

Winter Coats Drive

Central Jersey chapter leads have done an amazing job on the Winter clothing and toy drive initiative. Our leads have surpassed all expectations with the quantity collected. The coordination and promptness of the leads and our volunteers made the timely donations possible in lieu of the season's first snowstorm. This has been rewarding and a proud moment for each member of the Sewa family knowing the donations would bring warmth and smiles to those in need.

Cherry Hill leads collected over 100 toys and 35 boxes/bags of winter clothing which was delivered to Christian Community Center of Mount Holly. Among the people who received the donations, was a grandmother for her 8 grandchildren whose mother tested COVID +ve



Edison and Somerset leads have raised a total of 593 winter coats which was donated to Temple Beth AHM of Aberdeen, NJ, who partnered with the non-profit recipient, Jersey Shore Rescue Mission located in Asbury Park, by the SEWA team. Additional our somerset leads donated yet another 70+ comforters and 50+ winter coats to the New Brunswick homeless shelter



Chapter Highlights

- ❖ Winter Coats Drive
- ❖ Sewa Meals
- ❖ Food Donations
- ❖ Glucometer Donations to Lenape Tribe
- ❖ Holiday Cards Drive

Center Highlights

- ❖ Produce Harvest
- ❖ Greenbrook Cleanup
- ❖ Books & Toys Drive
- ❖ Holiday Lunch for Monroe EMS & Police

Volunteer(s) Spotlight



Nisha Ramagiri

Nisha ji was instrumental in starting the Chesterfield Sewa team in 2018. Nisha is a very enthusiastic, energetic & a disciplined volunteer. She has been one of the key coordinators(s) for many of Sewa's prestigious projects. Her dedication in giving back to community began from her college days. She worked in The Banyan - "Mental Health NGO for women, India". She also conducted surveys while cruising the slums of southern India to identify any Leprosy infected person is desirable. For last 5 years she has been offering weekend cooking Sewa at BAPS mandir Edison. She is an active cultural committee member for local cultural activities. Her hobbies are Art (Classic Tanjore and Abstract Painting), Dance, and Reading. Nisha ji works at ECFMG | FAIMER as a BA She lives in Chesterfield with her husband Lalith and son Pranav who are also very active participants of Sewa projects.

Chesterfield leads reached neighboring towns including Chesterfield, Bordentown, Mansfield & East Windsor & collected 3 minivan loads of winter clothing. All the collection was donated to Rise Food Pantry which was then distributed to 350+ families from Hightstown.

Monroe leads collected copious amounts of clothes and toys. The collections loaded 6 minivans which were dropped off to RISE communities in Hightstown.



Sewa Meals

Somerset Leads have prepared 8 large trays of food in response to the United Methodist Church's request for providing hot meals to the homeless. Leads helped cook 3 trays of pasta, chana masala, jeera rice, muffins, salad, and roti. This food was then served to 40 people at the church.



Edison Leads put together a healthy meal consisting of Salad, pasta and rice for those in need @ Ozanam Homeless Shelter. While most families and kids spent time taking time out of their winter break to help the hungry.



Monroe leads packed 111 lunch bags and donated to RISE Food pantry as part of their monthly lunch bag commitment. Each lunch bag is packed with peanut butter and jelly sandwich, water bottle, clementine, granola bar, bag of lays chips, and a napkin. With this Monroe leads have provided 800+ lunch bags in the year 2020, much needed during pandemic crisis families are facing.



Food Donations

Chesterfield volunteers delivered yet another batch of the fresh produce to Rise Food Pantry, Hightstown. Donations included 7 cases of green beans, 6 cases of Cauliflower, 3 cases of kale, 2 cases lettuce & a case of Apples. The Sewa family is grateful to our volunteer & local business owner Rama Malladi ji for his generous donation since March of 2020 totaling more than 150 cases of fresh produce and bakery products. Kudos to the volunteers who have been promptly dropping off the donations despite their busy schedules.



Glucometer Donations to Lenape Tribe

Central NJ Chapter of Sewa International delivered 30 Glucometer start-up kits containing a Bluetooth enabled meter, lancing device, pack of testing strips and lancets to Chief Mann of Lenape Tribe - Turtle Clan as our commitment to serving our native tribes during this pandemic. These will be for the seniors in the tribes who are diabetic and are not able to manage their diabetes effectively. Chief had requested these when we had supplied the tribe with PPE's recently. This was made possible by a donation from one of the renowned Dr. from NY. She wants to remain anonymous. We thank her for her generosity to be able to serve the tribe in hours of need.

