

Sewa International USA
501 (c) (3) Tax Id # 20-0638718
Houston, TX 77282-0867
Tel: (708) USA SEWA, ([708-872-7392](tel:708-872-7392))
E-mail: bayarea@sewaua.org



Sewa Bay area Annual Dinner 2016

On December 3, 2016, Sewa USA's Bay Area chapter held its 2nd annual banquet in Santa Clara, CA. The event showcased Sewa's accomplishments nationally as well as locally and shared appreciation to its donors for their generous support. With over 150 attendees, the banquet was an incredible success where we had significant donations adding to over \$50,000.



The evening began with a beautiful cultural program by the dancers of California Nupur Dance Academy performing classical and semi-classical dances by young artists. The bright energy continued throughout the night with inspiring speakers and presentations. Dr. Parveen Jain, dedicated philanthropist, advisor for a number of non-profit organization, and the keynote speaker, shared his personal sewa experiences and highlighted the importance of the spirit of renunciation while doing sewa and donating to charities. His speech was very well received and motivated the audience to not just donate time and money, but to do so in a selfless way. Ambassador Venkatesan Ashok also graced the event with his presence and reminded us of the various challenges still ahead in India and globally. Ambassador Ashok reminded us not to be complacent about our work, but to continue to address the issues we face as a community proactively. Moreover, Sewa has the pleasure of hosting Milpitas Mayor Jose Esteves, amongst other

dignitaries, who had presented a certificate of recognition to Sewa for the annual banquet.



The audience thoroughly enjoyed watching the Sewa USA national video which described the projects associated with each aspect of Sewa's three part mission; Serve humanity in distress, Aid local communities, and Promote volunteerism. Kriti Dogra,

Sewa's National Youth Coordinator and full-time volunteer, presented the local Bay Area projects and yearly calendar of events for 2016 and 2017. The testimonials shared in the presentation were thoughtful and helped the audience feel the impact of our work and community involvement. During dinner, Sandeep Khadkekar, VP Sewa USA, along with local Bay Area team members, engaged the audience with a question and answer session to learn more about Sewa locally and globally.



Following dinner, individual and organizational donors were acknowledged and given plaques to commemorate their generous donations and continued support for Sewa. The Bay Area team also introduced a new award, the Sewa Excellence Award, to two very deserving organizations and presented them to their founders, Madhulika Singh from PreetiRang Sanctuary and Ray Mitra from Induz. To conclude the evening, Bay Area chapter coordinator, Mohan Goyal, introduced the local team for the upcoming year and ended our program thanking individuals and organizations for their gracious support of Sewa USA. Overall, Sewa Bay Area's Annual Banquet was met with great enthusiasm from donors and volunteers, both looking forward to a dynamic year ahead.