajkumar '86
 Jagat Sheth & Kiran '87
 Bill Martin & Chris '70 FS, P

Bernadette Bradbury, 1986
 Judith Blackbourn, 1965
 Sylvia Trautmann Rogers, 1973
 Karen Papp, 1970

In Honor of

Bob Fleming, W FS
 By John Whitcomb, W 1969
 Bob Carman, 1948
 By Gerald Nichol, FS, P
 By Elizabeth Perkins, 1980
 Don Beane, FS
 By Gerald Nichol, FS, P

Kalyani Gandhi-Rhodes, FS
 By Steve Holler, 1974
 Sara Klemmer '1991
 By Beth Caldwell '1956
 Beth Caldwell '1956
 By Sara Klemmer '1963

In Memory of

Bernice (Muyskens) Lettenmaier '40
 By Dennis Lettenmaier, F
 By Presbyterian Foundation, F
 Maj Stormo-Gipson, 1974
 By Glenn Rogers, 1974
 By Peter Schmitthener, 1974
 John and Carol Wiebe, 1949, FS, P
 By Gerald Nichol, FS, P
 John MacKay, 1952
 By Gerald Nichol, FS, P
 By Timothy Wheaton, F
 Lu Carman, FS, P
 By Gerald Nichol, FS, P
 By Elizabeth Perkins, 1980

Mary Moon Davis, FS, P
 By Gerald Nichol, FS, P
 Ruth Alloway, KIS Council, P
 By Gerald Nichol, FS, P
 Sandra Schoener, FS
 By Gerald Nichol, FS, P
 By Juntanee Krongboonying, 1976
 By Gina Cozzini, F
 By Grace Jones, 1976
 By Chris Parks, F
 By Laura Parks, F
 By Don and Julie Stengele, 1980, FS, P

G Eugene Martin, 1960
 By Joyce Martin, F
 Neal Stixrud FS, P
 By Annette Stixrud, FS, P
 Sam & Ruth Schmitthener, 1944, FS, P
 By Charles Gosselink, 1953
 Margaret Aung-Thwin FS, P
 By Mary Lowry, 1964
 Walter Bradbury, P
 By Bernadette Bradbury, 1986
 Nora Mitchell, FS
 By Margaret Graham, 1967

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report — Fiscal Year 2025 (Year Ending June 30, 2025)

Financial Overview

KFI closed Fiscal Year 2025 with a portfolio value of \$4.30 million on a deposits-and-withdrawals-adjusted basis — the highest year-end level in the fund's history — reflecting \$419,000 in investment gains for the year. This compares to investment income of \$277,000 in FY2024 and a loss of \$586,000 in FY2023, reflecting a strong and sustained recovery. As a forward note, the adjusted portfolio value has continued to grow and stood at approximately \$4.70 million as of January 2026.

Investment Strategy & Portfolio Restructuring

The most significant development of the period has been the completion of a full portfolio restructuring, migrating away from active individual security selection toward broad, index-based investing. Active security selection had been a persistent drag on performance relative to benchmarks; the shift to index instruments provides greater diversification, lower costs, and more reliable market participation. In connection with this change, KFI successfully negotiated lower management fees with our portfolio manager BNY Mellon, directly improving net returns. The broad AI-driven technology rally also provided a meaningful tailwind to equity performance during the year.

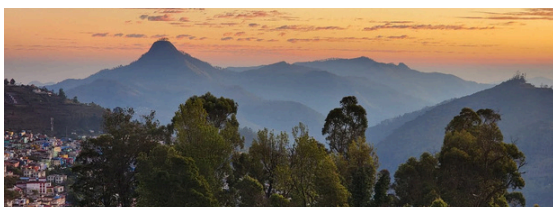
The results have been compelling. By September 2025, KFI's portfolio entered positive inflation-adjusted territory for the first time in four years — meaning the endowment's purchasing power has fully recovered from the losses of FY2022 and FY2023. As of January 2026, we are comfortably above that threshold.

