SAKHI – Assisting Women toward Self-Sufficiency by Rao Chalasani

A technology executive in the financial industry, Rao Chalasani has worked for the New York offices of companies like JP Morgan Chase, Merrill Lynch, Sungard Data Systems, and Bank of America. Aside from his professional career, Rao Chalasani believes in giving back to society. In partnership with SAKHI for South Asian Women, in 2002 he established the Swarna Chalasani Economic Empowerment Fund.

Devoted to assisting women, SAKHI works to eradicate [domestic violence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domestic_violence%E2%80%8E) in South Asia by providing crisis intervention and assisting with the immediate needs of victims of violence. SAKHI also helps survivors gain economic sufficiency through programs such as the Swarna Chalasani Economic Empowerment Fund.

Named after Swarna Chalasani, a volunteer who died in the 9/11 attack, the fund provides scholarships to women seeking educational and professional development. Currently, the fund grants scholarships of up to $1,500 which can be applied toward expenses like tuition and supplies. Since its creation, the fund has helped many women earn bachelor’s and master’s degrees in diverse fields.