# How Upahar Giving works with Shree Shiva Shaikshanika Seva Ashrama

This note explains, in plain language, what Upahar Giving is, what it does for the ashrama, and why it is set up the way it is. It is written for the school's trustees and staff, and for anyone thinking of giving or helping. The signed agreements are what bind us; this is the explanation behind them. Upahar's first programme, a pilot, has not started yet: the funds we are raising now are to set it up. What follows describes how it will work.

## IN ONE PARAGRAPH

Upahar Giving is a small nonprofit in New Jersey, run by volunteers, formed to support the children at the ashrama near Tumakuru. It works alongside the school, but it does not run the school or fund it. It raises money in the United States and in India, is setting up its own education programmes at the school to help the children learn well, and brings outside knowledge and connections where they are useful. It is a separate organisation with its own board, and over time it may take on other projects, but the ashrama is the reason it exists.

## WHY A SEPARATE ORGANISATION

Indian law sets clear rules for money that comes from abroad to Indian charities. A school or ashrama may receive foreign funds only once it holds the registration the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act requires. The ashrama does not hold that registration today.

We have no interest in working around those rules. We want to be useful to the school in a way that is lawful and would look right to any regulator, auditor or donor who examined it. So, instead of sending money to the school, Upahar Giving will run its own programmes at the school. No money, goods or equipment are handed to the school itself, and the school is never asked to receive foreign funds it is not registered to receive.

## HOW THE PROGRAMMES WILL WORK

The programmes will belong to Upahar Giving. Upahar will define them, oversee them and pay for them. A person it appoints will look after the work on its behalf and report to Upahar's board. Within that, the school, which knows these children best, will be heard at every step. We want to add knowledge and resources to that relationship, not replace it.

### What Upahar Giving does

Defines each programme: its goals, hours and expected outcomes. Appoints a person to oversee the work on its behalf, who reports to Upahar's board. Pays for the programmes from its own account. Keeps the records, reports to its board and donors, and carries the legal and financial responsibility for the programmes.

### What the school does

Hosts the programmes and remains the main contact on the ground. Is heard on priorities, and its views matter, though the decision is Upahar's. Shares its observations, which become part of every evaluation. Keeps full authority over its own premises and the children in its care.

### What the school is asked about

Priorities, subjects, timetable and which children take part are discussed with the school at a planning meeting each year. Upahar's board makes the final decision and tells the school what was adopted and why.

### Working with local NGOs

Wherever we can, we look to work with NGOs already active in Karnataka. They know the local schools, the language and the rules far better than a few volunteers in New Jersey do, and the children are better served by people who can be there every week.

#### MONEY

Upahar Giving takes no commission and charges no fee. Its trustees are unpaid volunteers. Everything it raises is used for its programmes and the modest costs of running a nonprofit properly. Gifts support Upahar's programmes, and its board decides how funds are used.

Because Upahar Giving holds and manages the funds itself rather than passing them on, it can plan how they are used over time. That means the programmes can run steadily through months when giving is slow, and it means the funds can be managed so that whatever they earn while they wait goes back into the programmes.

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| **From the United States** | Gifts to Upahar Giving, a 501(c)(3) public charity (EIN 42-5121448). They are tax-deductible for US donors to the extent allowed by law, for gifts made since our formation on September 13, 2026. |
| **From India** | Donors in India can also give to Upahar Giving. Write to us for details. |
| **To the school** | Nothing, for now. This is deliberate and is what keeps the school clear of foreign-funding rules it is not registered under. |

#### LOOKING AHEAD

Upahar Giving must give the school at least thirty days' notice if it ever intends to stop.

We would also like to help the school obtain its own FCRA registration in time. Our part would be guidance, connections with people who have done it, and, where Indian law permits, help with the costs involved. Once the school holds that registration, far more becomes possible, and the two organisations can decide together what should change.

## WHAT WE ASK OF THE SCHOOL

Space and time in the school day for the programmes, at no charge. A contact person for practical matters on site. Honest observations about how the programmes are doing. Cooperation on child safeguarding, and on visits from the person overseeing the programmes for Upahar, from our board or from a reviewer. And the candour to tell us when something is not working.

## WHO WE ARE

Upahar Giving Inc. is a New Jersey nonprofit corporation formed in September 2026, with a board of three trustees and no paid staff. "Upahar" means "gift" in Hindi. Our website is upahargiving.org and we can be reached at info@upahargiving.org.

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This brief is a plain-language explanation and is not itself an agreement. The Memorandum of Understanding between Upahar Giving Inc. and the ashrama, and Upahar's other agreements, set out the binding terms. Upahar Giving Inc. is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) public charity, EIN 42-5121448.
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