

Winter Coat Drive

Sewa Leads across the five centers of the Central NJ Chapter have taken part in the winter clothing drive 2021. Leads collected over 1600 items consisting of coats, jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts, sweatpants, blankets, comforters, winter scarves, socks, gloves, and hats; Leads also set up drop-off boxes in libraries, local businesses, and schools across various townships to keep the donations going. The Thrift Store program of Monroe Jersey Shore Rescue Mission received all the donations, which will further be distributed to the homeless and those in need of Monmouth County.



Chapter Highlights

- ❖ Winter Coat drive
- ❖ Toy Drive
- ❖ Sewa Meals

Center Highlights

- ❖ Veterans Memorial Home
- ❖ Snipes Farm
- ❖ Bake Sale Fundraising

Volunteer(s) Spotlight



Leena Nair Ji has been with the Monroe Center of Sewa Central NJ Chapter since October 2020. Adhering to her parents' beliefs, Geetha and Divakaran Nair, she has been active in many volunteer events hosted by Sewa, such as Sewa meals for the homeless, Treats for Troops, Winter Clothes drive, Sewa Diwali food drive, and Neshaminy Park reforestation, Monroe Newsletter coordination & Social Media. She has been part of the Sewa Central Jersey Family Services helpline that worked with the New Jersey Health Department and FEMA for the Covid Vaccination Drive. She is also certified in Disaster Case Management with the Sewa International AmeriCorps Program. Leena Ji is a software engineer and has constantly taken an active role in her community alongside her family, her husband Dinesh, and her two sons, Advait and Vedant. When she's not busy working or volunteering, she likes to read, sketch in black and white, learn new forms of art, and watch world cinema.



Blanket Donations

Dr. Latha Ji Cherath from Cherry Hill donated 450 blankets, 150 pairs of socks, 150 hats & 150 pairs of gloves. Cherry Hill & Edison Leads sorted, packed & delivered them to the following organizations.

- Cherry Hill Food Pantry
- Bethel Baptist Church, Cherry Hill
- Kiddie Keep Well Camp, Edison
- YMCA Metuchen
- Jersey Shore Rescue Mission

Latha ji & her husband also arranged a delicious breakfast for the parents & leads who came to her home to sort the donations. Thanks to Latha Ji for the generous donations & great hospitality



Toy Drive

Along with the Coats, Leads also conducted a toy drive where they collected brand new toys & donated them to

- The Children's Home Society of New Jersey, Trenton
- The Extended Hand Ministries, Mount Holly.



Sewa Meals

Chesterfield Sewa volunteers packaged and delivered 160 meals to Westminster Presbyterian Church, Trenton. The special holiday meal consisted of veggie pasta, a bread roll, salad, red velvet cake, and an assortment of candy. Our leads, as always, did a fantastic job of working together and getting meals together quickly and efficiently. This month's sponsors were

- Shital & Manoj Khabe,
- Niveda & Rajesh Horaginamani,
- Manju & Kannian Murali, and
- Shilpa & Mukul Rathi from State Farm.

Since May, the Chesterfield center has delivered more than 1200 meals to Westminster Presbyterian Church. Making 150 meals involves significant planning, effort & money. Thanks to all our sponsors, leads & parent volunteers for making this possible



Monroe leads prepared and delivered 50 meals for the homeless at United Methodist Church in New Brunswick, New Jersey. The menu included peas pulao, potato peas gravy, pita bread, macaroni pasta salad, cookies, and six kids' meals. Thank you to lead Saisiddarth's family for sponsoring December 5th meal.



Edison leads prepared and delivered 50 meals for the homeless in the Ozanam Shelter. The Leads prepared nutritious meals consisting of vegetable burgers, burritos, fruits, and snacks.



Somerset Leads prepared meals on two weekends for 60 adults and four kids and delivered them to the homeless at the United Methodist Church in New Brunswick. The first meal included Burrito Bowls, Peanut butter and Jelly sandwiches, Tortilla chips, Brownies, and the kids' meals with Grilled Cheese sandwiches. The second meal was an Indian delicacy that included Rice, Rajma, and Tortillas. Our leads worked hard in preparing and packaging these delicious meals on time. Sewa Family is Thankful to you, Ankhita's & Chahel's family, for their generous contributions to sponsor December meals.



Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home

Edison Leads spent time with the Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home veterans during the winter holidays. Leads engaged the veterans with some fun games and Christmas theme trivia. In addition, Sewa leads got a tour of the memorial home.



