



Sewa International Seattle Chapter

December 2023

Highlights:-

- Dandiya Event 2023
- STEM Initiative update
- Bothell Tutoring Program
- Food Cooking and delivery program

Impact:-

-More than 400 people attended a Garba event hosted by Sewa International at the MicroSoft campus in Redmond, WA.

-STEM initiative started by Sewa International has successfully trained more than 100 students so far for the Level 2 at Gurgaon, India.



Sewa Seattle Dandiya 2023

Dandiya night - Sewa Seattle hosted the two-day event to celebrate Navratri weekend for the first time. Over 30 volunteers dedicated their time to make the event fun, purposeful, and successful, with more than 400 people attending the event in the MicroSoft campus in Redmond, WA. For the event, kids can enter costume contests to win prizes and dance to DJ Loki playing Dandiya music throughout the event. The celebration of the spirit of Navratri with divinity and dance with each other, but also to use donations for good causes. All proceeds collected at Dandiya night is for fund development toward youth empowerment, disaster recovery, Sewa organic farm, and for underprivileged children with the STEM training initiative by Sewa Seattle.

Dandiya Event Review By 7th Grader from Bothell



Dandiya Night went well! I liked learning the dances and I made new friends! I also learned about the program that started this (sewa). One funny part I remember of this event was that one kid, he was assigned to hold the door and instead he was playing with it, no judgment made he was only 4 years old! And then the security came in and told my parents that there was constant door opening and closing and the door can't be opened for more than 30 seconds. The foods also were really good, they were made by volunteers!-Vanshika Garg

Update on the STEM Initiative



The STEM initiative started by Sewa International has successfully trained more than 100 students for Level 2 training in the Gurgaon region in India so far. This initiative started in January 2023, is being conducted with the help of an implementation partner Prayatna School of Excellence, a local NGO.

The Center of Excellence commenced training upon a rigorous approval process and audits from Government of India. 50-60 students from rural and underprivileged socio economic backgrounds, enrolled in these STEM programs. These students aspire to find a career in STEM in becoming scientists, doctors or engineers. This 2-Level training provided targets to train students from grade 8 thru 12. Sewa International recruits and trains engineering graduates from rural areas as STEM teachers. They are trained in simple engineering concepts and hands-on experiments, eg: Making sensors to measure carbon dioxide in the air at school, Controlling LED lights via Arduino chip.

The Center also extends STEM training to nearby government schools for 50+ students. Sewa International enables logistic support through paying teachers monthly pay, facility rental and providing electronic equipment required for the projects.

Donations are always welcome to support this initiative, to offer qualified students with financial aid scholarships. We welcome all STEM Students outside India, interested in helping Sewa with this program. We also encourage families to visit the Gurgaon center during their India visits.

[How to contact Sewa for any of the above programs ?](#)

Email:- seattle@sewausa.org Donation Link:- <https://sewausa.org/DonatetoSTEM>

Annalakshmi - Serve the needy



Did you know that in Seattle alone, more than 11,000 people are homeless as of 2021? A staggering number, which becomes even more saddening when coupled with the fact that 25% of them report not getting an adequate amount of food. When it comes to food scarcity and homelessness, shelters are a hope, and when a vast majority of homeless people report that they get food from shelters. Clearly, shelters are vital. As such, Sewa Seattle Food Cooking and Delivery initiative focuses on this premise.

The Food Cooking and Delivery program of Sewa Seattle is an initiative for cooking and delivering food for homeless shelters. Dedicated volunteers meet up frequently over weekends to cook a variety of food and serve the food at three Homeless Shelters, those being Helen's Place in Kirkland, Sophia's Way in Bellevue, and PorchLight Shelter, Bellevue.

This program has been almost as old as Sewa International, being founded many years ago. It has always been an important initiative. They are always there, often with 5 other volunteers, buying supplies, cooking, cleaning, and delivering food to the shelters. The food that is prepared is all vegetarian, often being biryani, dal, chana masala, raita, salad, and sweets/deserts like kheer, with enough food to serve more than 200 people.

