

# Rambler TEXAS MEDIA

(/)

## Young investor gives back to charity

by Zach Freeman

February 21, 2026



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Irving—While most eighth graders are focused on homework and extracurricular activities, 14-year-old Saanvi Gullapalli is thinking about stock portfolios, economic trends and charitable giving.

The Southlake student recently donated \$3,000 to the Irving Salvation Army, proceeds she earned by teaching financial literacy classes to other students.

Saanvi has been investing since she was 8 years old. Inspired by her father, who runs a hedge fund, she developed an early curiosity about the markets and began studying investing fundamentals years before most teenagers consider opening a savings account.

“My dad's been an investor for many years, so I would always be interested in what he was doing,” Saanvi said. “I think 80

percent of the credit goes to him.”

She said her father not only helped her understand investing but also encouraged her when she began teaching students.

“When one of the classes started, I was a little bit nervous how it would work out and if students would listen to me because I'm teaching people that are older than me,” Saanvi said. “[My dad] kept motivating me, and whenever I have a question he's always the first person I go to.”

### **Teaching financial literacy at a young age**

With her father's support, Saanvi founded Saanvi Finance Academy, a nonprofit organization designed to teach students in grades five through 11 about finance and economics in a way that is accessible and engaging.

“I realized that a lot of people in my school were interested in finance and financial literacy, but they didn't have any opportunities to learn about it in a fun and engaging way,” Saanvi said.

Her classes cover investing basics, real-world economic concepts, the S&P 500 and media analysis from financial publications such as *The Wall Street Journal*.

In October, Saanvi launched a 10-week course at the Southlake Community Center, teaching more than 20 students at \$180 per participant. Most of the proceeds were donated to charity.

She has since expanded her programming to the Frisco Public Library, where classes run weekly from Feb. 15 through April 19 at \$25 per session. At the time of an interview, approximately 30 students had signed up.

Saanvi said the reward is not simply financial.

“The end result is so rewarding,” she said. “It’s when they finally grasp that concept. I’m trying to explain complex concepts in simple and easy ways. And once they finally understand, then I’m actually impacting other people.”

### **Investing early — and giving back**

Saanvi’s first stock investment was in Amazon after she noticed how frequently her family and neighbors used the company’s services. Her long-term goal is to grow her investments by 30 percent to 40 percent annually.

As her profile has grown, she has been invited to the New York Stock Exchange by CNBC journalist Scott Wapner and the “Halftime Report” investing team. She has met CEOs and finance professionals and has spoken at Southlake City Council meetings. The city even declared Jan. 6 as Saanvi Gullapalli Day.

Still, she says philanthropy remains central to her work.

“I think \$3,000 is just the first step,” she said. “I impacted 20 students to learn more about financial education. That’s what I’m thinking about more than money.”

Saanvi said many young people hesitate to invest because they believe they are too young.

“My advice is it’s never too early to start investing,” she said. “There may be some mistakes that you make, but it’s part of the learning process. I think the advantage of starting so young is that you can try things and see what your strategy is.”

### **Supporting the local community**

The Irving Salvation Army said the donation will directly support families in need.

“She is such an extraordinary young lady,” The Salvation Army Captain Maxie DeBlanc said. “We are beyond grateful for her generosity.”

Saanvi's desire to give back began early in life. For her birthdays, her family traveled to India to help feed children in orphanages, experiences that shaped her outlook on privilege and service.

"I realized that I'm able to have food on the table and proper education, but a lot of people aren't," she said. "So, the idea of giving the money back was so that I could help other people have the basic needs and privileges that I have on a daily basis."

She chose The Salvation Army after learning about the organization during a school service day.

"During that day, they played this video about The Salvation Army hosting kids birthday parties, and I thought that was super cool," she said. "I did some research and decided it would be the perfect organization to donate my proceeds to."

Saanvi is currently working on a book about her experiences and plans to continue expanding her academy.

To learn more about Saanvi and sign up for classes, visit [www.saanvifinanceacademy.com](http://www.saanvifinanceacademy.com) (<http://www.saanvifinanceacademy.com>).

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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMUNITY MEETINGS

### Potential 2026 Service Changes

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) will host a series of community meetings to provide information on potential 2026 service changes.

The potential changes could impact:

- 16 Bus Routes
- 5 Rail Lines
- 15 Rail Stations or Transit Centers
- 14 GoLink Zones
- Paratransit Service

### COMMUNITY MEETINGS

**Wednesday, February 11**  
6-7:30 p.m.  
University of Dallas –  
SB Hall Multipurpose Room  
2925 Gorman Dr.  
Irving, TX 75062

**Thursday, February 12**  
6-7:30 p.m.  
Harvest Family Life Ministries  
1800 S. Hampton Rd.  
Glenn Heights, TX 75154

**Wednesday, February 18**  
6-7:30 p.m.  
Hill Chapel CME Church  
11131 Ave.  
Plano, TX 75074

**Thursday, February 19**  
6-7:30 p.m.  
Jaycee Zaragoza  
Recreation Center  
3114 Clymer St.  
Dallas, TX 75212

**Monday, February 23**  
6-7:30 p.m.  
Texas A&M AgriLife  
Center at Dallas  
17360 Coit Rd.  
Dallas, TX 75252

**Thursday, February 26**  
6-7:30 p.m.  
Addison Town Hall  
15600 Addison Rd.  
Addison, TX 75001

### PUBLIC HEARING

**Tuesday, March 24, 2026 – 6 p.m.**  
DART Board room  
1401 Pacific Ave. (Akard Station)  
Dallas, TX 75202



Scan the QR code for a complete list of potential changes and community meetings, or visit [DART.org/PublicHearing](https://www.dart.org/PublicHearing)

Questions or comments may be submitted via email to [ServicePlanning@DART.org](mailto:ServicePlanning@DART.org).



(<https://www.dart.org/about/public-access-information/community-connections>)

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