

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **HOUSTON CHAPTER**

December 2022

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Annual Fundraising Gala H.E.L.P. 2022
- Seniors Sewa Katy Dementia workshop
- Seniors Sewa Sugar
   Land Fun workshop
- Food & Toy distribution drive
- AmeriCorps Community Resilience Cohort
- S.E.L.F 5k walk/run
- Volunteer spotlight
- Upcoming Events

#### **EVENTS OF THE MONTH**

# Annual Fundraising Gala H.E.L.P. 2022



Sewa International Houston Chapter held a grand sold out Gala on December 4 at GSH Event Center with more than 550 supporters. "H.E.L.P. 2022 - Local Presence Global Impact" concluded a highly successful year of work and dedication. It was a celebration of selfless service provided by our volunteers, the generous donors who fueled our passion for service, support of our partner organizations who bond with us unconditionally.

The event began with a Ganesh Vandana dance performance by students of Kathak Beats. The Emcee of evening was Nithya Hari. Anis Chandani provided entertainment, mesmerizing the audience with his melodious flute tunes and Bollywood songs.

8 beneficiaries gave moving live testimony about the assistance Sewa provided to them. 28 Sewa Youth Volunteers who received PVSA award during 2022 were felicitated during the annual Gala.



#### **EVENTS OF THE MONTH**

### **Annual Fundraising Gala - H.E.L.P. 2022**



Gitesh Desai, the president of Houston Chapter appealed to the community to contribute to the betterment of society. Sam Merchant, the Outreach Liaison of Office of Congressman Al Green read out the proclamation issued to the Sewa Houston Chapter, by the Congressman, on the occasion of this annual Gala.

The fundraising appeals were made by Nikhil Jain, Dr. Madan Luthra, Carol Juarez and Nithya Hari.

Houston Chapter Jt. Coordinator Anup Bhasin concluded the evening by thanking all the donors, organization partners, media partners, performers, volunteers, Sewa's core team and elected officials present at the event.

A scrumptious multi course dinner was served by Madras Pavilion. Anis Chandani & Sargam Melodies continued performing during dinner time, with audience dancing and singing around him which continued till late in the evening.



#### **EVENTS OF THE MONTH**

## SENIORS SEWA KATY- DEMENTIA WORKSHOP AND SNEH MILAN



Sewa International Houston- Family Services successfully conducted a workshop on "Dementia- Commonly ignored conditions by people or society" for the seniors of Katy group on December 10 at Gayatri Temple, Katy. This informative and interactive session was led by Amar Sonar to create awareness about Dementia and also offered free Dementia testing on site. Around 30 participants attended this workshop.

# SENIORS SEWA SUGAR LAND - FUN WORKSHOP

Sewa International Houston - Family Services organized a fun workshop for seniors of Sugar Land group on December 10 at Fort Bend Library, Sugar Land. The group played games such as Bingo and other fun activities. This workshop was coordinated by Meera Kapur and Moushumi Biswas.





#### **COMMUNITY RESILIENCE COHORT**

Sewa International Houston- AmeriCorps Disaster Preparedness team reached over 200 kids with their Super Sewa and Super Sevika Kids presentation during the month of December. They gave presentations at St. Anne's Catholic School, Sri Meenakshi Temple and BakerRipley Gulfton Sharpstown Campus. Our team was able to reach out to several communities to help them prepare in anticipation of the most recent freeze experienced by Houston towards the end of December.



#### **EVENTS OF THE MONTH**

## FOOD & TOY DISTRIBUTION DRIVE

Sewa International Houston chapter partnered for the second annual Food and Toy distribution drive at Tony Becerra Park, Rosenberg on December 17. The drive was a big success where Sewa International Houston Chapter and partnering organizations distributed food and toys to about 350 families. The volunteers assembled early morning to prepare food packages and organized toys based on age groups for boys and girls. Honorable Judge Christian Becerra started the event by thanking all volunteers for coming together to help in such cold weather. He appreciated our efforts to address the severe needs of Rosenberg and Richmond. The Honorable Judge KP George also made an appearance and thanked all the volunteers for coming together to help during the day.





## S.E.L.F 5K WALK/RUN

Sewa International Houston- SELF team in partnership with Sri Meenakshi Temple Society, Love to Share Foundation America and Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh organized a monthly 5k walk/run event on December 3 at Tom Bass Regional Park, Pearland. Over 80 people enjoyed the event in a beautiful morning weather. This 5k event symbolized the efforts from Sewa and partner organizations to bring communities together for the greater cause.



#### **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT**

#### **SHARDA GADIYA**



Sharda Gadiya is passionate about serving the Houston community and has been associated with Sewa since 2013. Being a people person with sharp skills, she is both a volunteer in Sewa's Family Services team and a member of Sewa's accounting team.

Sharda empowers the community by volunteering for organizations such as Jain Center of Houston, JVB Preksha Meditation Center, Houston Food Bank, Gaudiya Math Mandir and many more. In her free time, you can find her doing arts and crafts and mastering the skills of food carving. Holding a bachelor's in chemistry, Sharda is also business savvy and maintains a roofing business with her husband.

She was the driving force for Sewa's annual fundraising Gala held in December 2022 and took end to end care of food and decorations.



#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### December 2022



## SENIORS SEWA WORKSHOP KATY - JAN 10

Sewa Houston Family Services presents a Chair Yoga workshop for seniors of Katy Group on Tuesday, January 10 from 2 PM- 4 PM at Cinco Ranch Library, Katy.

Register at the link:

https://forms.gle/jw5u5qfTaxLxYBUAA

#### SENIORS SEWA WORKSHOP SUGAR LAND - JAN 14

Sewa Houston Family Services is organizing a workshop for financial planning on Saturday, January 14 for the seniors of Sugar Land group at Fort Bend County Library, Sugar Land, TX.

Register at the link: https://forms.gle/SHSKmqkUPhCvS16a7





### S.E.L.F 5K WALK/RUN - JAN 21

Sewa Houston in association with Sai Durga Shiva Vishnu Temple and Katy Hindu Community are organizing a 5k walk/run on January 21, 2.30 pm at George Bush Park, Katy. Register at: <a href="https://sewausa.org/event-5078004">https://sewausa.org/event-5078004</a>