



NEWSLETTER

Sewa International - New Jersey & New York



Sewa family wishes all readers a very Happy New Year

NJ Sewa Milan

PAL Building, Parsippany December 08, 2019

The Annual Sewa Milan event happened on 12/8/2019. It is a gathering of all Sewa families and supporters for the evening to review the entire year, award presentations and have a potluck dinner. About 400 guests, volunteers and Sewa supporters and their families attended the event.

Many special guests honored the event by their presence including NJ State Assembly woman from Parsippany, 45th district Betty Lou DeCroce, Sewa National Vice President Shyam Kosigi, Director for the Toilets and Hygiene for Girl Child project Jayanthi Ramanan, Manager for Columbia Centers Adriana Salazar Vega, HSS pracharak for West Coast and Central America Digant Das, North Jersey Vibhag Secretary of HSS Pushendra Raghav, Member of the Plainsboro Board of Education Akshar Sidana.



Adriana Salazar Vega presented the challenges the children in Colombia faced in their everyday life. And how New Jersey chapters have contributed towards their development.

Jayanthi Ramanan presented the overview of the Toilets and Hygiene for girl child project and explained how the efforts by the LEADs, volunteers and supports had created a positive impact for so many people.

Shyam Kosigi addressed the Sewa Milan and commended the New Jersey volunteer teams and supporters for all their efforts and gave a very inspiring talk about Sewa's work and Sewa -service above self in general.

NJ State Assemblywoman Betty Lou DeCroce then presented the US Presidents award certificate and lapel pin to 1 Get Inspired and 102 LEADs who completed the 100+ hours each, of volunteering in the year 2019. The LEADs were also presented the Sewa International Certificate for volunteering.



Award presentation was followed by 30 minutes of entertainment comprising Indian classical and folk dances.

Vaishnava janato bhajan was sung in homage to Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary. A Punjabi kirtan in bhangra style was performed in honor of Shri Guru Nanak Dev ji's 550th Birth Anniversary. Other dance forms such as Bharatnatyam, Kathak, and contemporary Indian dances were performed.



Rajesh Sharma gave a vote of thanks and the event concluded with shanti mantra - prayer for peace. It was followed by delicious potluck dinner which was planned and contributed by many Sewa volunteers. Dinner time gave opportunity to mingle with new people and educating them further about Sewa. Some of the new families signed up to join Sewa.

Sewa Westchester NY – Sports for Sewa Carrom tournament Westchester December14, 2019

Nilesh Rautji and Sewa of Westchester team, envisioned Carrom for Sewa when it's cold outside.). This is the first tournament of its kind and the event was attended by 30 participants and 3 winning teams. The event raised \$700 in funds for 'Sponsor a Child' program. <https://sac.sewausea.org/>



Chief Guest of the event was Mr. Divanji Dave, who is an entrepreneur, and an active proponent of Dharma and Yoga in Westchester.

One key take way from his speech was that: Indian Americans have excelled in Gyana (knowledge), and Artha (Wealth) but where we lack is Karma (service



Sewa Central Jersey – Radha Krishna Temple Sewa

Radha Gopinath Temple Edison, December 1, 2019

On the first of December, an event was held where SEWA volunteers helped the staff of Radha Gopinath Temple. The leads there helped the temple staff prepare and serve food to over 400+ people.

The SEWA leads helped with cleaning the kitchen, and the dining hall. The leads also helped clean the vessels, cleaning commercial refrigerators, sweeping and mopping. The staff greatly appreciated the help of the leads. Later the leads also helped carry the food to the second floor dining hall and serving over 400+ devotees. The leads felt a sense of satisfaction in helping the staff.



Sewa Central Jersey – Hands of Hope

Edison, December 21, 2019

Sewa LEADs took part in the last Hands of Hope of the decade at St. James Episcopal Church. There was a long line of people in need waiting for their rationing. Many of them were of old age and needed someone to help them carry their rationing and Christmas turkey.

The LEADs got in line among other helpers to give them a hand and helped carry boxes of rationing and turkey to the cars of the collectors. To end the day on a good note, Leads wished them "Happy Holidays".



Sewa Central Jersey – Radha Krishna Temple Service

Edison, December 22, 2019

Leads from Edison chapter went to Radha Krishna Temple and to serve food to over 200+ devotees. The leads showing the true Sewa spirit enthusiastically participated in serving food, cleaning dishes and cleaning the area where the devotees ate.

