

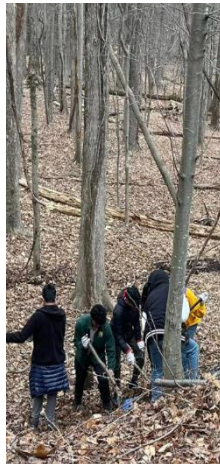
Sewa for Environmental Preservation

The Central Jersey Chapter has been involved in a number of service projects that promote environmental consciousness over the years. These programs include biodiversity conservation, preservation of parks, preserves, roads, trails, and beaches; sustainable gardening; mitigating the effects of climate change by planting trees and reforestation; and encouraging environmental education and awareness through green fairs.

The Central Jersey team reaffirmed their commitment to environmental preservation in February 2024. A preservation project at the Edith Stevens Memorial Wildlife Preserve was carried out by Sewa volunteers in collaboration with the Edison Township Environmental Commission, the Edison Deputy Chief of Police, and other committed volunteers.



Exceeding expectations, the dedicated volunteers cleared over **8** acres of ground in spite of the bitter weather! Their hard work resulted in the removal of over **100** bags containing heavy plastics, assorted metals, and debris, from the Wildlife Preserve.



It was a wonderful sight to see so many volunteers walk through the woods, happily immersed in nature and diligently hauling away debris. In some cases, volunteers formed groups and bonded together to tackle particularly challenging areas.

The Chapter highlighted how happy it is to see Sewa families come together for such service events and offers gratitude to all of the volunteers who came with their families.

Chapter Highlights

- ❖ Sewa for Environmental Preservation
- ❖ Sewa Through the Year:
 - Boat Building for Biodiversity Conservation
 - Sewa for Healthcare Services
 - Sewa for Educational Support Initiatives
 - Serving Places of Worship
 - SewaMeal Feeding Program for Hunger Relief
 - Food Distribution Service for the Food Insecure

Sewa Through the Year – Recurring Service Activities by the Central Jersey Chapter

The Central Jersey Chapter has a commitment to Sewa and the dedication to making a positive impact on the local community throughout the year. The volunteers engage in service activities throughout the year to contribute to the well-being of the community to not only help address immediate needs but also strengthen the bonds within the community and promote a spirit of unity and cooperation.

Sewa for Biodiversity Conservation

This February, Central Jersey Sewa LEADs were at Lower Raritan Watershed in Edison to learn the process and steps to make a cedar boat using many different tools and machines like the table saw, miter saw, table sanding machine, etc. The anticipation of using these tools and later the boat adds to the excitement of the activity. During the last few sessions, they have been sanding and carving the long strips of wood that run the whole length of the canoe and will be later attached to the boat's frame. They maintained proper safety precautions, such as wearing noise-reducing earplugs and staying away from the blade while working. These boats the LEADs are helping build will be used to promote community-based rowing and environmental conservation by a river side. The vision of the project is towards a healthy river which is crucial for the well-being of the local ecosystem and the communities that depend on it.



Sewa Beneficiaries:

Lower Raritan Watershed, Edison

Sewa for Healthcare Services

Sewa LEADs once again helped at the Metuchen YMCA blood drive, by registering the donors, providing information and directions, and assisting donors with refreshment after the blood donation. Helping the local YMCA and the New York Blood Center with this drive was extremely rewarding and satisfying for our LEADs, as the service was going to such a great cause of saving many lives.

Sewa Beneficiary:

Metuchen YMCA
New York Blood Center



Sewa for Educational Support Initiatives



Central Jersey Sewa LEADs assisted at the Henry Inman Branch Library to help organize and fold the recently unpacked boxes of books. The library had suffered damage during Hurricane Sandy, necessitating a complete overhaul. Through their volunteer efforts, LEADs played a crucial role in expediting the restoration process, contributing to the library.