Holiday Cards Drive

Somerset and Edison leads worked passionately created cards and bracelets to make a special holiday season 2020 for senior citizens, residents of Shelter homes and our frontline heroes. Hand-made holiday cards were delivered to "Agape House", healthcare workers @ Raritan Bay Center & RWJ Steeplechase Cancer Center.



Monroe leads also hand-made Thank you and Holiday cards which were delivered to Firefighter Offices, municipal Offices, The Mayor's Office, Emergency Services, Monroe Police Department and, Organizations such as the Marlboro Community Garden, Monroe Community Garden, Monroe Senior Citizen Center, Mercer Street Friends, The Watershed Institute (Pennington) that provided our leads an opportunity to serve and learn.



Produce Harvest

10 Chesterfield Sewa volunteers' hand-harvested root crops such as sweet potatoes, carrots, turnips, beets & radishes from Honey Brook Farm in Chesterfield. Later the produce was washed thoroughly & packed to be delivered to "Share My Meals" located in Princeton. <https://sharemy meals.org/> It was a 5-hour laborious activity, yet very much a rewarding experience for the leads.



Greenbrook Cleanup

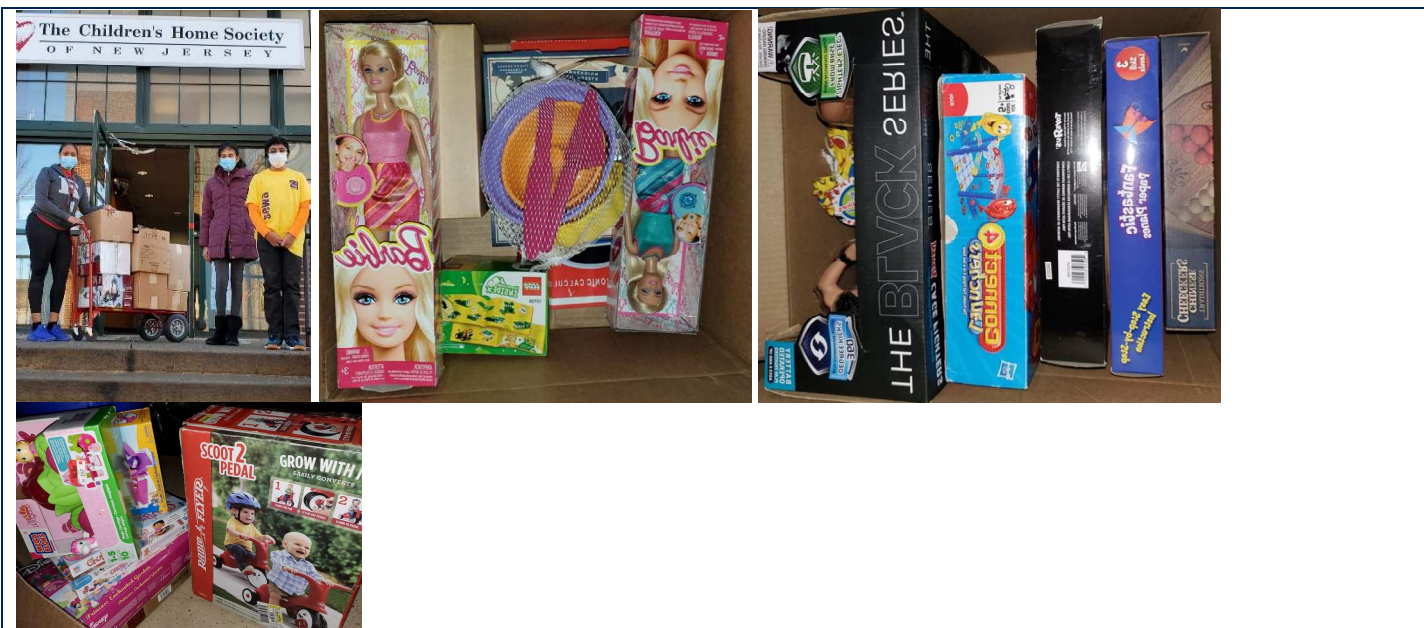
In response to Lower Raritan Watershed Partnerships and Central Jersey Stream Team's call for cleanup of Greenbrook, the Edison and Somerset Leads took up the initiative of cleaning the area and making it trash free. In coordination with other volunteers, 7 Leads worked together to clean up the area and collected a total of around 9 bags of trash. They spent more than 2 hours in total to pick up glass & plastic bottles, Styrofoam, and other items polluting the area. As you can see in the pictures, the weather was a huge obstacle that our Leads persevered through the mud and the cold harsh weather, they continued to do their charitable act. We encourage others to take part in activities as such and keep the environment clean.