This help was greatly appreciated by the 'Prabhujji' of the temple.



Sewa Central Jersey – Radha Krishna Temple Service

Edison, December 29, 2019

On December 29, 2019, the Edison chapter of SEWA went to Radha Gopinath temple to assist with serving lunch for over 100+ devotees. There were many dishes to serve and each lead was responsible for one dish. With full devotion

and enthusiasm, the leads served the dish for which they were responsible.

After the completion of the food serving, the leads assisted with cleaning up the dining hall and serving tables, rolled the mats, and mopped the floor.

The help of the leads was greatly appreciated by the Mandir.



**Sewa Chesterfield – Jingle All the Way 3K
Chesterfield, December 08, 2019**



The 'Jingle All The Way 3K' brings people with and without disabilities together at the Special Olympics New Jersey Sports Complex to kick-off the holiday season. Hundreds of sprinters, joggers and strollers brave the cold in support of more than 26,000 Special Olympics athletes across the state. At the event, the Sewa volunteers helped with distributing the water, cheering the participants & cleanup.



**Sewa Chesterfield – Hope Loves Company Book Fair
Hamilton, December 13, 2019**

Hope Loves Company (HLC) is the only non-profit in the U.S. with the mission of providing educational and emotional support to children and young adults who had or have a loved one battling Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) or Lou Gehrig's disease.

At the Barnes & Noble Book Fair in Hamilton, Sewa volunteers helped with gift wrapping (for donations), making bracelets or cards for the children at camp, assist with our author event, and other activities.



Sewa Central Jersey – Jersey Cares Coat Sorting

December 14, 2019

Jersey Cares had organized its annual coat sorting event on Dec 14th across many locations in New Jersey. Jersey Cares collects more than 30,000 coats each year with the help of corporate groups, churches, individual volunteers, and civic organizations. The coats are then picked up by other nonprofit partners and given to those who need them. Both Edison & Chesterfield Sewa team from Central Jersey chapter participated in the event.

Metuchen- Sewa Edison

9 leads and 6 parents participated in the activity. Volunteers helped with sorting about 2,540 coats, jackets, sweaters, hats, which were donated by various corporates though out the state.



Union- Sewa Chesterfield

About 30 volunteers from Chesterfield Sewa team drove to Union township to participate in the event. Volunteers helped with sorting about 5,000 coats, jackets, sweaters, hats, which were donated by various corporates though out the state.



Sewa Chesterfield – Winter Clothing/Toy Drive

December 01- 15, 2019

The Chesterfield Sewa team just wrapped up the Winter Clothing/Toy Drive. About 45 volunteers collected Clothing & Toys across 3 towns (Chesterfield, Bordentown & Mansfield) in 2 weeks. The collected items include 300 Coats, 104 Blankets, 48 pairs of Gloves, 273 pairs of Shoes, 121 Hats, 21 boxes of Toys and 1841 General Clothing.

During sorting, the Chesterfield Township officers stopped by to thank the Sewa volunteers for all the good work. All the above items were donated to the Rise Communities, Hightstown which serves 2600 needy families in and around Hightstown & East Windsor.



Sewa North Jersey – Soup Kitchen

December 01- 31, 2019

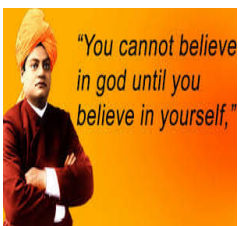
Today our young volunteers (Apurva and Ronak) delivered over 150 lbs. of food at the local soup kitchen collected for the month of December. They had an opportunity to firsthand witness the kitchen in full action. They found the experience very humbling and walked away feeling grateful and so proud to be part of the Sewa Family.



Upcoming Events:

- Winter Clothing Drive - Jan20, 2020
- MLK Day of Service – Jan 20, 2020
- Introduction to Vedic Mathematics – Jan25, 2020

This month's quotation:



Om Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah

Please add yourself to North Jersey Volunteers WhatsApp group at following link
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/0qAhEyU3v99DGfe51V9pPf>

Please visit our Chapter Website, Facebook and Instagram pages:

<https://sewausea.org/Chapter/NewJersey>
<https://www.facebook.com/SewaNorthNJ>
<https://www.instagram.com/sewanorthjersey>
<https://www.instagram.com/centraljerseysewa>
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