



# MAY 2017

## DONATE

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## SEWA National Conference



Energized and inspired, Sewa volunteers, leaders gathered in Houston for the 11 th Nation Annual Conference. Nearly 80 participants from 18 of the more than 40 chapters across the United States attended the two-day national convention. Leaders from the more active chapters shared their insights on raising funds, training volunteers, and acknowledging the generosity of donors with leaders from the newer and smaller chapters who were eager to expand their reach and excited in serving their communities. Sewa International President, Dr. Sreenath said that the charitable organization raised nearly \$ 2 million , and disbursed \$ 1.86 million in the year ending December 2016 on a variety of outreach programs and projects to provide support to those in dire need, like in Colombia after floods and landslides, and on local community outreach in cities like Houston, Atlanta, and Cleveland. Dr. Sreenath said that Sewa volunteers had logged more than 140,000 hours last year working on such projects as “Sponsor a Child”, disaster relief and rehabilitation after the disastrous floods and landslides in Colombia, emergency support services to needy families in cities across the United States, and in encouraging young people to join in serving those

in need. The Houston chapter of Sewa International set the benchmark by logging in more than 40 percent of the volunteer hours.

## OLLE Language Academy



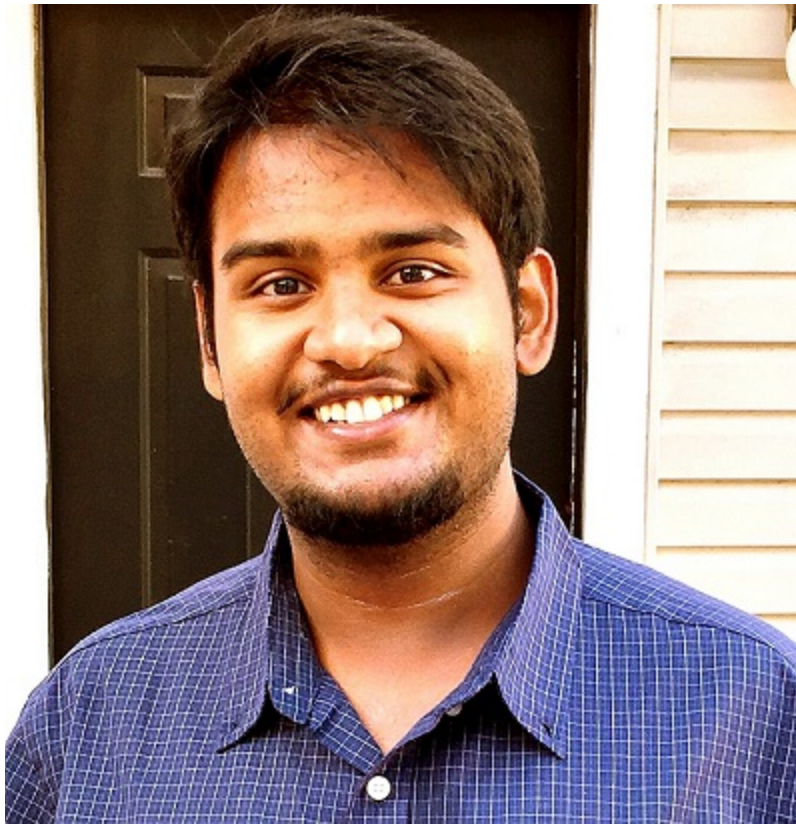
The Olle Language Academy took off in the October of last year in partnership with Sewa Houston. The program features dedicated school teachers who invest their time and energy into improving the English language proficiency of immigrant students. They provide additional academic support to enhance the chances of academic success for these students - this support translates to various other areas of need as well. For example, the support provided by these teachers also steers students into career oriented thinking as well as aids students in the successful transition from middle school curriculum and adaption to the rigor of high school curriculum. At the moment, the students and teachers are focusing on the end of the year project! This project provides students the opportunity to creatively express their experiences as well as their most poignant memories at the Language Academy. Since most of these students lag on certain vital skills that are needed for academic success, the end of the year project tackles the problem with a very creative, engaging, and ingenious solution: with a written portion, the kids improve in the formulation of thoughts and ideas into coherently written words and sentences; with a video portion, the kids build their confidence in presenting spoken English; and with the computer portion, the kids sharpen their computer literacy concerning communication in English. Overall, the Language Academy is thriving on the passion and dedication of consistent volunteers and committed teachers - as well as the joy of many students!

## CASE For Kids



Sewa's education coordinators, present, and past VISTAs attended the CASE for Kids End of the Year Celebration. The program praised the efforts of multiple school professionals who have supported and maintained the growth of after-school programs in the past year. Afterschool professionals are trained to enhance the academic skills of their students, to explore their future career possibilities, and to broaden their hobbies. The celebration included the appreciation of afterschool workshops that ranged in focus from the provision of help for students in the STEM subject area to behavioral management and CPR training. Professionals who went through multiple training sessions with CASE for kids and accordingly applied the training material in the most efficient and effective way in afterschool programs were also recognized and applauded. The most entertaining part of the event was the live performance of fencing done by the Bayou City Fencing Academy! Fencing is one of the new workshops that CASE for kids is providing for afterschool professionals along with the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Learning Through Photography Afterschool Educator Training workshops - fencing targets intellectual stimulation and fosters strategic thinking, SEL targets emotional management and social aptitude, and the photography workshop targets creative thinking and visual literacy. The event was quite enjoyable - with good performances, great people, and cheesecake to top it all off!

## **Volunteer of the month**



**Arun Dev Kumar** is an alumni of Army Public School , Lucknow, India and Pune University, India. He has completed his Master's in Industrial Engineering from University of Houston. An Engineer by profession, he has been involved in social welfare and community activities ever since his school days in India. He belongs to a family of Indian Army Veterans and the common motto of "Service before Self" shared by the Indian armed Forces and SEWA motivated him to join SEWA International. He has worked selflessly and contributed with great zeal and enthusiasm. Arun is currently mentoring Get Inspired Houston (GIH) interns and participates actively in all SEWA activities.

## Upcoming events

**Lead Houston Internship Program:** Lead Houston is Sewa International's Summer Internship Program for High School students. The interns participate for a min 50 hours of commitment that includes direct service in Volunteer events and Aspire tutorials and participate in lectures with Leading figures in the community. Please click [here](#) to apply.

**GIH Internship Program:** GIH is a summer internship program offered by Sewa International's Houston chapter which allows young adults to explore and innovate new ideas geared towards the welfare of refugee communities. Please click [here](#) to apply.

**Yuva For Sewa Internship Program:** YFS is an internship program offered for the

youth to work in India over summer at the grass root level with the locals. Please click [here](#) to apply.

**SDM Camp:** Our next stop diabetes movement yoga camp starts on September 8th 2017. To register please click [here](#)

For volunteering and more information please click [here](#)



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