Donations

Total donations in FY2025 were \$86,000 across 169 gifts, with an average gift of \$509. This compares to an exceptional FY2024, which saw \$228,000 across 289 gifts. The decline is attributable to a period of significant leadership transition at KIS, including turnover in the Principal and Alumni Development Officer roles — positions most directly connected to fundraising. The new team is now in place and has initiated efforts to update the alumni database and develop more targeted outreach campaigns. We expect fundraising to recover gradually over the coming two fiscal years.

Grants

KFI approved \$174,262 in grants during FY2025, in line with the organization's mission and consistent with prior years. A highlight of the year was the development and implementation of a formal distribution strategy, which is working well and represents a meaningful step forward in how KFI plans and communicates its giving. Working closely with BNY Mellon and drawing on expected return analysis and Monte Carlo simulation, we established a methodology that averages portfolio value over a multi-year window to smooth out short-term market fluctuations and keep distributions on a sustainable long-term path. Importantly, this framework gives KIS meaningful visibility into near-term grant levels, enabling better program planning and budgeting — a direct improvement in the KFI-KIS partnership.



2024-25 Financial Statements for Kodai Friends International, Inc.

Statements of Financial Position

June 30, 2025 and 2024	2025	2024
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	80,609	157,829
Accounts receivable	245	3,459
Investments	4,144,438	3,858,394
Beneficial interest in charitable trust	87,583	82,243
Cash surrender value of life insurance	-	16,853
Total Assets	4,312,875	4,118,778

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	3,319	468
Related party grants payable	-	33,500
Accrued expenses	905	2,205
Total Liabilities	4,224	36,173

NET ASSETS		
Without Donor Restrictions	3,994,269	3,680,430
With Donor Restrictions	314,382	402,075
Total Net Assets	4,308,651	4,082,505
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	4,312,875	4,118,678

Risks & Outlook

Looking ahead, two risks merit monitoring. First, a significant portion of recent equity market gains have been driven by AI-related enthusiasm; a correction in that sector could have a broad market impact. Second, ongoing geopolitical conflicts – particularly in the Middle East – continue to create macroeconomic uncertainty through energy markets and global supply chains. KFI's index-based, diversified portfolio is well-positioned relative to these risks, though not immune.

Overall, KFI enters FY2026 from a position of strength. The endowment has recovered fully on an inflation-adjusted basis, the investment structure is sound, and costs have been rationalized. With the KIS team settling in and fundraising initiatives underway, we are optimistic about the road ahead.

Shiv Narayan
Treasurer, KFI



Statement of Activities for the year ended June 30, 2025

	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL
REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT			
Contributions	31,290	55,071	86,361
Investment Income	391,877	-	391,877
Gain on beneficial interest in charitable trust	5,340	-	5,340
Gain on donated life insurance policy	1,972	-	1,972
Total revenue	430,479	55,071	485,550
Net assets released from restrictions	142,764	(142,764)	-
Total revenue, gains & other support	573,243	(87,693)	485,550
EXPENSES			
Program	196,169	-	196,169
General and Administrative	42,471	-	42,471
Fundraising	20,764	-	20,764
Total expenses	259,404	-	259,404
Change in Net Assets	313,839	(87,693)	226,146
Net Assets-beginning of year	3,680,430	402,075	4,082,505
Net Assets - end of year	3,994,269	314,382	4,308,651

For a copy of the audited financial report contact KFI Administrator at admin@kfi-us.org.

List of KFI Established Funds

KFI is committed to serving the needs of KIS. With that in mind, we try to keep our established fund baskets in line with the school's priorities and their administrative capabilities. All funds disbursed by KFI are in response to grant requests received from KIS and approved by KFI's Board of Directors.

Following is a list of unrestricted and temporarily restricted fund baskets held by KFI. Unrestricted funds are used for priority needs identified by KFI; temporarily restricted funds are restricted to the purposes for which the fund was established.

