



# NEWSLETTER

## Sewa International - New Jersey & New York

### North Jersey Sewa: LEAD 2020 Inauguration

Wayne NJ, Feb 8th



2020 LEAD inauguration program went great! Total **71 LEAD applicants** were accepted, though we wanted to stop at 60. Good Luck LEADs and Good Job, Good luck to Chandra ji, Mani ji and Senthil ji for spearheading Lead-2020.



## Central Jersey Sewa: LEADs Veterans Home Visit

**Feb 8th & 22nd, Menlo Park, NJ**

5 leads went to the Veterans Home to spend some time with the Veterans. The leads were full of energy and enjoyed themselves to the fullest. The leads started with socializing with the veterans. The leads asked them questions and had a fun chat with them. Later on, the leads played Trivia with the Veterans. The leads had to go to different hallways to get the Veterans. After a fun game of trivia, the leads blew balloons and played volleyball with the Veterans. The Veterans loved playing volleyball with the leads. The leads had a great time.



## Central Jersey Sewa: 911 Dispatch Center Visit

**Feb 1st & 8th, Burlington County, NJ**

About 80 Chesterfield Sewa volunteers visited Burlington County 9-1-1 dispatch center. The team not only got the opportunity to witness live 911 emergency calls but also got a chance to see the complex high-tech integrated system to dispatch the help at lightning speed. The tour gave a great amount of details such as how calls get routed into different dept based on the type of emergency, amber alerts broadcast, sophisticated GPS systems, core skills required to become 911 staff, the kind of training that 911 staff goes thru, etc.





## Central Jersey Sewa: Radha Gopinath Temple Service

**Feb 9th, Edison, NJ.**

6 LEADs did service at Radha Gopinath temple to assist with serving lunch for over 75+ 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.



## North Jersey Sewa: Happy Family Workshop (Kutumbh Prabodhan)

**Feb 8th , Parsippany NJ.**

Sewa North Jersey hosted the favorite event of many - Happy Family Workshop (Kutumbh Prabodhan) on Feb 15th at Parsippany PAL Center. It was conducted by Ma. Yogindra ji. It was interactive and very interesting workshop. Attendees were able to get tools, tips and tricks to raise a happy family in today's changing times..



## North Jersey Sewa: LEAD orientation, icebreaker, team formation, projects, etc

### Feb 15th, Parsippany, NJ.

LEAD icebreaker session went great. 57 LEADs attended the session and participated in following:

- 1) Ice breaker games
- 2) Sewa introduction and orientation
- 3) Projects allocation
- 4) Team formation. Six teams were formed



## Central Jersey Sewa: Hands of Hope

### Feb 15th, Edison, NJ.

Members of various organizations met at the Hands of Hope Food Pantry. Among those organizations was Sewa International. Six leads from Sewa International went to Hands of Hope Food Pantry at St.

James Episcopal Church morning. Waiting in line ration were over 50+ these citizens were to carry their food ration Sewa International leads these people to carry their car. To end the day International leads The work of the leads by the senior citizens as Hands of Hope Food



in Edison early Saturday for their 2 weeks of food needy people. Many of elderly and were not able packages to their cars. enthusiastically assisted their food rationing to on a good note, SEWA wished them a good day. was greatly appreciated well as the staff of the Pantry.

## Central Jersey Sewa: Kiddie Keep Well Camp

**Feb 15th, Edison, NJ.**

On February 15, An event where Sewa volunteers helped the kid whose family make below the average income in New Jersey were invited to the camp where they can have fun doing fun activities over the 3 day weekend. The Sewa volunteers came in the morning to pack 600 hygiene bags (Toothpaste, Brush, Floss) for the camps over the summer as well. The LEADs brought water and bananas for the volunteers and helped organize all the hygiene products. The staff were also helpful providing extra ZipLog bags. Overall the staff appreciated the help of the Volunteers and the LEADs.



## NJ Chapters: Coordinator announcements

**Feb 16th, NJ.**

There was an important announcement from our **national president** Sreenath Ji across the country. Rashmita ji Shanbhag and Mani ji Venkat are formally announced as Joint Coordinators of Sewa North Jersey chapter. Also Rajesh Ji Sharma as Coordinator of Sewa Central Jersey Chapter and Sandesh ji Kamat as the Joint Coordinator.

🎉 **Congratulations to Rashmita ji, Mani ji, Rajesh ji and Sandesh ji for taking these responsibilities** 🎉

## North Jersey Sewa: Sanathana Mandir parking

**Feb 20th, Parsippany, NJ.**

12 Karyakartas volunteered for Sanathana Mandir parking lot Sewa work on the occasion of Siva Rathri (02/21). Lot of first timers Volunteered for this service !!



**Note of appreciation from Mandir:**

*Congratulations to all of you for your superb management of parking for Mahashivratri on Friday February 21, 2020. You along with your team members Sewa International managed intense traffic of devotees all evening long. Utilizing parking on the streets and with occasional use of the shuttle van to transport devotees to and from the high school parking lot, we were able to handle the situation well. All the devotees were very happy with the parking arrangements. An amazing attribute you all have is to inspire, motivate and train young volunteers who have adopted your culture of serving others. Our hats off to all the Sewa team members who work very hard for many hours in the parking lot. Thanks to all of you, the temple programs go very smoothly and I have heard from many devotees who truly appreciate your nishkam seva.*

*We pray to Lord Shiva and Maa Durga for you and your team to sustain this spirit of selfless service and help our community as they come to worship at the temple on festive occasions.*

*Jai Shri Krishna, Om Namah Shivay and Jai Mata Di!  
In divine service,  
Board of Trustees and Exec Committee  
Shri Sanatan Mandir*



**North Jersey Sewa: Columbia projects update**

**Feb 2020, NJ.**

On As many of you know, North Jersey chapter has been actively involved in Sewa Colombia work with indigenous tribes. Currently two of Sewa volunteers from Chicago are visiting our projects there. Manjari Ji Vaishampayan and Madhuri ji Saunshi will be staying there for one month. Purpose of the visit is more of intercultural interaction with indigenous communities. Hindustani classical music, dance, yoga and Indian food will be introduced there. Indian consulate in Colombia endorsed this program. Here are some pictures from Putumayo community of Amazon rain forests.





