



## Sewa International, Atlanta Chapter

### Recent Events

#### Food Drive – Food for the Hungry

“Food for the Hungry” is a monthly event organized in collaboration with the MSG Foundation, a 501(c) (3) organization. The event is held at the Otwell Middle School cafeteria on the third Saturday of each month. It has been about a year since Sewa began partnering with MSG Foundation, and our volunteers and recipients have shown tremendous zeal and enthusiasm in participating in the event. More than 400 people are served each month, and the majority of recipients are Hispanic. The next events are scheduled for May 19, and June 16. Sewa encourages volunteers to participate in the event and experience the joy of feeding the needy.



#### Volunteer Orientation Workshop

Sewa International has a three part mission:

- Serve humanity in distress
- Aid local communities
- Promote volunteerism

To promote volunteerism it is imperative that we understand the benefits of volunteerism and how this can be used to serve others. Volunteering offers vital help to people in need, but the most important and hidden benefit is received by the volunteer himself/herself. There are many benefits one can achieve by selflessly serving others. Volunteering and



helping others can reduce stress, keep you mentally stimulated, and provide a sense of purpose. It is a fact that the more one volunteers the more benefits will be experienced by all.

Sewa Atlanta conducted a workshop on Feb 25, 2018 to introduce our mission, create awareness of the events and activities carried out throughout the year. The workshop was successful with over 20 new volunteers who signed up for the event. Yashwanth Belsare led the presentation with the support provided by Atlanta Coordinators Vikas Arora and Vishwanath Koppakka. Vikas provided details about national and international events organized by Sewa, while Vishwanath highlighted the work

and activities of the Atlanta chapter.

## Sewa Holi



Sewa International, which is a Hindu faith-based, humanitarian, nonprofit service organization with its mission of serving humanity in distress, aiding local communities, and promoting volunteerism, organized its 13th annual Holi (Festival of Colors) on March 3, 2018 at the Riverside Park in Roswell, GA.

On the day of Holi, with colors smeared on everyone's face, people of all faiths, religions, nationalities, and genders gathered to celebrate the arrival of spring, and the victory of good over evil. . Sewa International does not organize this event for raising funds but to give back to society

and community a reason to smile, be happy, to promote a world which is in line with Sewa International's vision of a world of equality where everyone is happy, enjoys good life, and lives in harmony with nature.

Though traditionally the festival finds its roots in Bharat (India) Holi has steadily begun to make an impact in the US as well, thanks to the Hindu population from Bharat and across the globe. The Hindu community is eager to celebrate Hindu festivals and the efforts of Sewa volunteers has been to organize such events professionally.

The Holi event was organized with an expected crowd of around 2,000 from different walks of life.



Sewa International wants to thank each and every one of those who came in large numbers to take part in this event and as a result the community participation crossed 5,000.

Sewa International thanks each of the partner organizations: HSS, VHPA, Siddhi Vinayak Mandir, Shiv Mandir, Shiv Yog, RAJA, BAJA, GAPS, Raksha, Ekal Vidyalaya, Isha Foundation, Art of Living, Knowledge Momentum, and Aim for Seva, as well as our media partners -- TV Asia, WOWNOW, NRI Pulse,

Khabar, Atlanta Duniya, SoS Digital media, and Shweta Dhawan production. The Roswell City and Riverside Park administration, and the Roswell Police Department helped make this joyous event a huge success.

Sewa International also thanks each child as well as adult volunteers who served at the cash, food and color counters as well as in directing traffic, parking of vehicles, and the park clean up. This event would not have been successful if not for the work of our volunteers. . Each and everyone deserves a BIG AUM.





Finally, a big shout to DJ Shaan for all the magical, melodious dance numbers, and the photography team led by Venkat Kuttua for capturing different shades and colors of life.

## Sewing Machines for the Bhutanese

The Atlanta Chapter of Sewa International started sewing classes for the Bhutanese community on March 4, 2018. The classes are held on weekends. Sewa has provided seven sewing machines to the community and hired Purvi Dhakal as a tutor to run the classes. The program is designed to train more than 50 women in the next twelve months. This course is open all sections of the Bhutanese communities. Sewa is working with the Gurung, and Kirati communities to make this program a success.



The introductory sewing course will give students the basics in sewing, and the intermediate and advanced courses will prepare them to initially work on small jobs and progress to bigger ones as they gain experience. Sewa is also working in collaboration with other agencies and non-profit organizations like CPAKS to find employment for those who have successfully completed the course.

Sewa International is looking forward for volunteers and donors to help and empower the community.

## Adopt a Road

Keep Forsyth County Beautiful and Sewa International's Atlanta Chapter recognize the need and desirability of litter free roads.



The Adopt-a-Road program has been established for civic and non-profit organizations, and other interested parties to contribute toward the effort of maintaining litter free roads.

Sewa International is aware of the potentially hazardous work which is to be performed and has agreed to abide by the Adopt-A-Road rules and regulations. On March 31, 2018, Sewa volunteers joined the effort and helped in the effort to keep Forsyth County clean. The effort is recognized by the county and hence the 2 mile stretch on Major road in Cumming city is now formally adopted by Sewa International.



## Educational Workshop

Sewa International has taken on the mission to promote volunteerism while serving the local community. One way this has taken shape in 2018 is with education and enrichment support. Both teenage and adult Sewa volunteers have been working side by side with Next Generation Focus (NGF), a tutoring and enrichment program for Gwinnett and Forsyth County Schools. By working with NGF, Sewa volunteers have been able to help with reading, math and science/STEM activities for children -- kindergarten through 8th grade. NGF primarily supports children of Burmese, Korean and Hispanic descent where often times English is not spoken or understood by many in the home. Sewa volunteers are able to work with the students not only to teach them reading and math but also to help them realize their potential.

## Upcoming Event(s)

### Food Drive

*Food for the Hungry* event is carried out in collaboration with the MSG Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, at the Otwell Middle School cafeteria the third Saturday of every month. The next event is on October 21, 2017. On the event day food is packed and delivered to the needy families.

### Get Inspired Internship

*Get Inspired* is the flagship summer unpaid internship program of Sewa International in the US. 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.

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)

Deadline for applications is: Midnight on April 17, 2018

Internship Details

Intern Positions: Children's Activities, Grants and Fund-raising, Public Relations, Research & Documentation / Family Services, Fundraising / Event Management

Duration: 6 weeks, June 10 – July 22, 2018

Hours: 20 hours per week

### Sewa 5K Run

Sewa Atlanta's High School Volunteers organize the Annual 5K run every year, July-August. Please stay posted for more details.

## 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://sewausa.org/chapter/atlanta/atlanta-overview>

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