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Fund a Need: Fund a Need is a "where needed" fund which enables KFI to support projects and programs over and above the restricted funds. This includes:

- for needs beyond established temporarily restricted funds
- the resources to top off current temporarily restricted funds
- funds for new initiatives
- administrative expenses

Fund a Need is the only unrestricted fund basket, with oversight provided by Kodai Friends International.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

SCHOLARSHIPS AND PRIZES

- **KIS Scholarship Fund:** Initiated by Kodai Woodstock International, the Kodaikanal International School Scholarship Fund, formerly the KFI Global Citizen Scholarship Fund, was established during Kodaikanal International School's (KIS) centennial year celebrations and has grown over the years to allow families in financial difficulty or from diverse backgrounds to send their children to KIS, providing them with an opportunity to receive a world-class education. To be eligible for a scholarship, candidates must demonstrate both financial need as well as academic excellence. Scholarship students will receive a free or a generously subsidized education for two or more of their high school years at KIS.
- **KIS South East Asian Regional Scholarship (SEAR):** The SEAR Scholarship is presented to two deserving students from the Southeast Asian region, initially being granted to students of Burmese origin entering Grade 11 at KIS. These students are recognized for their exceptional personal character, outstanding academic achievements, and unwavering determination to overcome challenges. The scholarship seeks individuals who not only strive for personal success but also demonstrate a profound commitment to making a positive impact on their communities. This scholarship has been initiated by KIS Alumna Ms. Maureen Aung-Thwin ('66) in loving memory of her mother, Margaret Aung-Thwin, a dedicated educator and former KIS faculty member.
- **Keith DeJong Music Award and Scholarship:** Established through a legacy gift by alumnus and long-time music teacher Keith DeJong '46, and his wife Marcine, the cash music award is given annually to two outstanding KIS Grade 12 music students to help in their future musical studies. In addition, funds can be granted to provide financial assistance for deserving students to attend music field trips or for additional instrument lessons.

ENVIRONMENT AND HUMANITY ENVIRONMENT AND HUMANITY

- **KIS Center for Environment and Humanity:** The KIS Center for Environment and Humanity (CEH) is dedicated to fostering environmental awareness, education, and action in Kodaikanal and its surrounding communities. The CEH aims to engage students, local residents, visitors, and decision-makers in understanding the unique ecology of the Palani Hills, the threats it faces, and the sustainability practices necessary for local and global environmental protection. The CEH offers experiential learning programs, research opportunities, and leads community-driven conservation projects, all designed to develop practical solutions to pressing environmental issues. Some of the important programs run by the center include waste management, regenerative agriculture, climate change and biodiversity. Funds raised for this program will support key initiatives in waste management, conservation, restoration, and environmental education at KIS and in the Kodaikanal community.

- **The Social & Environment Experience Department Priorities – Class of 1974 Legacy Project:** The Social & Environment Experience Department (SEED) Priorities Program was established in recognition of a cherished classmate, Maj StormoGipson ('74), who left the world too soon. Through the Social and Environmental Experience Department (SEED), KIS actively engages in initiatives that foster meaningful interactions between the students and the Kodai community, mutually enriching both parties. By integrating real-world experiences, the KIS Social Experience program blends comprehensive classroom teaching with a variety of community-oriented programs and activities. Participating in this program not only helps students to engage thoughtfully with others and respect the natural world, but it also prepares them to be responsible local and global citizens. The objectives of the SEED Priorities Program is to accelerate experimentation and learning to achieve the KIS Social and Environment Experience Department (SEED) learning priorities. This would include the curricula-related priorities as well as other capacity building priorities, including staff training.
- **Community Fund:** KIS actively engages in initiatives that foster meaningful interactions between students and the Kodai community, mutually enriching both parties. By integrating real-world experiences, the KIS Social Experience program blends comprehensive classroom teaching with a variety of community-oriented programs and activities. Participating in this program not only helps KIS students engage thoughtfully with others and respect the natural world, it also prepares them to be responsible local and global citizens.

