

[View this email in your browser](#)



SEWA INTERNATIONAL :: BOSTON CHAPTER

DONOR NEWSLETTER

Sewa Collaborates With Local Organizations for COVID-19 Relief

As the second COVID-19 wave raged through India, the country's health care system found itself unable to keep up with the demand for hospital beds,

oxygen, and medical equipment. To address the challenges this posed, Sewa International kicked off the "Help India Defeat COVID-19" campaign with the goal to raise \$10 million in the USA. The Indian diaspora in New England stepped up and answered the call by donating over **\$1 million**. Many community and cultural organizations like the India Association of New Hampshire and the New England Marathi Mandal started fundraisers, raising a significant amount of funds to support Sewa's campaign to serve India. Community leader and New Hampshire State Representative Latha Mangipudi took it upon herself to raise funds for Sewa. In addition to collecting individual donations from her neighbors, she reached out to New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and the Gupta Foundation, encouraging them to donate to Sewa. Massachusetts-based Hope Foundation, BVM Foundation, Palakurthi Family fund, and



more donated to the campaign. The Sodhani Family Foundation provided a \$100k matching grant to Sewa. The Rotary Club District Governor Steve Puderbaugh sent an appeal to members of 58 clubs in his district of New Hampshire and Southern Vermont and, urged them to donate to Sewa. He said, "It is great that we can use the strengths of both organizations to respond quickly to a humanitarian crisis such as this. Sewa has the infrastructure in place to move the much-needed oxygen units quickly and efficiently to India." Sewa USA has raised more than \$30 million as of July 2, 2021, from more

than 150,000 donors.

After delivering 10,000 oxygen concentrators, 200 ventilators, and 100,000 food, health and hygiene kits across India, and partnering with more than 35 organizations to support various innovative initiatives, Sewa International has now launched a massive program to strengthen healthcare infrastructure in rural India where 65% of India's population lives. Sewa with its partner organizations will be reaching out to 100,000 villages and providing them community healthcare kits, training more than 10,000 paramedics staff (Arogya Preraks) for those villages, and establishing 100 oxygen plants all over India.



LEAD 2021 Internship Completed Successfully!

The 10-month long LEAD Internship program concluded on April 24th. The 15 High schoolers who were part of the internship since July 2020 were engaged in volunteering activities like trail clean up, temple cleanup, food collection drives, and fundraisers. The interns attended various online seminars on diverse topics such as finance, grant writing, and ancient Indian civilization. Finally, as a capstone of the internship, the interns planned, organized, and conducted Sangeetotsav, a virtual musical fundraiser for Sewa's programs like Family Services and Feeding the Hungry.



Under the guidance of the mentors, the interns planned, organized, and conducted the fundraiser. A total of 104 participants from all over the United States and Canada registered for the vocal and instrumental categories. The vocal category was further broken down into subcategories: Classical, Light Music, and Bollywood. The 5-hour long program was well-received and resulted in the interns raising \$10000. The mentors organized a closing ceremony during which the interns received their participation certificates.

It has been a good experience for us to have our son Ricardo work with Akash. He has always been open and ready to help Ricardo with his math. It is a blessing to know that young people like him aim to be of help to others using his gifts. He surely will be an inspiration to other kids to do the same.
- parent of a child tutored by LEAD intern

Local Westford Students Lead COVID-19 Fundraiser

In late April, when the second wave of COVID-19 hit India, Westford Academy sophomores Abhinav Wadhwa and Muskan Bansal decided to take a stand and raise money to help families living in poverty. After researching organizations that were working on the ground in India, they chose to work with Sewa International. The Stay At Home kits that Sewa workers and volunteers were distributing in both urban and rural areas appealed to them. These kits consist of essentials like food rations, masks, hand sanitizer,



toiletries, and medicine. Aiming to raise enough funds for 200 kits, they campaigned door-to-door in multiple subdivisions in Westford. They set up a fundraising booth at the Market Baskets in Westford, Chelmsford and Lowell. They made an appeal for donations to their friends and teachers at school. In just 30 days, they raised \$7000.00—enough to make 2150 kits, over 10 times their original goal.

“This wasn't some kind of ordinary fundraiser. We weren't raising money for some party or club. This cause was urgent said, Wadhwa and Bansal. They were very thankful for the tremendous response they received from all the donors.

Feeding the Hungry

On May 30th, in collaboration with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Sewa International Boston chapter distributed 1500 food boxes of healthy perishable food items to families in Nashua and Manchester, New Hampshire. The distribution of these free food boxes was organized in 2 locations in Nashua, (1) Arlington Street Community Center and (2) Nashua Soup Kitchen and in Manchester at the (3) Southern New Hampshire University. Families drove through and collected a 30-pound box of food with items such as milk, cheese, vegetables, and fruits.



The gesture of food box distribution was an overwhelming experience, as the recipients were truly appreciative. Sewa ensured it satisfied the hunger of hundreds, who are still trapped in the aftermath of COVID and have struggled to find healthy meals for their families.

*“Thank you to the organization who gave the free food boxes today. Our family is eating well tonight”
—written in a heartwarming note from one of the recipients.*

*“This was an amazing donation for us, and the community. I really appreciate the hard work you and all of your volunteers did this weekend to make it happen.”
—a kind note from Shane Sullivan, Director of Food Service at Nashua Soup Kitchen.*

This event was followed by another wonderful service by Sewa International Boston Chapter. Before the onset of COVID, Sewa volunteers used to prepare food on a monthly basis at Cor Unum Meal



Center in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Due to the lockdown restrictions, this activity was kept in hiatus. As CDC regulations relaxed, Cor Unum has opened their doors again and Sewa volunteers have resumed the activity of preparing meals with renewed spirit. A group of volunteers prepared a sumptuous meal of rice, chickpea curry, salad etc. for the diners at Cor Unum. The food was then packed in 150 to-go boxes and distributed to the guests.



Sponsor Highlight

HELPING YOU ACHIEVE FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE

FINANCIAL ORGANIZATION
LIFE INSURANCE | INVESTMENTS
RETIREMENT PLANNING | EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

SANGITA J. ROUSSEAU
Financial Advisor
(617) 797-1792 | sangita_rousseau@bulfinchgroup.com



MENTION THIS AD FOR A
COMPLIMENTARY FINANCIAL CONSULTATION

The Bulfinch Group
160 Gould Street | Suite 310
Needham, MA | 02494
www.bulfinchgroup.com



Important Disclosure
2021-119161 Exp 4/25



Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

