

NEWSLETTER



Sewa Milan Seattle

Sewa International Seattle chapter organized the Sewa Milan 2023 Program on Jan 28, 2024 at the Eastside Baha'i Center, Bellevue, WA. Sewa Milan is a volunteer recognition program that celebrates volunteerism, an opportunity to recognize and celebrate enthusiastic volunteers of Sewa Seattle chapter who exhibited volunteerism in various social initiatives throughout the year, and also gives an opportunity to meet with the beneficiaries, Community partners and stakeholders of various programs conducted by Sewa Seattle Chapter.

HIGHLIGHTS

EVENT SPOTLIGHT



This event was presided by the Consul General of the Indian Consulate in Seattle, Mr. Prakash Gupta, the chief guest on this occasion. The other dignitaries presiding the event were Tom Kerby, Volunteer and Community Engagement Manager, PorchLight, Directors Elect to Boards at partnering Hindu Temples in the Greater Seattle area, Mr. Kummaressan Kannadipalyam and Mr. Krishna Murthy BoDs, the VEDA temple, Redmond, WA, Mr. Ravinder Walia - President Elect, BoD, The Kent Hindu Temple, Kent WA. Dr. Srinivas Khedam, Asst. Principal and Asian Indian coordinator - Northshore School District.

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EVENT SPOTLIGHT



Mr. Gupta conferred the President's Volunteer Service Award to 23 youth volunteers of Sewa Seattle Chapter who earned the award for volunteering a certain number of hours, his brief interactive speech with children about the importance of engaging with the community from a young age. He also spoke about the positive social impact of the Indian American community in the USA. He appreciated Sewa International's effort to connect and encourage youngsters to social causes. He specially mentioned the STEM program, a Sewa Seattle chapter initiative that helps students of underprivileged social background in Gurgaon, India learn STEM subjects and encourage them to pursue STEM related careers.

Sewa Seattle Chapter coordinator Srinivasa Sadana, Hemant Tanwar and Core team members Deepali Agnihotri, Preeti Pustake, Pooja Tanwar, Usha Ramesh, Vijay Narayanan, Nidhin Menon informed the Consul General about various programs run by the chapter viz., Annalakshmi program, Tutoring to Needy children, Family Services and the LEAD program and its key subset Design to Lead (DTL). Volunteers of Sewa regularly cook and provide food to homeless shelters in the Seattle area under the Annalakshmi program. Family services help members of the community in crisis, while the LEAD program is an effort to young Socially minded youngsters about the need of community service and how they would develop to contribute to community as they grow.

The program ended on a positive note when youth leaders Shreyank Gupta, Aryav Tanwar, Driti Rao, Veena VijayNarayanan and Aditya Singh exhibited their learnt leadership skills in devising the program, compering the show with finesse ably supported with Photography credits by Arnav Goswami. Arya Krishnamurthy brought her ongoing environmental project to stage and influenced the graduating and enrolling Sewa Volunteers to explore more opportunities like this.

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“Being part of the core team for Sewa Milan ignited a sense of giving back to community, propelling me to engage more deeply with my community. After a period of isolation, I felt an urge to reconnect, and leading Sewa Milan seemed like the perfect opportunity to rekindle that connection and contribute to an influence on the future of the LEAD students. The journey was not without its challenges; the biggest challenge was the planning required for such a significant event. Coordinating multiple stakeholders, accommodating diverse preferences within constraints, and ensuring a seamless execution demanded meticulous effort and effective communication. Fortunately, the dedication of our volunteers and two months of intensive planning made the presentation and emceeing aspects feel like a breeze. Each role was carefully assigned, and everyone was well-prepared to fulfill their responsibilities. However, technical and communication issues posed unexpected challenges during the event. The inability to communicate effectively between the technical room and the stage disrupted the flow of the presentations and transitions, leading to confusion about slide changes and emcee transitions. In response, we improvised on the spot, designating an emcee to manage the technology while not presenting, facilitating smoother transitions, and ensuring timely cues for the lead technician. Additionally, we leveraged messaging software to coordinate transitions swiftly and calmly, overcoming the communication barrier and maintaining the event's momentum. Reflecting on the entire experience, I learned valuable lessons in teamwork, effective delegation, composure under pressure, and decision-making. SewaMilan provided a platform not only for community engagement but also for personal growth and development. Looking back on this journey, I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to something meaningful. I am inspired to continue striving for excellence in all endeavors, knowing that challenges are not roadblocks but opportunities for growth and learning.” - **Aditya Singh**