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

- **KIS Music Department:** The Music Department has been one of KIS's strong programs since the beginning. KIS offers a variety of instrument lessons as well as Band, Chorus and other music groups as part of the curriculum. The exceptional music program at KIS has created and nurtured talent across the student body, and many students from KIS go on to further studies in music. A donation to the Music Department allows the continuation of this excellence, including buying instruments, field trips for music students, musical performances, both locally and nationally, as well as making sure that KIS maintains the best teachers in the music field. The funds in this basket will go directly to the Music Department to maintain a vibrant and varied music program to bring out the talent within the KIS students.
- **KIS Faculty Prizes:** This temporarily restricted fund was initiated by alumni in honor of teachers who made an impact in their lives in the fields of English and Economics. Each Prize is a certificate of recognition, and each Prize is awarded to students who are recognized to be the top English and the top Economics students, respectively.
- **KIS Design and Innovation Fund:** An education from Kodaikanal International School remains an environment of continuous learning through hands-on experiences. KIS believes students should be encouraged to explore, discover, invent and build through critical thinking, expert mentorship and collaborative spaces. This funding will help provide students with the opportunity to bring their ideas to life in a variety of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Maths (STEAM) forums and competitions.
- **Excellence in Education Fund:** Teaching and learning practices are at the core of any educational institution. With the clear understanding that learning takes place in all facets of life at KIS, this fund is directed at making steady headways in educational excellence. In order to help students develop lifelong skills and attributes of learning, reflection, communication, and critical thinking, it is important that to enhance and extend the capabilities and capacity of the KIS faculty. It is necessary to consistently expand the commitment to building a culture of learning by ensuring that the school's pedagogical methods of instruction are impactful, engaging, and successful—both now and over the course of a student's lifetime.
- **Sandra Schoeninger Center:** This temporarily restricted fund was originally established to support a Fitness Center at KIS in honor of Sandy Schoeninger, a transformative figure in the lives of generations of students at KIS. She personally designed and equipped the first workout space at KIS, shaping a nurturing community for all. Through her unwavering commitment to physical education she instilled values of self-discipline, teamwork, inclusivity, and integrity. The Program has now expanded to include a state of the art fitness center, a dance studio and a rock climbing/bouldering wall as well as upgrading the bleachers and the sound system at the Covered Courts. This will be a double story facility on the KIS main Campus. The entire facility will be named the Sandy Schoeninger Center – a multi-use facility that will embody her values and commitment to student development and provide an inspiring environment that reflects Ms. Schoeninger's spirit and fosters personal growth in all students.

To read more about or to donate to these funds, click [HERE](#).



Supporting Kodai Friends International



The Shola Society

Some years ago, under the leadership of Kodai-Woodstock International (KWI), the Shola Society was established as an avenue to recognize individuals who have made charitable provisions to KWI/KFI in their estate plans for the benefit of Kodaikanal International School (KIS). While some Shola Society members have made bequests through their wills and trust, others have created lifetime income for themselves or family member through Charitable Gift Annuities or other Planned Giving Opportunities. One example of a legacy donor is the Charles E and Nancy E Wilder Trust fund at KFI,

established by the Wilder family in memory of their education at KIS. The satisfaction that comes from remembering their education at KIS with a bequest is best expressed by Don '49 and David '46 Wilder: "Charles shared with all three of his younger brothers a profound appreciation for the pre-college educations they received at Kodai School, the precursor of KIS. His generous gift to KIS testifies to the impact that Kodai School had on him, an impact that remained with him throughout his life, as he never ceased to attend reunions of his Class of 1942. His gift to KIS shows his gratitude for the solid educational preparation for college and for adult life that Kodai School provided, as well as for lasting friendships and memories of social, athletic, hiking, camping, and boating activities on the lake and in the surrounding hills." For additional information about the Shola Society, please discuss with your financial advisor and contact KFI.

Join the Shola Society and gift KFI with part of your estate. Please contact the KFI office at admin@kfi-us.org or call (206)696-1335 for further information or with any questions.

