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Bay Area Sewa Chapter Distributes 28,000 Masks

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Sewa International's Bay Area Chapter donated 28,000 surgical, N95, and KN95 masks to first responders such as healthcare workers, police officers, firefighters, and hospital staff. They also distributed 1500 meals to families in need on Sunday, May 3 in an invitation-only drive-through event as part of its COVID-19 relief efforts.

"We wholeheartedly pledge to support the courageous healthcare workers, firefighters, police officers, and many others who are working hard to make our community COVID-19 free. As part of our pledge, Sewa International has committed to providing these front-line workers with the personal protection gear (PPE) they need to stay safe," said Sewa International Bay Area Chapter President Jayant Somani.

Supplies were distributed to 20 agencies including San Mateo Medical Center, Oakland Children's Hospital, City of Sunnyvale, City of Cupertino, and the Mountain View Police Department. Ten volunteers and key donors were at the event to ensure that the event was a

success. “We pledge to continue to support these essential workers each week until the situation improves,” said Mr. Somani.

Mayor of Cupertino Steven Scharf, Mayor of Sunnyvale Larry Klein, San Mateo Medical Center CEO John Jurow, and the City Manager for the City of San Mateo Drew Corbett were present during the drive.



Volunteers at the Sewa International Bay Area Chapter's drive-through mask drive on Sunday, May 3 in Milpitas, CA

Building Community

“I appreciate what Sewa is doing. It is bringing people together in our communities. I especially appreciate what Sewa is doing today in handing out these masks and food to organizations and

different people in our community who really need it. I appreciate Sewa's building this community which is a critical thing, and I appreciate everything they're doing around the bay and around the world," said Larry Klein, Mayor of the City of Sunnyvale.

"I just wanted to say thank you to Sewa for the masks for the community. We are currently seeing a tremendous need out in the community for all the folks who need masks to do critical things, even go to the grocery store. For instance, all the cloth masks Sewa donated today will be delivered to our vulnerable senior population who are not necessarily able to get their own masks right now. They are helping serve a tremendous need in our community, and, on behalf of the city of San Mateo, I would like to thank Sewa for its generosity during this difficult time," said Drew Corbett, City Manager for the City of San Mateo.

Food to the Homeless

In addition to the protective gear, Sewa volunteers also distributed over 1500 food packets and meals to the Oakland and Mountain View homeless communities, Fremont families in need, the Muslim Community Center of Pleasanton, the Alcosta Senior Center in Livermore, and many others. "Sewa International and the Mountain View Police Department have been partnering for about three weeks now to help our homeless population get the food that they need and the masks out to the vulnerable population, and we really appreciate this partnership," said Police Sergeant Wahed Magee with the City of Mountain View.

Prior to this event, the Bay Area chapter had distributed almost 20,000 KN95, N95, surgical and hand-made masks and face shields to the United States Postal Service, Valley Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente, San Ramon Police Department and many other medical and emergency service responders.

Nationwide, Sewa International has donated over 300,000 masks, 1000 liters of sanitizer, 4000 hot meals each week, and over \$100,000 to food pantries during this COVID-19 crisis. Through the hard work of more than 2500 volunteers across 43 chapters and 22 metro areas and in collaboration with over 250 organizations across the country, Sewa International has committed to supporting all essential workers and service industries in these trying times. In addition, Sewa International has set up eight national helpline centers to the field and monitor all calls for help and information. Through the information received via these helplines, Sewa International launched the Plasma Registry Drive which led to successful registry matches for four COVID-19 patients.

For more information on Sewa International's efforts to support communities nationwide during the COVID-19 crisis, please visit <https://sewausa.org/covid-19>.

Sewa International is a Hindu faith-based, humanitarian, nonprofit service organization. Founded in 2003, Sewa strives to serve humanity irrespective of race, color, religion, gender, or nationality. Sewa's development programs focus on family services; child, tribal, and refugee welfare; women empowerment; health; and education.

For more information on Sewa International and its activities, please visit www.sewausa.org.