Sewa Beneficiary:

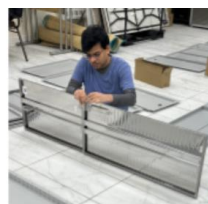
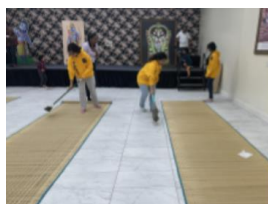
Woodbridge Township

Serving at Places of Worship

Sewa LEADs volunteered at the Radha Gopinath Temple to clean the hall and assemble two metal cabinets. LEADs began with cleaning the hall after lunch and then went on to work on the cabinets. LEADs got the opportunity to learn how to follow assembly manuals and meet and help new temple devotees. This service demonstrates the variety of Sewa volunteer work that can be done in a community.

Sewa Beneficiary:

Radha Gopinath Temple, Edison



SewaMeal Feeding Programs for Hunger Relief



LEADs prepared **300+** homemade meals this February. The variety of dishes were donated to the underserved communities as part of the SewaMeal program.

Meal Items: Mac & cheese, Salad, Veggie Salad, Black bean-corn salad, Pasta with marinara sauce, Peas pulav, Cheese sandwiches, Dal tadka, Chana masala, Brownies, Chocolate chip cookies, Cupcakes, Corn bread.

Meals' Sponsors:

LEAD Anvitha Family
LEAD Nitish Sunku Family
Multiple Sewa LEAD Families from Edison

Meals' Recipients:

Ozanam Family Shelter, Edison,
United Methodist Church, New Brunswick



Food Distribution Service for the Food Insecure

In February, Central Jersey Sewa LEADs volunteered at the Franklin Food Bank. They helped to organize fruits and vegetables, replenish the soups and health and beauty products, bagged small items such as chips and other snacks and placed them in the cart in the market, and helped in sorting the eggs in the market fridge.

LEADs also volunteered at the East Brunswick Food Pantry (Marketplace). They guided people through the pantry to shop and helped clean the pantry, organize and restock the racks. This was a very gratifying experience for the LEADs.



Sewa Beneficiaries:

Hands Of Hope Food Pantry, Edison
Franklin Township Food Bank
Marketplace, East Brunswick

The Chapter's LEADs also volunteered at the Hands of Hope Food Pantry in Edison, where they prepared food supplies and gave them to low-income families. Sewa LEADs worked together with other volunteers to create a chain assembly line that effectively brought out, arranged, and set up food tables that families could pick up from their cars. This humble experience highlighted the importance of these deeds of kindness and highlighted the significant impact that one person can have on the lives of others.

Newsletter LEADS

- ❖ Adwait Jhunjhunwala
- ❖ Eyrah Naveen
- ❖ Neerav Gupta
- ❖ Rachit Surve
- ❖ Shreenidhi Ravishankar
- ❖ Shriya Parvatikar
- ❖ Vanya Mittal

Upcoming Events

- ❖ Central Jersey Sewa Annual Baithak
- ❖ Watershed Events for Biodiversity Conservation
- ❖ Boat Building for Biodiversity Conservation
- ❖ Environment Preservation at Barnes Preserve
- ❖ Clean Ocean Action Spring 2024 Beach Sweeps
- ❖ Earth Day Cleanup at Raritan Ravine
- ❖ South River Flood Plain Cleanup
- ❖ NJ Clean Communities Adopt-A-Highway
- ❖ SewaMeal Feeding Program for Hunger Relief
- ❖ Food Packing and Food Distribution Service for the Food Insecure
- ❖ Serving Places of Worship

REGISTRATION

- Central Jersey SewaMeal Sponsorship
Donation towards SewaMeal Sponsorship
- Central NJ Chapter General Donation
General Donation to Central NJ Chapter of Sewa International

Register

Please use below QR Code or link and proceed to click '**Register**' to donate



Click → <https://sewausa.org/event-5084580> and fill the information

Communication Channels

Please visit our Chapter website and Follow us on Twitter, Facebook & Instagram

Web: <https://Sewausa.org/centraljersey>

X (Formerly Twitter): @JerseySewa

FB: @JerseySewa or Sewa Central Jersey

Instagram:
sewainternationalcentraljersey

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'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' – The World Is One Family
Together We Serve Better