Volunteering @ Snipes Farm

On Saturday, December 4, 2021, five Leads from Chesterfield drove to Snipes Farm located in Morrisville, Pennsylvania, to help with various activities. Two of the five Leads helped clean the rabbits' pen, while the other three Leads helped clean the ducks' pen. After that, they helped clean the goats' cage. The Leads were taken on a little tour of the farm. Around this time, they were assigned to help clean the quail's old cage and straws (a type of grass used in the animal pens). After completing the task, the tour continued. They got the chance to see a few greenhouses. This was our first volunteering event at the Snipes farm & hope to get more opportunities in the coming months.



Bake Sale Fundraiser

In December, Chesterfield Leads Trisha Velour & Sara Singhal came up with the idea for a bake sale fundraiser to raise funds for the Sponsor a Child program & to spread the Christmas spirit throughout the community. Trisha worked with Sara and her little sister, spending many hours baking sweet treats. The menu included varieties of delicious treats: Chocolate Dipped Oreo Pops, Chocolate Pretzel, Christmas Sugar Cookies, Chocolate Cake Pops, Christmas Donuts, Candy Cane Marshmallow pops & Rice Krispie Christmas Treats. Each treat was only a dollar & the trio even offered free delivery for Chesterfield residents. Trisha spread the word by herself by creating a flyer and posting in local Sewa groups & neighborhood. The team received a great response from residents & was able to raise a lot for the Sponsor-a-Child program.



Produce Donations

Sewa volunteer & local business owner Ram Malladi ji donated two batches of fresh produce in December. Our volunteers delivered first batch consisting of four large boxes of apples & one box of apples/banana to Sai Datta Peeth, Radha Gopinath Temple & Umiya Mata Temple. The second batch of fresh produce consisting of one box of cherry tomatoes, two cases of romaine lettuce, one large box of cucumbers & two boxes of non-perishable food items was delivered to Rise food pantry.



Giving Tree - Christmas gifts

Sarah Cruz, the camp director at Kiddie Keep Well Camp, requested Sewa to help fulfill the Christmas wishes of underprivileged kids. In response to the request Ruchi Ji & her daughter, Raima, came forward & set up a Giving Tree at Kiddie Academy @ Langhorn. A Giving Tree is a Christmas tree with ornaments for generous people to select to donate Christmas gifts for children in need. Our Leads made very creative ornaments with children's names & their Christmas wishes.

Thanks to Ruch ji & the parents at Kiddie Academy for sponsoring the wishes of all 36 kids' from Kiddie Keep Well Camp, Edison & YMCA, Metuchen & bringing smiles on their faces this holiday season.



Raritan State Park Canal Clean-Up

Six Edison leads took up clean-up activity at Raritan River Greenway on December 12, 2021. Despite the bitter cold, the leads have spent a couple of hours cleaning up the Canal and bagged five bags, seven truck tires, and several other items.



Hands of Hope Food Drive

Edison leads collected and delivered about 122 lbs of perishable and non-perishable items to Hands of Hope Pantry.



AttachAvi Autism Foundation Holiday Party for Young Adults

Ten of Edison leads helped at Piscataway High School in holding Christmas Party for special needs kids. Leads decorated the school and planned games for the kids attending the party. Leads had a great time seeing the smiles on the kids' faces, who were thrilled with the decoration and the activities they played.



Newsletter Team



Sutirth Potluri

Grade: 8

Interests: Hangout with friends

Favorite project: Snipes Farm



Tania Saravanakumar

Grade: 10

Interests: Baking, Guitar

Favorite project: Sewa Meals



Trisha Veloor

Grade: 10

Interests: Dance & Hangout with friends

Favorite project: Cleanups



Sara Singhal

Grade: 10

Interests: Playing Instruments & Hangout with friends

Favorite project: Sewa Meals



Anushree Singh

Grade: 9

Interests:

Reading, Music, History

Favorite project: Flags for Heroes



Daksh Goel

Grade: 10

Interests: Soccer, Badminton, Anime

Favorite project: Vadtal Dham



Atharva Kadam

Grade: 9

Interests: Tennis, Cricket, Reading

Favorite project: Sewa Meals



Advait D. Nair

Grade: 11

Interests: Photography, Track

Favorite project: Reforestation



Shresta Damera

Grade: 9

Interests: Reading

Favorite project: Sewa Meals tutoring, Garden projects



Saanvi Damera

Grade: 11

Interests: Baking

Favorite project: Sewa Meals, Garden projects



Vedant D. Nair

Grade: 11

Interests: Music, Soccer

Favorite project: Bucket Garden



Amrithavarshini Subburaman

Grade: 10

Interests: Playing Violin, Knitting friends

Favorite project: Sewa Meals

Upcoming Events

- ❖ Birthday Cards and Bracelet making
- ❖ Sewa Meals
- ❖ SACO Covid testing site assistance
- ❖ MANAVI Support
- ❖ AttachAvi Kids Classes
- ❖ SewaMilan

Communication Channels

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