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PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

LEAD PROGRAM - DTL



DTL Student Testimonial

"Participating in Design To Lead 2022 has shaped me as a human, changing my thinking into a way I have never experienced before. Throughout COVID 19 quarantine I was isolated from much of my community, I needed something to look forward to. Then I discovered Design To Lead from a long respected mentor of mine. The concept of helping the underserved, restructuring our thought processes and innovation fascinated me, so I signed up. In the beginning I felt pretty disconnected from my teammates and mentors, but soon thankfully to Seattle chapter coordinators we were all able to meet our team and resonate with each other, we were able to understand each others goals, diverse backgrounds, and their reason to lead, since many of us had similar reasons we were able to understand each other with empathy. This experience opened my eyes to the world of difficulties, improv, and sudden issues and how to solve them quickly." -**Aryav Tanwar**

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PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

NATIONAL TEAM - PRAVAAS

Vijay Mallampatti Ji's visit to Seattle



Seattle team was honoured to receive our National Director for Sewa4Nations - Vijay Mallampatti ji and receive his insights on Sewa's efforts towards our commitment and service extension to Native Americans - **AmerIndians**. His inspired visit and addressing of our Core team initiated a new program of introducing the Internship program for Highschoolers to participate in the Summer program with the nearby Native tribes during their festivals and annual fairs. This is a great step towards our continued committed volunteers signing up and start extending their expertise.

MEETING SUMMARY

First Sewika Milan



Seattle Women Volunteers - Sewikas , the new look Women's guild teamed up on a first time Meet & Greet session discussing their strengths and how the new age members can be a force to recon with. This brings a great involvement of multi faceted skill pool and enthusiasm they bring to the team and chapter always. Their involvement in every event, project and their families contribution to the chapter is immensely appreciated. Way to Go Ladies, our projects locally, nationally and internationally carries a huge inspiration to our tagline -Together we serve better

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Priti Garg



"Hello everyone, I'm Priti, and I'm excited to share a little about myself with you. Originally from Rajasthan, India, I've been married since 2010, proud mother to two wonderful children - one in middle school and the other in pre-k. Beyond my family life, I like cooking, exploring new places, gardening, and singing. Being a part of Sewa holds a special place in my heart as it allows me to actively engage in community service and contribute to meaningful causes. I'm grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this incredible journey with Sewa, and I look forward to making a positive impact together." - **Priti Garg**

Banupriya Rajagopalan



Hello! My name is Banupriya Rajagopalan, and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to share a bit about myself and my passion for volunteering. As a single mother raising two wonderful boys, I've learned the importance of compassion, empathy, and community. These values have driven me to seek out ways to give back and make a positive impact in the lives of others. Volunteering has always held a special place in my heart. It's not just about lending a helping hand. It's about connecting with others and building a sense of belonging within our community. Whether it's cooking a warm meal for those in need or lending an ear to listen, I find immense fulfillment in being able to contribute in any way I can. One of the most rewarding experiences for me has been volunteering with Sewa to cook food for the shelters. There's something incredibly humbling about preparing a meal with love and care, knowing that it will provide nourishment and comfort to someone who may be struggling.

It's a small gesture that can make a big difference in someone's day, and I feel honored to be a part of it. I am genuinely excited about the work that Sewa does in our community. Their commitment to serving those in need aligns perfectly with my own values, and I couldn't be more grateful for the opportunity. - **Banupriya Rajagopalan**

UPCOMING EVENTS



Date & Time	Event	Initiative
2nd & 4th Sunday of Month, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Design to Lead Program In person meeting at Microsoft office	Sewa Lead
2nd & 4th Sunday of the Month 12:30 PM-1:30 PM	Lead Program in person meeting at Microsoft office	Sewa Lead
Weekends Saturdays & Sundays	Youth food cooking program	Sewa Serve
Week end Help manage Farm	Sewa Organic Farm, Renton Hilands	Sewa Lead

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I want to volunteer with Seattle Area

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Sewa Website	https://sewausea.org/Seattle
Sewa Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/Sewa.Seattle
Sewa Instagram	https://instagram/SewaSeattle
Volunteer Signup	QR Code 
Sewa4Natives Signup	QR Code 



Sewa International, USA Seattle

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