The volunteers meet up regularly, almost every other weekend to commit to this cause. The volunteers cooked food at the Veda Temple. More food drives are planned for the future. [If you would like to participate, please contact seattle@sewausa.org](mailto:seattle@sewausa.org) with your Contact details



Bothell Tutoring Program

The tutoring program in Bothell, WA aims to assist the educational inequities facing struggling students in STEM across the region. From weekly meetings at the University of Washington Bothell library, we have managed to coordinate a more accommodating and convenient setting at Bothell High School.

However, with school having picked up pace, consistency on the part of both students and tutors has become a greater struggle. To address these issues, our team looks to return to its roots in remote meetings and learning. Setting up a classroom through Zoom will help to aid obstacles such as commute and bring quality education to students from the comfort of their homes. Moreover, as we look to scale this program, both reach and impact wise, we hope to emphasize this hybrid model.

Interested in joining? Please contact seattle@sewausa.org with your name, City(if in WA)/State, and grade!



Design to Lead Flagship Leadership Program

The Design To Lead is a 6 month program focused on training high-potential, socially minded teenagers in "Design-Thinking" based approach to understand and address society's most significant challenges. This program has been developed under the guidance of Professor Dr. Anurag Mairal, who leads the Global Outreach Programs at Byers Center for Biodesign, Stanford University. Launched in 2019 as a pilot program focused on solving an unmet need of a problem facing the society. The participating high school students, getting together to learn about Design Thinking and how to apply the process towards solving a problem facing the community around them.

In a nutshell this program spans over 3 phases, each lasting approximately 8 weeks.

Phase1: Identify- Understand the Design To Lead methodology, Identify unmet needs of the community, pick top needs

Phase2: Invent - Come up with different Prototypes based on must have and nice to have criteria and finally pick 1 prototype

Phase3: Implement - Develop strategy, scale up & deploy



Dr. Anurag Mairal is an Adjunct Professor of Medicine and the Director of Global Outreach Programs at Stanford Byers Center for Biodesign, [Stanford University](https://stanford.edu/).



Sewa Seattle

JOIN

Design To Lead Program

Dr Anurag Mairal (Stanford)
Flagship High School Internship program Design To Lead (DTL) (8th Grade to 12th Grade)

Social Impact, Leadership, Life Skills
Serve Humanity with purpose in life

When:
February 24 - October 2024

How:
Work in small team, For Social Impact
Learning from Stanford Professor



Interested ?
<https://tinyurl.com/SewaSeattle-DTL-INTEREST>

Last Year Projects : Education for underprivileged Students, Stress during High School, Serving Homeless Communities and many more

Together We Serve Better Service for All - Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam



EVENT CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2023		
DATE	EVENT	
Every Weekend	Annapurna Food Cooking Event	
Every Monday and Thursday	Tutoring at Bothell High School	
All of December, January	Youth Lead DTL Registration 2024	Fill the form for registration:- https://tinyurl.com/SewaSeattle-DTL-INTEREST

Newsletter Team



Deepali Agnihotri

Deepali - a new member to the Sewa Seattle chapter, has been associated with Sewa Phoenix chapter for a long time. She has been actively involved with the family services wing. An avid reader and enjoys learning new skills. According to Deepali, Sewa gives her an opportunity to connect with and contribute to society.



Rohit Jesudoss

Rohit is a student of University of Washington. He enjoys playing games, watching movies and spending time with his friends in his free time. According to Rohit, being connected with the Sewa Projects has taught him the importance of community and engagement.



Ronit Chepuri

Ronit is a student of Tahoma High School. He loves to read books and do research on topics of interest during his free time. According to Ronit, Sewa has highlighted the power of collaboration with society.



Shreyank Gupta

Shreyank is a student of Henry M. Jackson High School. He loves to play chess, study artificial intelligence algorithms, and volunteer. According to Shreyank, Sewa has taught him the value of service and duty to the community. Shreyank also spearheads the Bothell tutoring initiative along with his friends.