

Benevity Ranks Sewa International Among Top 10 Charitable Causes Supported by Companies

2021 Top 10 Donor Supported Causes

	2019 RANK	2020 RANK	2021 RANK	RANK CHANGE (2020 TO 2021)
Doctors Without Borders	1	5	1	↑ 4
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Inc.	3	10	2	↑ 8
Red Cross	4	4	3	↑ 1
UNICEF	13	18	4	↑ 14
Planned Parenthood	2	12	5	↑ 7
Second Harvest of Silicon Valley	27	8	6	↑ 2
National/State Cancer Societies	6	14	7	↑ 7
ACLU	5	3	8	↓ 5
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Inc.	8	25	9	↑ 16
Sewa International Inc.	690	375	10	↑ 365

Benevity Inc., the leading provider of global corporate purpose software, ranked Sewa International among the top of charitable organizations supported by companies and their employees in 2021. In 2020 Sewa International was ranked 375 in Benevity's list, and at 690 in 2019.

Benevity announced on January 20, 2022, its list of the annual top 10 causes receiving support from companies, including those that offer matching funds to employee contributions, demonstrating that the pandemic and other global events and crises influenced the generous attitude of corporations and their employees.

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All local chapters of national organizations (e.g. Red Cross, etc.) have been consolidated for ranking purposes. Charity aggregators that distribute funds to multiple organizations, as well as private foundations for specific companies, have been excluded.

Data provided by  benevity © January 2022

Taking the Bull by the Horn: Sewa Volunteers Turn Outward to Face the Covid Challenge

Executive's Corner

Recently, I learned about this concept of 'Turning Outward'. During challenges and difficult times, our innate tendency is to turn inward, go into a shell, protect ourselves. The opposite of that is the courage to face challenges boldly, prepare troops to tide over the difficulty, take the bull by the horn -- which is what 'turning outward' is all about.

Sewa volunteers have displayed exactly this quality in the face of massive challenges that humanity is facing today. Volunteers tried to understand local needs and came up with novel solutions; we collaborated with community organizations, corporations, and officials in our own community; and beyond that we pitched in to help ten countries across the world. This is courage. This is the sign of a resilient organization like Sewa.

Last year, Sewa International helped in vaccination drives in partnership with FEMA; food distribution in

partnership with various community and faith organizations as well as government departments; and started dozens of initiatives in 43 chapters across the US. Also, with the trust and support of more than 150,000 donors and volunteers, we were able to provide much needed help and equipment in all 28 states of India. Besides US and India, we were also able to support the fight against COVID in eight other countries. We are very proud that Sewa International in Trinidad and Tobago were responsible for nearly ten percent of all the vaccinations administered in the country.

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Sincerely,

Arun Kankani
Arun Kankani

President, Sewa International



Taking the Bull by the Horn: Sewa Volunteers Turn Outward to Face the Covid Challenge

As we enter the new year, we are happy that 30+ Oxygen Generation Plants are now live or about to go live -- mainly in second and third tier cities and towns in rural India. By this month end, we would have distributed health kits to 100,000 villages in rural and tribal India to augment the health infrastructure. We are working on supporting the education of 3,000+ children whose families were affected by COVID. We are also helping more than 3,000 women affected by COVID by providing training for earning a decent livelihood.

Last week, we saw that Benevity, Inc., identified Sewa in their list of 'Top 10 Donor Supported Causes' in the US. All of this is possible due to our volunteers' compassion, courage, and collaborative effort with hundreds of partners (community and professional organizations and corporations). We are turned outward, and we know that together, we serve better.

Sewa's Bay Area Chapter Celebrates Successful Year, Recognizes Transgender Activist Anjali Rimi



Attendees at the Bay Area Sewa Banquet held on December 11, 2021

Appreciation of Sewa International by mayors, and by multiple city proclamations thanking Sewa volunteers for their work to address homelessness, health and food security issues, made the Sewa Bay Area annual banquet dinner an event to remember. Topping the celebrations was the Sewa Excellence Award to Anjali Rimi, a Sewa volunteer, for her outstanding work helping the transgender community in the Bay Area.

Sewa received a donation pledge of \$56,000 at the banquet held at the Sewa Community Center and the adjoining auditorium in Milpitas, California. Over 210 people -- including mayors from twelve cities, public officials, Sewa donors, volunteers and representatives from Sewa's partner organizations and their families -- attended the event.

Accepting the award, Anjali Rimi said, "It is an honor, and I am humbled to receive this prestigious award. Many of you don't understand how much this honor means to me and my community. As a successful Hindu transwoman, this is the culmination of many struggles. I am a survivor of homelessness, sexual assault, racism, and trauma. I cannot say that is the case for many in my transgender community."

