

Sewa Meals

Central Jersey chapter leads have continually engaged in preparing meals and providing to homeless shelters and churches on a weekly /Bi-Weekly schedule.

Our **Edison** Leads volunteered at Ozanam Homeless Shelter preparing meals. Leads have prepared over 50 veg burgers, pasta and salad.



Chapter Highlights

- ❖ Sewa Meals
- ❖ Renaissance Fair
- ❖ Spring Clean Ups and reforestation
- ❖ Boat Building – Lower Raritan Watershed

Center Highlights

- ❖ Monroe Gardening Projects
- ❖ Pennington Watershed
- ❖ Vaccination Help

Volunteer(s) Spotlight



Sapna Agarwal

Sapna Ji has been with Sewa International, since 2018 and has been one of members that began Edison center. She is passionate about helping others and have been part of many projects like mask making sponsor-a-child, Kiddie Keep Well Camp and veterans. She has been part of many fundraiser projects; recent one has been plant sale on Mother's Day. Apart from volunteering Sapna ji has a great passion for gardening and has developed extensive knowledge about many plants and caring for them. Sapna ji put in tireless hours in all the projects, her passion and commitment are exemplary.

Our **Somerset** Leads prepared meals and delivered to Methodist Union Church , where the food was packed and donated to the homeless .One of the means was sponsored by Chakraborti family to celebrate the 12th birthday of their son. Arsiwala family sponsored yet another meal to celebrate Ramadan.



Our **Chesterfield** Leads delivered their first 150 meals to Westminster Presbyterian Church. The meal included the veggie sub, bag of chips & brownie. The meals were served to the needy families in Trenton/Burlington/Camden communities. Thanks to the Bonagiri & Tadisina family for sponsoring the meal.



Our **Monroe** Leads continued with Sewa meals project in Monroe and is being distributed at Methodist Church, New Brunswick for Sunday Dinners. May dinner was sponsored by Lead Sanika Bane's family.



Renaissance Fair – Parking coordination and Fund Raising

Spanning across two weekends between May and June, 45+ Sewa LEADS from centers (Chesterfield, Bordentown, Cherry Hill, Edison, Monroe, Somerset) collectively took over a unique commercial parking service project to help with the Renaissance Park Faire parking management. Renaissance faire is an outdoor weekend gathering open to the public which purportedly recreates a historical setting include an abundance of costumed entertainers or fair-goers, musical and theatrical acts, art and handicrafts for sale, and festival food. The event recurs every year, at the Liberty Lake Park, Columbus. Sewa LEADS helped with the parking service for four days starting from (May 29th, 30th) & (June 5th, 6th).

The Sewa LEADS helped with

- Setting up parking booth & banners
- Coordinated the event traffic from Entry to Exit, directing cars to the handicapped, VIP, regular & overflow parking lots respectively.
- Made instantaneous decisions on diverting cars to alternate parking arrangements and handled challenges in rainy weather conditions.

LEADS planned, managed, showed great responsibility & alertness in managing the event parking for more than 1000+ (cars, trucks) dedicatedly pushing through the bad weather conditions. Through this service project leads raised \$3000+ by reaching out to people, explaining Sewa goals and helped raise money for “Sponsor a Child program”. The Renaissance Faire Management were very much impressed and pleased with the way Sewa leads managed the whole parking service project and making this event a grand success for them. They were much appreciative of Sewa help and has requested our service to extend next year



Spring Clean Up(s)

Sewa Leads and parents from all the centers have worked on multiple spring cleanup projects this spring.

Amico Island - Our Cherry Hill and Monroe Sewa leads along with parent volunteers spent a day @ Amico Island Park in Delran, NJ to take part in the cleanup event organized by Burlington County. They picked up litter along the trails and riverside to have the park cleanup and ready for summer..