Books & Toy Drive

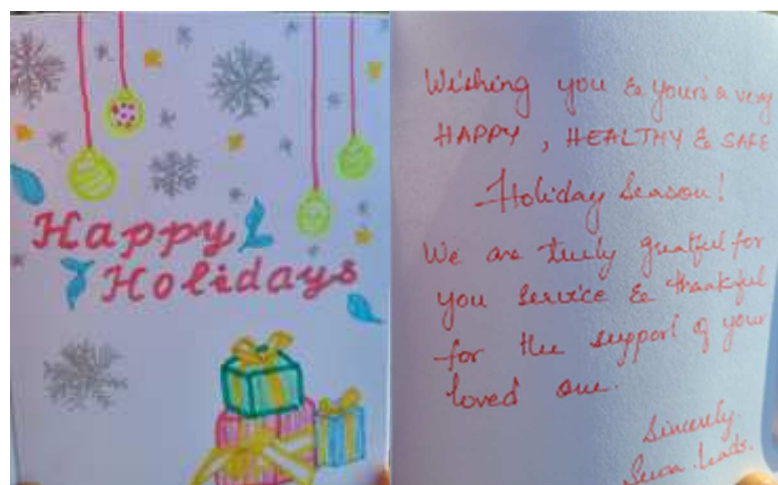
Somerset Sewa leads have collected 500+ books, which were donated to *The Children's Home Society of New Jersey*. Children's home society is located in Trenton and is a dedicated organization which supports over 1,500 foster families. We are very thankful to everyone who helped with the donations and giving us an opportunity to help kids in need.

Our leads also collected a lot of toys that were delivered to Happy2Thrive organization.



Holiday Lunch for Monroe EMS and Police Department

On behalf of the entire Sewa Family Monroe Sewa leads sponsored lunches for Monroe Police and EMS. The Lunch was a small token of appreciation to Frontline workers for all commitment to caring for our community. The handmade thank you card was also hand delivered appreciate all the hard work and sacrifices their families.



2020 Central Jersey Chapter Recap

Despite the most challenging pandemic year of 2020 Sewa volunteers & leads have had a successful year of serving the community. While none were really prepared for the pandemic, Our *Vision to serve humanity selflessly with compassion irrespective of race, color, religion, gender or nationality* and the commitment of the chapter and center leads have created ample volunteering opportunities for the leads. Some of the remarkable projects that our Leads embarked upon are listed below

- ✓ Adopt a Highway
- ✓ BHS Museum Art online support
- ✓ Book Drives
- ✓ Brown Bag Lunch to homeless and in need
- ✓ Community Clean Ups
- ✓ CPR Training and Certification
- ✓ Cutlery Bundle
- ✓ Desk Building for Schools in need
- ✓ First Responders Appreciation
- ✓ Garden Management
- ✓ Habitat for Humanity (Restore)
- ✓ Hands of Hope
- ✓ Harvest Fest
- ✓ Help in Art and Exhibition Sale
- ✓ Holiday & Thank you Cards
- ✓ Kiddie Keep Well Camp
- ✓ Mask Mission
- ✓ Online Fundraising Workshops / Camps (Stem Science , Chess , Arts and Crafts, HTML , Python & Java Classes)
- ✓ Online Tutoring
- ✓ Princeton Museum Paper Crane to Honor lives lost in C19
- ✓ Pumpkin Compost
- ✓ Roebling Museum - Wings Fence Art Display
- ✓ Roots for Rivers
- ✓ Services @ Radha Gopinath Temple
- ✓ Sewa Diwali Food Drive
- ✓ Treats for Troops
- ✓ Tree Fencing
- ✓ Veteran's Home @ Melonopark,NJ
- ✓ Voter Registration
- ✓ Winter Coats Drive

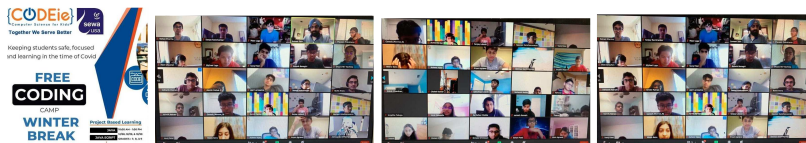
Sewa Milan 2020

Our Annual Volunteer Appreciation and Award Ceremony to recognize our Lead Volunteers for their relentless efforts in community service. Sewa Milan 2020 was held on December 20th, where 200 participants attended the Award Ceremony over Zoom Meeting. Sewa Milan showcased all the projects taken up throughout the year 2019 – 2020.

