



# American Dharma Network

A Sewa Initiative to Respond to a Pandemic

“Together We  
Serve Better”

## *Executive Summary*

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# Executive Summary



## 1. What is the report about?

Sewa International started relief activities in response to COVID-19 in March 2020 and appealed to community and Dharma organizations across the US to take a 'Pledge of Service' (Sewa Sankalp) with the focus on "Sanyam" (self-restraint), "Sahakar" (cooperation) and "Sahyo" (collaboration), to serve all communities during this pandemic.

This report offers thumbnail sketches of Indian American and Dharma\* (see below) organizations that have worked and collaborated with Sewa International at the local, regional, national, and international levels, contributing money, time, and energies to respond to COVID-19.

The report lists and describes 125+ organizations offering brief profiles about them, including their work related in serving the public during the pandemic and supporting those on the frontlines fighting the pandemic.

Highlights of the report – see next page

## 2. What are "Dharma" organizations?

The Sanskrit word dharma is not easily translatable to English. Some have defined it as "law," "cosmic law," "order," "universal order," etc. Etymologically, dharma emerges from the Sanskrit dhri, which means "to hold," "to maintain," or "to preserve." In Hindu/Vedic texts, dharma referred to the cosmic law about the emergence of the universe from chaos.

Dharma organizations are those organizations that subscribe to or follow, in one way or another, Hindu/Vedic/Indic traditions. These organizations include Buddhist, Jain, Sikh, and other faith and belief systems originating in India.

## 3. Why this report?

Traditionally, "faith organizations" acknowledged and identified in the United States as serving their local, regional, and national communities were Christian organizations. Later, Jewish, and Muslim organizations, which began to grow in strength and influence, were included, as part of the larger Abrahamic faith traditions.

Over the past few decades, and especially after the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 brought more Indians to the United States, they began to settle down and build their own temples, gurudwaras, and monasteries. They began to reach out to their fellow citizens in their communities in service and in gratitude.

COVID-19 is a unique, unprecedented event this year that has challenged us all. It also provided an opportunity to members of the Dharma organizations to gather and offer support and service to their fellow citizens.

While serving without calling attention to ourselves (sewa = selfless service) is an act of dharma, it is also important to inform our fellow citizens about who we are and what motivates us to serve: Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam = the world is one family; Nara Sewa, Narayana Sewa = serving humanity is serving divinity.



# Sewa International, USA

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## Together we serve better...



### Sewa International, USA **RESPONSE TO COVID-19**



**4750+**  
**VOLUNTEERS**  
ENGAGED  
IN COVID-19 RELIEF



**\$1,324,000**  
**RAISED**  
FOR COVID-19  
RELIEF EFFORTS



**686,500+**  
**N95, KN95,**  
**SURGICAL MASKS**  
DISTRIBUTED



**103,000+**  
**HOME MADE**  
**MASKS PREPARED**  
& DISTRIBUTED



**100,000+**  
**HOT MEALS**  
& **FOOD KITS**  
DISTRIBUTED



**1600+**  
**VOLUNTEERS**  
MAKING **HOMEMADE**  
PROTECTIVE MASKS



**10**  
**NON MEDICAL**  
**HELP LINE**  
CENTERS



**102**  
**WEBINARS**  
CONDUCTED ON **HEALTH**  
& **VISA ISSUES**



**200+**  
**PHYSICIANS**  
& **ATTORNEYS**  
ENGAGED



**1081+**  
**SENIOR CITIZENS**  
REACHED  
& SUPPORTED



**110K+**  
**VIEWERS**  
REACHED THROUGH  
SOCIAL MEDIA



**45**  
**NEIGHBORHOOD SEWA**  
INITIATED IN USA FOR  
ENGAGING VOLUNTEERS



**300+**  
**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**  
OFFERED **ACCOMMODATION,**  
**FOOD/GROCERY, TRAVEL**  
SUPPORT, ETC



**43**  
**CHAPTERS**  
ENGAGED IN **COVID 19 RELIEF**  
WORK ACROSS UNITED STATES



**280,500+**  
**IBS**  
OF **GROCERIES**  
DISTRIBUTED



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