



# SEWA-DC

## NEWSLETTER

Sewa International—DC Chapter: Together We Serve Better



<https://www.sewaua.org/Washington>

February 2024

## A perfect start to 2024



Sewa DC chapter started 2024 with a fabulous gathering of attendees interested in learning about the LEAD program. We received a large number of applications for the DTL (Design to Lead) and the LEAD programs. After a rigorous selection process, 14 members were accepted into the DTL program while 50 were selected for the LEAD program.

The inaugural in-person orientation session for LEAD was held at the Silverline Center in McLean, Virginia, featuring Shri Suresh V. Shenoy, President of WHEELS Global Foundation and a prominent member of the community. He shared his inspiring journey from India to the United States while highlighting the importance of community service through "tan-man-dhan" - time, talent, and treasure. He also recounted experiences from his work with the Pan-IIT group, his philanthropic initiatives, and technology-driven projects for societal betterment.

The first month of the new year ended with several exciting activities including the recruitment for YFS (Youth for Sewa) board positions and Sewa internships. Currently, the interview process for these two important initiatives is underway. The interview panel led by parent volunteers along with Sewa leadership plans to notify the selected candidates by the second week of February.

The DC Chapter board met in late January and conducted annual planning for the current year. With many important initiatives and events in the pipeline, we anticipate a busy, productive, and engaging 2024.

We welcome all the new families who have joined Sewa this year.



## Volunteer Spotlight



**Raaga Kodali** is a senior at Briar Woods High School in Ashburn, VA. Since her freshman year, Raaga has been dedicated to volunteering with Sewa. Currently, she holds the position of coordinator for the self-organized Youth for Sewa program within the chapter. In the past year, she demonstrated leadership by guiding a team of 14 high schoolers who independently organized and executed a range of services, activities, events, and campaigns.

## Get Involved

Sewa International-Washington DC Chapter has been actively conducting various programs aligning with the goal and mission of the organization. Please connect with us to get involved in any of the activities listed here.

### Volunteer

Sewa DC Chapter invites enthusiastic individuals to come forward and join us in volunteering for **community services, food donation (our Annapurna program), Tree plantation drives, and Adopt-a-Highway programs.**

### LEAD Program

The LEAD program is tailored to inspire and empower high school students, fostering essential leadership skills and a profound sense of social responsibility. Our mission is to nurture socially conscious leaders who not only excel academically but also actively contribute to creating a better world. We always need mentors for this program.

### Donate

Please click on the DONATE NOW link to make your donation.



On December 3, 2023, students celebrated the successful completion of the LEAD 2023 program at DC chapter. The program started in February 2023 with about 70+ high school students registered. This program aims to expose our youth to socially conscious leadership principles and activities.

## Indic Book Competition

**COMPETE FOR \$50,000 IN CASH AWARDS**

OPPORTUNITIES TO CO-AUTHOR / INTERVIEW WITH BESTSELLING AUTHORS

MEET BRILLIANT MINDS ACROSS AMERICA

LEARN TO BE PODCASTER, SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCER

### TEJAS '24

Participate in teams of 1-3  
Age groups 14-18 | 19-23 | 24-35  
Read & master 4 Indic books from Feb-Jun 2024

**Participating Authors:** Sanjeev Sanyal, Vikram Sampath, J Sai Deepak, Ami Ganatra and many others

Info & Registration at [DCFUSA.ORG/TEJAS](https://dcfusa.org/tejas)

Tejas — unique activity organized by Dharma Civilization Foundation (DCF) in partnership with Sewa International.

**Competition Details:**  
<https://dcfusa.org/tejas/>

**FAQs:**  
<https://dcfusa.org/tejasfaqs>

**SignUp:**  
<https://dcfusa.org/tejas-register/>

Do share this information with your family and friends and encourage active participation. Registration closes on Feb 12, 2024.

For more DC chapter updates, visit our website and social media pages below



DONATE NOW

Visit <https://www.sewaua.org> for more information about Sewa International.

## Upcoming EVENTS

**Feb 11 (10 AM - 12 Noon):**  
Sewa DC Chapter, Youth In-Person Meeting @ 7900 West Park Dr, Tysons, VA

**Feb 12:** Registration for TEJAS - book reading competition closes

**Feb 24 (2:30 - 4:30 PM):**  
Sandwich Making for Reston Shelter @ 13516 Heathrow Lane, Centerville, VA

**Mar 16 (12:00 - 2:00 PM):**  
Sandwich Making for Reston Shelter @ 13429 Marble Rock Drive, Chantilly, VA

## About Sewa

Sewa International is a Hindu faith-based, humanitarian, nonprofit service organization registered under Internal Revenue Code 501 (c) (3). Founded in 2003, Sewa International is part of a larger movement that started in India in 1989 and is active in twenty countries. Sewa serves humanity irrespective of race, color, religion, gender or nationality. We specialize in disaster relief and rehabilitation. Our development programs focus on family services; child, tribal and refugee welfare; women empowerment; health; and education.