Treat for the Troops

Central Jersey Sewa leads have initiated “Treats for Troops”, a candy collection drive to support service men and women who have been deployed overseas. This initiative was huge success and kudos our leads were able to collect about 3000lbs of candy and chocolates.

All of this collection has been sent to organizations such as “Soldier Angels” and “Operation Gratitude” from where these would be delivered to the troops deployed overseas. Big Thank You to all the parent volunteers who have dropped off the candies to the drop off locations.

Chapter Highlights

- Treat for the Troops
- Sewa Diwali Food Drive
- Pumpkin Compost
- Desk Building
- Bagged Lunches
- Community Garden
- SewaMeal

Volunteer(s) Spotlight

REKHA RAVI

Rekha ji - Yes, her 2019 new year resolution was to dedicate her time to volunteering. She began her journey with Sewa International as one of the 1st four-member team of NE Helpline. Rekha ji has been pioneer in starting the Central Jersey Helpline. She passionately served food to the stranded students. She also sponsored lunch for Union Urgent care center her own contribution for pandemic crisis. Rekha ji is a dedicated volunteer who worked on many cases - delivery of groceries to seniors or students, visa/immigrant questions of stranded passengers, COVID plasma donor matching & prescription assistance to stranded parents/grandparents through Sewa network of doctors. She recently completed her certificate in "Disaster Case management"
Diwali is a festival of lights, a festival of sharing, triumph over misery and spreading happiness. This year it is all the more necessary for us to give back to our community and support our fellow human beings in need. In the true spirit of Diwali our SEWA leads across central New Jersey chapter conducted a food drive and has received an overwhelming response from the local communities. Together they were able to collect a total of 10,645 pounds of non-perishable food donations.

All the food hence collected was delivered to various local food banks including Allentown Presbyterian Church, St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church, Homefront NJ, Rice Food Pantry, South Jersey Food Bank, Camden Cathedral Kitchen, Cherry Hill Food Pantry, Franklin Food Bank, Rise Food Pantry, Bethel Church, Methodist Church, Mercer Street Friends Food Bank, Ewing and Presbyterian Church.
Did you know each year about a billion pounds of pumpkins are tossed and left to rot in the American landfills? When these pumpkins are left in a landfill, produces methane gas, a which is extremely harmful and contaminates the air that we breathe. Our Chesterfield Sewa Leads took environmental safety pretty seriously. They reached out to the township residents and picked ~700 pumpkins from the curbsides. These pumpkins were dropped off @ Honey Brook Farm where they will be converted into compost. Big thanks to the township residents and the farm in making this initiative a big success.
Community Desk Building

In response to the continued virtual learning, our Edison and Somerset Sewa Leads volunteered to build desks, for children in need. They have built over 100 desks so far. Impressed by the workmanship and commitment of our leads Woodbridge Home Depot has extended their support to donate plywood that would be required to continue this project.

Bagged Lunch

Our Monroe Leads have committed to do bagged lunches every month and this month as well they have made 100 bagged lunches. Each lunch bag has peanut butter and jelly sandwich, water bottle, clementine, granola bar, bag of chips, and a napkin. The leads have displayed such good team work and coordination that they packed 100 lunch bags within two hours. The lunch bags were donated to RISE Food Pantry in Monroe Township.

Community Garden

Monroe wrapped up the 2020 gardening activity by winterizing Marlboro Community garden beds. The extended their help by working on garden beds of the other gardeners who were ill and cannot do by themselves. Despite of the bone chill cold early November they have complete all the tasks of winterizing garden beds

• turning over soil
• raking beds clean of all dead plant’s debris
• Spread layer of compost and top soil over the bed
Leads also helped in digging up the sweat potato’s which were donated to food pantry on Marlboro. Our leads and master gardeners are eagerly waiting to start the activity back in 2021 Spring.

Sewa Meal

Edison Sewa leads made 140 lunch bags with burritos, a pack of cookies n chips & a drink. The meal was sponsored by Rising Future/CODEie. Big Thank you to the Rising Future Learning Center of their generosity and giving our leads yet another opportunity to prepare and serve hot lunch to the homeless.
Feedback(s)

Thank you again for helping get the garden ready for next season.

"Get it done." I think that is going to be my nickname for your group - The Get it Done Gang.

My love,
Ellen Simonelli, Rutgers Master Gardener and Supervisor Marlboro community garden

Upcoming Events

- Winter Cloth & Toy Drive
- Birthday cards & Bracelets for senior citizens & children
- Books Drive for the children in orphanages
- Hot meals for the homeless shelter

Newsletter Team
- Aashka Dave
- Adith Tummala
- Aditi Kudva
- Anshka Jagnnathan
- Akshara Narahari
- Ananya Bongoni
- Angela Anand
- Jaabili Kuruvella
- Krisha Soneji
- Muskan Seksaria
- Suja Sudhakar

Communication Channels

Please visit our chapter Website and follow-on Twitter, Facebook & Instagram

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