Anjali remembered her trans-daughter Esther, a third-year medical student, who succumbed to COVID-19 when she was 27. “Esther wanted to change the narrative as I have been trying to do. She was taken to eight hospitals before she died and all she got was the police lathi (cane used by the police to control the crowd). But many more people like her were saved. You know why? Because Sewa showed up,” Anjali said to thundering applause from the attendees.

“We all are collectively fighting for our liberation. We come from different lands and we all live here. And Sewa changed the game for us. Sewa spent over \$225,000, helped 85,000 children in 24 Indian states, and saved many lives. One thing that stands out is when I reached out to Sewa’s SHE project team, Sewa volunteers sprang into action and supplied a whole month’s groceries to an orphanage that is run by transwomen for children who are disowned because of their disability or their HIV positive status.”



Sewa International volunteer Anjali Rimi is holding the Plaque after receiving the Sewa Excellence Award. Sewa’s Vice President for Marketing (left) and Sewa’s Bay Area Chapter Coordinator Guruprasad (right) are also seen.

“The youngest of these 50 children is 15 months old and you are saving that child’s life right now by being here and being part of Sewa. I could not be more grateful for receiving support and being part of such a big parivar (family) that I have always yearned for,” Anjali said.

Sandeep Khadkekar, Sewa’s Vice President for Marketing, presented the award to Anjali Rimi. Sewa’s Bay Area Chapter coordinator, Guru Prasad, introduced Anjali and said she has been associated with Sewa for many years and had helped Sewa execute projects in 22 states in India. Anjali works as a business development executive in the wine industry.

Sewa's Actions & Indian Heritage

Karl Mehta, an entrepreneur and the founder and CEO of EdCast, Inc., a next generation knowledge platform, delivered the keynote speech at the banquet. He talked about Indian Hindu heritage and culture and how Sewa's actions reflect the values espoused by the Upanishads and teachings of Swami Vivekananda. Dr. Anurag Mairal, President of the Sewa Bay Area Chapter, introduced Karl Mehta. Dr Mairal announced that Dr Nandeesh Veerappa, current Sewa Bay Area Board Advisor will begin serving as Vice President of the Bay Area Chapter.

In a video message played at the event, Arun Kankani, Sewa International President, gave an overview of the key Sewa initiatives. Sewa's Youth Empowerment project videos, testimonials and on-stage introduction by LEAD internship program participants, children participating in Sewa's Aspire tutoring program and presentations from many Sewa project leads gave attendees a holistic view of Sewa programs and initiatives. Empower, a new initiative by the Sewa Bay Area Chapter, provides personal and professional development training and support to those looking for a second chance to get into college or start a career. Balaji Baktha, CEO and chairman of Ventana Micro and initiator of Sewa high schoolers scholarship program, distributed scholarships to three participants of the program at the event.

Intel, Sewa's Corporate Partner

Sewa honored Intel Corporation as its corporate partner of the year, and acknowledged three organizations -- Agape Silicon Valley, Vietnamese Buddhist Temple, and American India Foundation -- for partnering with Sewa in various service projects. Intel contributed \$1.2 million to Sewa in 2021 through a corporate grant as well as employee matching contributions. Agape Valley worked with Sewa to help homeless people. The Buddhist Temple partnered with Sewa to serve food to seniors on weekends. Sewa presented a special COVID Warrior award to the American India Foundation for its efforts to help people during the pandemic. Dr. Catherine Mohr, President of the Intuitive Foundation, the company that makes the da Vinci surgical robot, gave an inspirational talk on "Striding forward for a bright post-pandemic future". She spoke about the work she is doing with Sewa for India through the e-Global doctors program.

Sewa Bay Area chapter's previous president, Jayant Somani, and Sewa's Lead for Corporate Relations, Sumita Somani, started off the donation pledge drive. Dr Romesh Japra, a well-known cardiologist and community leader from the Bay Area, started the event by lighting a lamp. Many youth volunteers from Sewa managed registration, serving food to the audience, and helped in cleaning up after the event.

Sewa Chicago Chapter Conducts Virtual SDM Session

Sewa International's Chicago Chapter conducted the fifth virtual Stop Diabetes Movement (SDM) workshop between October 22 and 31, 2021. Eighteen participants took advantage of this 15-hour training over a 10-day period. The participants included attendees from Texas, Virginia, Illinois, and Massachusetts. Two physicians gave a presentation on the effectiveness of yoga in controlling diabetes. One of the Chicago-based yoga teachers presented five aspects of human personality concerning yoga therapy.