Chesterfield Community Cleanup About 33 Chesterfield Sewa Volunteers participated in the Chesterfield Cleanup on May 22nd. Volunteer's cleared all the illegally dumped trash, grass clipping & holiday trees, pulled out lot of bushes from the wooded area & helped in sorted for recyclables. Total 100+ hours were spent , loads and loads of trash was removed. Chesterfield township has greatly appreciated Sewa volunteer's efforts in keeping the community tidy.



Thompson Park – Edison, Somerset and Monroe Leads participated in the cleanup of Thompson Park Monroe where they collected thrash around the park and cleared invasive weeds around the lake.



Pennington Watershed – Adopt a plot : Monroe Leads have adopted 2 plots at Pennington Watershed .They cleaned these plots for all invasive weeds.



Boat Building – Lower Raritan Watershed

Edison Leads have been taking turns and volunteered for boat building project in New Brunswick. This project has been overly exciting opportunity for the leads to learn about how boats are built, apply engineering concepts to practice and learn how to use power tools of carpentry - such as sanders, clamps, and saws.



Monroe Gardening Projects

Container Garden - Monroe leads have initiated an innovative container garden project. 12 of the leads have signed up for the initiative. As part of this activity the leads would be growing produce of their choice and would donate the harvest via Sewa. Looking forward to seeing some younger gardeners and their produce this summer.



Marlboro Garden

Monroe Leads continued with their weekly Marlboro gardening under the guidance of master gardeners Ellen and Bob. Leads took up edging the garden front, composting, chipping weed spots, planting baby trees, and spray-painting signs for compost boxes



Arts Council Garden

West Windsor Arts Council approached Monroe Leads asking for help in maintaining their garden, as they are short of funds to hire lawn maintenance services. Monroe leads leaps into taking up this volunteering opportunity of maintaining the garden of the West Windsor Arts Council this summer. Leads jump started this month by de-weeding 13 pots and pavement, raked the front and side flowerbeds, cut shoots of bushes and trees, and trimmed the trees. This is an ongoing activity every Sunday 3 of the leads will be taking turns in maintaining the garden.



BHS Number board Painting

Chesterfield LEAD volunteers repainted decade old number boards & gave it a fresh look. This was a 3 weeklong project that took 100+ painting hours for 30 LEADS



BHS Archiving project

The BHS Archiving project was a long-term activity in which the Chesterfield Sewa Leads worked closely with the Bordentown Historical Society to catalog and publish artifacts onto their website. This historical society needed the help of the leads to archive their prestigious and historic assets such as the artwork, painting, maps, deeds, collectibles as well as memorabilia dating back to the 1800s. To achieve these artifacts, the leads had to take photographs/scan the artifacts and upload them onto a system called Catalogue, which then published the said artifact onto their website. This project started during mid-March and will continue throughout the year

Bordentown community Garden Fencing

About 27 Chesterfield leads and parent volunteers worked at the Bordentown Community Garden to prepare the garden for the season. The volunteers took care of fencing, cleaning, removing the weeds & preparing the garden for planting.



Family Services - Vaccination Help

Cherryhill and Monroe leads volunteered in the vaccination drives at Esperanza and Convention Center (mass vaccination center) in Pennsylvania . Our leads primarily assisted with managing the crowd, helping people register for their appointments.



Upcoming Events

- ❖ Sewa Meals
- ❖ Kiddie Keepwell Summer Camp (KKWC)
- ❖ Edison Boat Basin Plantation
- ❖ Container Garden
- ❖ Tutoring
- ❖ Bordentown Green Fair
- ❖ Bordentown Annual Garden Tour
- ❖ Cherry Hill Bake Sale Fundraiser

Newsletter Team

- ❖ Raima Khan
- ❖ Darsh Bhalala
- ❖ Pranavaswaroopan
Nagarajan
- ❖ Riya Mandala
- ❖ Joshika Aravelli
- ❖ Rithi Joghee
- ❖ Avinash Sai Pavani
- ❖ Saumya Khurana
- ❖ Pranav Ramagiri
- ❖ Advait Nair
- ❖ Vedant Nair

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

Email:

CentralJersey.Sewa@gmail.com

Helpline: 702. 900.SEWA