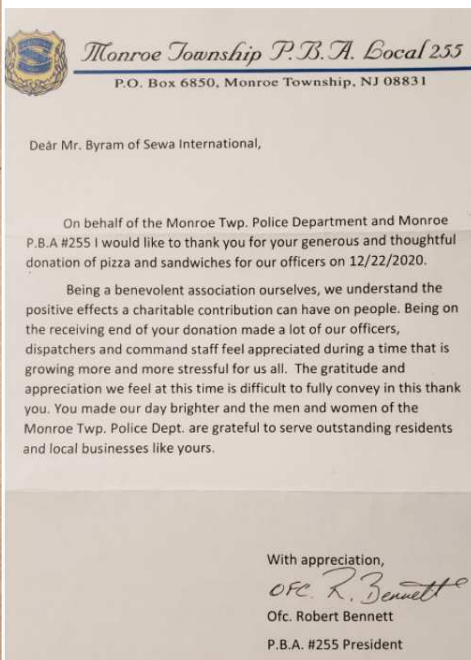
To appreciate and enlighten our young group of volunteers Mr.Arun Shroff Founder and CEO of Xtend AI was invited as Honorable Chief guest for the evening. Arun Kankani, President of Sewa International was the Guest of Honor. Syam Kosigi , VP Organization of Sewa International was Special Guest setting a great example and shared their warm words of wisdom shaping young Minds. Other revered designatories Councilman Daniel Hirsh of Metuchen Borough, Jonathan Liss Ex-director of SubCom, Gaurav Singhal of HSS, Mrs Sumeet Soin, Founder of Rising Future, Paras Jain of STAFFs Prep, Denise Kotaes-Dale Township Committee Member of Chesterfield , Eileen from Monroe Community Garden, Ms Jennifer Solanski , Counselor, North Brunswick High School also graced the event to recognize and appreciate the efforts of our Sewa Lead Volunteers for the year 2019 -2020. Even through these difficult times due to C19, our mission was to stay positive and to stride forward and see light at the end of tunnel.

Winter Coding Camp

The Winter Coding Camp organized by Rising Future Learning Center in partnership with Sewa Central Jersey Chapter was a grand success. The 3 days free Java & Javascript camp was attended by 70+ students. Thanks to Rising Future Learning Center for organizing this wonderful program & making this winter break fun & educational. Our leads go a wonderful gift this holiday season of learning and teaching each other via this coding camp



Feedback(s)



Newsletter Team

- ❖ Amit Guideen
- ❖ Ananya Madireddy
- ❖ Aniketh Chadive
- ❖ Archit Dwivedi
- ❖ Devanshi Voleti
- ❖ Dhriti Cagathi
- ❖ Nithya Kanthan
- ❖ Sanika Bane
- ❖ Sarayu Nalamalapu
- ❖ Subiksha Ganesh
- ❖ Susha Kavuri

Communication Channels

Please visit our chapter Website and follow-on Twitter, Facebook & Instagram

Web: <https://Sewausa.org/central-jersey-chapter>

Twitter: @JerseySewa

FB: @JerseySewa or Sewa Central Jersey

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SEWA INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

Rajesh we hope this letter finds you and your community in good health. This letter is to confirm that the Turtle Clan of the Ramapough Lenape Nation will be responsible for the education on use of the donated Glucometer and strips.

Michaeline Picaro is a Registered Nurse in New Jersey and she will be giving the instructions to those who will receive these precious gifts from Sewa International.

We are filled with the utmost gratitude for Sewa International and all of your community who find it within their hearts and who live truly each day with humility.

Sincerely,

CHIEF VINCENT MANN

OFFICE OF THE RAMAPOUGH LENAPE NATIONS TURTLE CLAN



Upcoming Events

- ❖ Birthday cards & Bracelets for senior citizens & children