



# Sewa International, Atlanta Chapter

## Recent Events

### Tax Seminar 2016



The first quarter of the year is tax season and many of us have Tax related questions.

When it comes to tax filing it's important to educate ourselves and stay up to date with today's ever-changing regulatory environment.

Sewa International, Atlanta conducted a free tax seminar on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb to answer and clarify questions. Renowned CPA, **Mr. Kapil Handa** from Chugh LLP was invited to provide guidance on 2016 tax filing for individuals and businesses. Mr Kapil specialized in tax planning, advice and tax preparation. The seminar was held in Cumming Library.

### Holi 2017

The raucous Festival of Colors, Holi is celebrated to welcome the vibrancy of spring, love and the triumph of good over evil. Sewa International USA, Atlanta Chapter successfully celebrated another year of Holi Festival with about 2000 peoples.



As always Sewa partnered with many organizations like HSS, VHPA, Ekal Vidyalaya, Siddhi Vinayak Temple, Shiv Mandir, Rajasthan Association of Atlanta, Greater Atlanta Panjabi Society, Shiv Yog, Art of living, AIM for Seva, Isha Foundation, Bihar Jharkand Association Knowledge Momentum etc to unite the community under one roof to celebrate this vibrant festival.

## Recent Event(s)

*February 25*

Tax Seminar 2016

*March 12*

Holi 2017

*March 16*

Health Care Proxy

## Upcoming event(s)

*May 18/19*

Yoga Seminars

*June - July*

Summer Internship – Get Inspired

## General Announcements

2017 Summer Interships – Get Inspired

Sewa International and ICCS US response to recent major landslide in Mocoa, Putumayo Region, Colombia

About Sewa International



The morning of March 12th 2017, weather was forecasted to be unfavorable with rain and drop in the temperature. Sewa volunteers believed in god and the prayers were answered with no rain during the event, although the weather was little chilly.

The event started on time at 10 am and the crowd kept pouring. DJ Shaan (**Shyam Gupta ji**) kept the crowd rolling with some great fantastic music till 3 PM. The team of sevikas lead by **Madhavi Gunasekaran ji** prepared delicious home food.



Sewa International thanks all the collaborating organizations and the community for their participation and support in making Holi a big success. There was a huge following on Facebook, post event, with many mentions of "The largest color festival of Georgia"



## Health Care Proxy



On March 16th 2017, Sewa International, Atlanta conducted its second workshop on Health care proxy. The seminar lead by **Sumit Srivastava ji** explained the importance of health care will and answered all the questions raised during the seminar. There was a very good response with over 15 families that showed up and signed the free health care will that was offered.

## General Announcements

### 2017 Summer Internships – Get Inspired

Applications are now open for summer internships with the Atlanta chapter of Sewa International USA. Please forward to people you know who might be interested.

#### **About Get Inspired:**

Get Inspired is the flagship summer unpaid internship program of Sewa International in USA. It is an opportunity for volunteer interns to engage in a structured service project to meet selected needs of the community and attain the broader humanitarian goals of Sewa International. 'Get Inspired Atlanta' aspires to engage tomorrow's leaders with today's society through leadership, mentoring, and direct engagement in solving community problems in order to meet the goals of sustainable development in selected areas of Atlanta.

#### **How to Apply:**

1. Read the internship advertisement and job descriptions on this webpage.
2. Submit an application at <https://www.sewausa.org/apply-for-internship> (Select Chapter/Location as ATLANTA)

#### **General Requirements:**

- Junior or Senior in High School, Undergraduate, graduate, college student
- Hard-working, enthusiastic, self-motivated, flexible, versatile
- Good oral and written communication and interpersonal skills
- Computer and Internet skills, knowledge of MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint
- Intern must have own means of transportation
- Local commute may be required for certain tasks – must be able to provide own transportation
- Create weekly status report of activities
- Must give a presentation at end of internship
- Some grant writing experience is a plus

#### **Positions:**

- Summer Internship Co-ordinator
- Children's Activities
- Grants and Fund-raising
- Public Relations
- Research & Documentation / Family Services
- Fundraising / Event Management

#### **You Gain:**

- Leadership, Organizational, Management and Administrative Skills.
- Great Experience and Satisfaction of serving a noble cause.
- Certificate of accomplishment by Sewa International.
- President's Award

More details at <https://sewausa.org/chapter/atlanta/atlanta-sewa-atlanta-get-inspired-2017>

## Sewa International & ICCS US response to recent major landslide in Mocoa, Putumayo Region, Colombia

Sewa International, working in collaboration with ICCS US, has provided a support of \$3000 USD to local volunteer groups in Colombia to assist on the rescue and relief efforts of the recent heavy landslide in Mocoa, Putumayo Region. On the ground, our indigenous Yanakuna local contacts Pacha Kanchay and Taita Milo, are coordinating and working together with the Regional Indigenous Organization. So far, the relief efforts have focused on helping people move to safe areas, providing first aid, food and shelter to the victims and pulling corpses out of debris.

The indigenous organization in Putumayo reported on April 2nd:

- 115 indigenous people death, belonging to 8 different ethnic groups: Siona, Cofan, Inga, Kamentsá, Quillasinga, Pastos, Murui, Yanakuna.
- 90 people are missing.
- 300 families have lost all their belongings and homes.
- 6 indigenous councils have been completely erased from the map.



**Taita Milo, Yanakuna indigenous authority, looks at the area where houses were washed away. The river used to be a small creek.**

This has been indeed a tragic experience for hundreds of villagers from Mocoa and we are deeply sorry for the human and material losses. We are thankful for the dedicated service from our indigenous local contacts, who have been actively working on the ground. Despite the various challenges, a positive report was received yesterday which confirms that the funds have been used to buy food supplies, mattresses, blankets, construction materials for building temporary shelters and to pay transportation of over 30 volunteers from the neighboring department of Neiva, located 300Km North from Mocoa. These efforts during the last two days have resulted in a benefit for 30 families, around 150 people.

Ms. Luci Anacona, governor of the Mocoa indigenous council, has sent a video of appreciation to Sewa International and ICCS US, for supporting this emergency. She is deeply grateful for the prompt response, as the indigenous communities haven't received any sort of help from the Government so far.

We will continue our follow up with the indigenous authorities to keep supporting the reconstruction and empowerment efforts moving forward, especially now that ICCS US and Sewa International are becoming more active in South America.



**A bus arrives full with volunteers, food supplies and construction materials after traveling 300Km to reach the indigenous communities in Mocoa.**

## About Sewa International

Sewa International is a non-profit 501(c)(3) Hindu humanitarian organization running service projects with partner organizations in India, USA and other countries in many areas such as health-care, education, child and women development, refugee support, tribal welfare and disaster relief. Over the last few years, the fledgling Atlanta chapter has helped promote the spirit and joy of giving, volunteerism and selfless service in the community through local community service, fund-raising, and Bhutanese refugee support.

For more information, please visit

Sewa Website <https://sewausea.org/chapter/atlanta/atlanta-overview>

Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/atlanta.sewa/>