Donating to KFI can be done in several ways:

Note that KFI is an IRS 501(c)3 tax exempt organization (EIN 20-3848565). Donations within the US and Canada are tax deductible.

• Online with Credit Card:

Go to <https://www.kfi-us.org/donate-kfi/>

Select the fund you wish to support. If you would like to become a sustaining member, select "Recurring Donation".

• US Dollar Check: Make checks payable to Kodai Friends International, use Memo line if you would like your donation to go to a specific fund. Mail checks to:

Kodai Friends International, Inc.
216 Viewcrest Rd
Bellingham, WA 98229
USA

• By PayPal: send to email admin@kfi-us.org. If you would like your donation to go to a specific fund, please indicate that in your transaction.

• If you are 70 ½ or older, you are eligible and could choose to contribute your IRA rollover to KFI tax free.

• Join the Shola Society and gift KFI with part of your estate.

Please contact the KFI office at admin@kfi-us.org or call (206)696-1335 for further information or with any questions.

The following KFI funds can be supported through online gifts, Paypal, or by check:

- Fund a Need
- KIS Scholarship Fund
- Keith DeJong Music Award and Scholarship
- The South East Asian Regional Scholarship (SEAR)
- KIS Center for Environment and Humanity
- Social & Environment Experience Department Priorities - Class of 1974 Legacy Project
- KIS Community Fund
- KIS Design & Innovation Fund
- KIS Music Department
- Martin Engelbrecht Economics Prize
- Alice Edwin English Prize
- Excellence in Education Fund
- Sandra Schoeninger Center

KFI Board of Directors

1st July, 2024 to 30th June, 2025

Margaret Greene, 1979 | President
Shiv Narayan, 1995 | Treasurer
Siddharth Gore, 2013 | Secretary
Lyn Krause, 1966
Sylvia Trautmann Rogers, 1973
Shrikant Ramamurthy, 1980
Kristina Aier, 2001
Corleigh Stixrud, 1986, KIS Principal*
Kalyani Gandhi Rhodes, KIS Development Officer*
Louise Heineman Riber, 1973, KFI Administrator*
* ex officio

1st of July, 2025 to 30th June, 2026

Margaret Greene, 1979 | President
Shiv Narayan, 1995 | Treasurer
Siddharth Gore, 2013 | Secretary
Lyn Krause, 1966
Sylvia Trautmann Rogers, 1973
Kristina Aier, 2001
Vijay Naidu, 1986
Nirav Sahni, 2014
Eshan Kalarikkal, 2013
Dr. Bradford Barnhardt, KIS Principal*
Keith Ribeiro, KIS Head of Development*
Tara Menon, KIS Development/Alumni Officer*
Louise Heineman Riber, 1973, KFI Administrator*
* ex officio

Keep in Touch

Kodai Friends International [Website](#)

Kodaikanal International School [Website](#)

KIS Alumni Association [Facebook Page](#)

Do you want to see old Eucy's, historical documents and photographs and other archival material? Go to [KIS Archives](#). KIS is in the process of making this available to all alumni in their database. This should be complete by end of March 2026, but you can always request permission through the link if it prompts you to do so.

KIS Hiking Over the Decades: [An Interactive Photo Timeline](#) - add your hiking story and/or pictures

Want to see a video from KIS with everything you want to know about the school today?

Wish you could watch a virtual tour of what the school looks like today?

Missed your favorite Quad Talk?

Watch an interview with 2020 Nobel Peace Prize Winner who happens to be a KIS alum, as well as other fascinating alumni interviews

All this and more can be seen on the [KIS YouTube Channel](#)

Recently moved or changed email address? Please keep us informed at admin@kfi-us.org



Contact Us:

Kodai Friends International, Inc.

216 Viewcrest Rd

Bellingham, WA 98229

Phone: (206)696-1335

Email: admin@kfi-us.org

Website: www.kfi-us.org