"Overall, we received positive feedback from all the attendees who were looking forward to continuing with the five weekly follow-up sessions. Shivaji, a volunteer from Boston, coordinated this event. We are expecting to get some good testimonials from participants which will help us further popularize SDM," said Dipti, Sewa Chicago Chapter Coordinator.

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Commenting on the Benevity ranking, Sewa's president Arun Kankani thanked companies and their employees for their generous support to Sewa International. "They saw in us both our dedication to serving humanity as well as the will, the enterprise, and the commitment to delivering support efficiently, quickly, and professionally in a time of crisis by our volunteers and mission-oriented staff. This recognition of our work and of our standing will energize us to rededicate our efforts to come to the aid of society in times of crises here in the US and around the world," he said.

According to Benevity, five of the top ten causes from 2020 remained on the list in 2021, while health-focused non-profits, including national and state cancer societies, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and Planned Parenthood, returned to the top 10 in 2021. "When the Delta variant hit India last year, we saw companies and their employees mobilize to help," said Birger Stamperdahl, Give2Asia's President and CEO. "Their generosity made lifesaving projects possible that delivered oxygen concentrators, protective gear for health workers and emergency food rations to those hit hardest by the pandemic."

Sewa's Vice President for Marketing and Fund Development, Sandeep Khadkekar, thanked Benevity for keeping track of charitable giving trends and identifying increasing support Sewa received from corporations and their employees. Non-profits supporting India's COVID-19 crisis received a groundswell of support, including Sewa he said.

Sewa Launches Livelihood Project to Support COVID-19 Impacted Women in India

Sewa International has launched SHE-CAF ("Sanitation, Hygiene and Empowerment" and "Covid Affected Families"), a project to create livelihood opportunities for COVID-impacted women in India through skill development training. The project is going to support about 6,000 women across India in the next 24 months. Sewa has rolled out the SHE-CAF Project in five states – Karnataka, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Uttara Pradesh, and Kerala -- now.

Sewa is seeking support from donors to extend this project to the rest of India. Sewa has launched a Facebook fundraising campaign for the cause. The SHE-CAF team is planning to coach SHE project representatives in various chapters for championing the cause.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused severe distress to many families in India as more than 460,000 people had lost their lives by the end of December 2021 (The toll is now more than 485,000). Many women who lost their spouses also lost the source of their family income. About 47 percent of earning women lost their jobs due to the pandemic.

Sewa Leadership Meets Virtually with Sewa's Mission Oriented Staff In India

The Sewa USA leadership team held a discussion session with its Indian mission-oriented staff on Saturday, December 11, 2021. The purpose of this meeting was to meet and learn from each other.

Ashwani Garg, Vice President, Administration, said that it was a meeting where Sewa's Mission-oriented Staff got an opportunity to know their organization better. They acquired clarity on what their mission is, what their shared values are, and how their work helped in achieving their mission. They learned how to make their career a continuous learning experience at the personal level to continue to grow in their career.

Sewa Explores Partnering with VOSAP to Help Specially Abled (Divyang) People

During his Los Angeles visit, Arun Kankani, President, Sewa International, met Pranav Desai of Voice Of Specially Abled People (VOSAP) – an organization that focuses on advocacy and policy changes for specially-abled people. Desai is a Senior Vice President in the Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Public Corporation, and his company recently conferred him with the president's award. Pranav Desai participated in the Sewa National Conference in Boston a few years ago. VOSAP is launching a global event of the world's first virtual exhibition of assistive technology (AT), harnessing the power of technology for specially-abled people – the Divyang Community.

The VOSAP virtual exhibition platform brings together investors, innovators, suppliers, NGOs, and consumers for the entire year. In the last ten years, more than 80,000 patents were filed in the AT sector, and it is estimated that it would be \$500 billion market by 2030.

Mrs. Meenakshi Lekhi (Minister of External Affairs, Government of India) will be the Chief Guest at this event.

In the past two years, during the pandemic, Sewa International could significantly increase its services – helping migrant laborers, remote villages, tribal populations, transgender communities, etc. One of its significant outreach has been in the Divyang community with a partnership with Saksham in Bharat (India) and could provide food and oxygen concentrators to many places helping Divyangan Community.

Arun Kankani said, "We are looking forward to expanding our support and help in this sector wherever possible. We are happy to be an event partner with VOSAP for launching this event and wish them all success in their innovative steps to engage technologists and corporations to bring out transformative products for our Divyang brothers and sisters".

Sewa International

P.O.Box 820867
Houston, TX 77282-0867

(708) 872-7392
info@sewausea.org
www.sewausea.org



Editorial Team: Vidyasagar Tontalapur, Denver, CO (Director, Communications), Inchara Kumar & Shreya (Interns), Consultant: Prof. Ramesh Rao