## North Jersey Sewa: Soup Kitchen Donations

**Feb 29th, Morristown, NJ.**

44 pounds of food is donated to Morristown Community Soup Kitchen, for the month of February 2020, thank you all for your efforts.

## Central Jersey Sewa: Restore at Habitat for Humanity

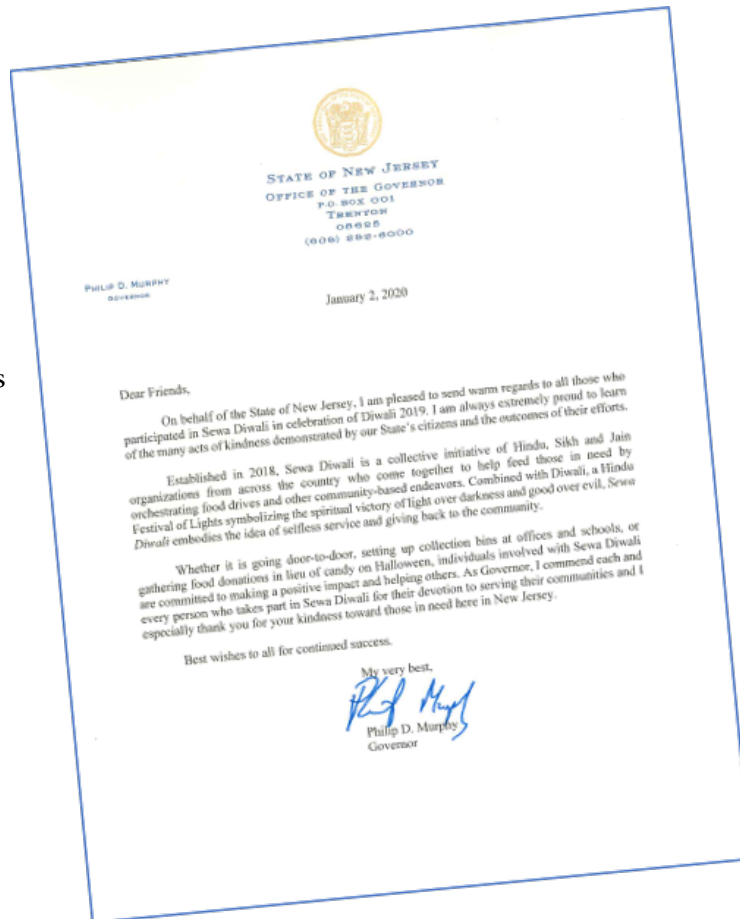
**Feb 29th, Maple Shade, NJ.**

Sewa Chesterfield team volunteered at Habitat for Humanity's Restore facility at Maple Shade, NJ on Feb 29th. Volunteers took care of unloading 700+ rugs & sorted & organized 250+ boxes of bathroom tiles. The donation materials received at the Restore are sold to the general public & the proceeds goes to building affordable homes.



## Sewa Diwali recognition from Governor

From New Jersey  
pounds of food was  
to local Soup Kitchens  
Separately around 30  
participated in Sewa  
donated around  
food to local soup



Sewa around **6,000**  
collected and donated  
by Sewa Volunteers.  
organizations  
Diwali drive and  
**60,000** pounds of  
kitchens and pantries.

## Central Jersey Sewa: LEADs Make a Blanket Event

**Feb 23rd, Marlboro NJ.**

The Sewa "Make a Blanket" Event was an exceptional opportunity offered for leads at the Sri Guruvaayoorappan Temple at Marlboro, NJ. The leads took simple blankets and made an impact with them using their artistic skills. The blankets were matched with similar patterns, then cut and knotted to make them more appealing. These blankets will be sent to terminally ill children in hospitals to give them joy in their situations. This was also very beneficial for leads because they made an impact in their community and made friends in the process too.





## Upcoming Events:

### North Jersey:

- 3/14 – LEAD: Winter Coat Drive
- 3/14 – Financial Management, Will and Trust Seminar

### Central Jersey:

- 3/7 & 3/21 - Hands of Hope
- 3/7 - Kiddie Keep Well
- 3/7, 3/14, 3/21 & 3/28 - Veterans Home Visit
- 3/8 - Monroe Center Launch/Open House
- 3/8 - Sri Radha Gopinath Temple - Holi of Flowers
- 3/15, 3/22 & 3/29 - Sri Radha Gopinath Temple
- 3/21 - End Hunger 3.6 TCNJ Food Packing
- 3/28 - Cleanup - Pennington Park & Newton's Landing

### WestChester, NY:

- March – LEAD 2020 kickoff

Please add your self to North Jersey Volunteers WhatsApp group at following link-> <https://chat.whatsapp.com/oqAhEyU3v99DGfe5lV9pPf>

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>

<https://www.facebook.com/centraljerseysewa>

*This month's quotation:*

Always try to represent  
yourself happy  
because initially ,it  
becomes your look.  
Gradually, it  
becomes your habbit &  
finally, it  
becomes your  
personality.



*Om Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah*