

## Diaper Drive

Millions of children are potentially harmed due to diaper need. Statistics show 5.3 million children under the age of 3 live in low-income families. And, low-income families receive no government support when it comes to diapers. Programs like food stamps and WIC, for example, do not cover diapers, a basic health need for babies and toddlers.

The Central Jersey Sewa International Chapter had organized a 3 week diaper drive to help the families struggling with the diaper needs. Sewa Leads across Cherry Hill, Chesterfield, Monroe & Somerset centers collected about 3 minivan full for diapers & wipes which were then donated to Makers Place Diaper Bank, Trenton & Crosswicks Methodist Church at Chesterfield.



## Chapter Highlights

- ❖ Diaper Drive
- ❖ Boat Building
- ❖ Sewa Meals
- ❖ Sewa @ Temple
- ❖ Food Donations

## Volunteer(s) Spotlight



**Anitha Krishnamurthi**

Anitha ji is a joint coordinator of Sewa International Central Jersey chapter & also coordinator of SAC & T&GH programs. At first, she was in Edison center and was an active parent volunteer. She attended meetings and was involved in many events, such as the temple clean up and tree planting initiative. Soon, she moved to Monroe, which was a new center at the time, and became the main coordinator for the center, leading it since 2019. Additionally, she has played a large role in bringing the Sponsor a Child program to Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu. 20-25 children from this location were funded last year because of fundraising by the Central NJ chapter. In her work at American Express, she also volunteers as a mentor and is part of campus recruitment events. She serves as an Advisor for young girls via the BuiltByGirls initiative. Anitha ji loves engineering design/coding and working with younger minds, which is why she loves being a coordinator for Sewa Lead program as well. Outside of work and volunteering, she likes reading, drawing, Bharatanatyam dancing, and going on walks to enjoy nature. Anitha ji's family, including lead Aditi and her 8 year old son, volunteer alongside her.

## Sewa Meals

This month, the Somerset LEADS cooked a variety of food to donate to the United Methodist Church in New Brunswick.



On February 7th, Anita Thummalapalli and Ravi Rayala sponsored the meal for the church. As a team, the LEADS made bean chili, vermicelli, French fries, chocolate muffins, and peanut butter chocolate fudge (made by the sponsor).



On February 28th, Sirisha Maganti and Prasad Kavuri sponsored a warm meal. This time, the LEADS made 2 trays of sandwiches, 2 trays of vermicelli, pasta salad, and muffins. Despite the cold and wet weather, the Somerset group managed to deliver warm food to 50+ homeless people twice this month.



### Boat Building Project

Edison & Somerset LEAD Volunteers helped with Boat Building Project organized by Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership. The goal is to construct two cedar strip rowing boats during a 90-day building period beginning the week of January 24, 2021.



### Sewa @ Temple

Edison LEAD's volunteered at Radha Gopinath Temple are helped clean and do temple work at that place. On February 27th and 28th, LEAD's sorted and arranged books and shelved them. They also moved stuff from inside the temple to outside. Edison Parent LEAD volunteers and LEAD's did a great job in this event.



## Food Donations

Chesterfield Sewa volunteers dropped off a total of 4 cases of fresh green bell peppers to Rise Pantry, Hightstown. Thanks to Ram for his continued donations & parent volunteers for taking time to drop off at the pantry



## Birthday Celebration

Chesterfield LEAD Avinash Sai Pavani celebrated his 17th birthday by donating 70 pounds of non-perishable food items to the local food pantry. Great to see our Sewa families making efforts and celebrating their special day by sharing & caring for the local needy families.

## Family Services

Provided support to a family where a teenager with ADHD was a threat to parents and younger sibling's life. Connected the family with the local organizations that provide much-needed support with in-house treatment. Also, provided information on legal avenues for making custody will for younger child in case of any adversity.

## Grocery donations to Manavi

Manavi is an NJ-based non-profit organization founded with the goal of empowering South Asian survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and forced marriage. Sewa International aligned with the Manavi team to support some of these survivors by helping them in purchasing groceries and household necessities. Our volunteers have been helping them once every 2 weeks to ensure these survivors have what they need to lead a dignified life.



List	We have	We need	
Laundry detergent	1	5	Pomegranate ( 1 piece)
Kitchen sponges	4	8	Bittergourd ( frozen 2 packages )
Kitchen towels	4 rolls	20 rolls	Okra ( frozen 1packag)
Dishwashing liquid	2	4	Cauliflower ( 1 bunch)
Hand soap	0	4	Tomatoes ( 16 pieces)
Aluminum foil	0	3 rolls	Coriander ( 3 bunches)
Clorox all purpose cleaner	2	6	Spinach ( 4 lbs)
Ziplock bags Big ones	1 box	4 boxes	Sweet potatoes ( 1 pound)
Ziplock bags medium size	1 box	4 boxes	Yoghurt ( 1 small boxe)
Ziplock bags small size	0	4 boxes	Gauva juice ( 1 bottle)
Air freshener	0	1	Pomegranate juice ( 2 bottles )
			Readymade deep parathas ( 1 package)
			Puffed rice ( 2 packages )
			Barnyard millet (Moraiyo ) ( 1packag)
			Amaranth grain ( 1packag)
			Paneer ( 2 blocks )

## Upcoming Events

- ❖ Neshaminy State Park Reforestation
- ❖ Invasive Plants Cutting at Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space
- ❖ Installation of Roebling Fence Art Museum
- ❖ Artifact Archiving - Bordentown Historic Society
- ❖ Sewa Meals
- ❖ Boat Building Project
- ❖ Vaccination Scheduling for Seniors
- ❖ Lower Raritan Watershed Cleanup
- ❖ SAT Math Study Group

## Newsletter Team

- ❖ Aditi Mahendran
- ❖ Anisha Sai Pavani
- ❖ Anshu Andhavarapu
- ❖ Anushka
- ❖ Pranav Palle
- ❖ Srushti Basapuri

## 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

**Instagram:** centraljerseysewa

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