May 5, 2020

The Honorable Ruth Hughs

Secretary of State

1019 Brazos St

Austin, TX 78701

Dear Secretary Hughs:

Sewa International is a 501(c)(3) Hindu faith-based non-profit humanitarian charity organization with 43 US chapters. Sewa International is providing non-Medical support in the COVID-19 crisis for the last 6 weeks.

As our 12-year trajectory in the state of Texas shows, Sewa International is steadfast in its commitment to Texas and all its citizens, particularly those in underserved, vulnerable or culturally isolated populations. Our volunteers are fanned out across the state working long hours to ensure a formidable response. We are also dedicated to community partnerships, and we are working with local businesses, eateries, healthcare professionals and other agencies to maximize the impact and reach of our endeavours.

Sewa International has been rated in the Top 10 Highly Rate Charities Relying on Private Contributions by the Charity Navigator. The organization has also earned the coveted 4-star rating with perfect scores in the categories of “Financial Health” and “Accountability & Transparency.” As an affiliate member of Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) and a member of Texas Gulf Coast Regional VOAD, Sewa International is resolute in its commitment of service to Texas. We are also dedicated to community partnerships across the United States.

We are living in unprecedented times as we navigate the daily increase of individuals infected with COVID-19 and the uncertainty of those numbers as we seek to reopen our state. The pandemic has brought out the best of humanity as individuals—doctors, nurses, first responders—stand resolute on the frontlines to save lives.

Sewa International has been able to organize, mobilize, and deliver material relief. It also has been able to support the sickest and most vulnerable in the community. Below are the statistics of what we have been able to accomplish in the past month and a half:

Volunteers helping in the COVID-19 relief                                          3000+

Funds raised to help in the COVID-19 relief                                     $600,000

Partner organizations across the country                                   800+

Masks and PPE distributed including masks                             500,000

Meals distributed Nationally                                                          50,000

Handmade masks volunteers involved                                          800

Small grants Sewa made to local food pantries                          $100,000

Helplines active nationally to support the community                8

Helpline calls handled                                                                       3,000

Social Media outreach for promoting                                            500,000

COVID-19 information webinars up to 10,000 views

In the greater Houston area and the state of Texas, we have partnered with the HCA system of Hospitals, St Luke’s and Baylor hospitals to help find convalescent Plasma for three patients, who are all on the road to recovery. Over 40 + physicians collaborated to help us launch our plasma registry [www.sewacovidpalsma.org](http://www.sewacovidpalsma.org/), where we have over 60 donors, and 20 patients seeking Plasma have registered. We continue to support the sickest patients in this fight against the COVID-19.

During times of blue sky and now, we closely partner with our long-term recovery groups in the Houston area, the county judges’ office, council members, and the One Star Foundation to best coordinate our efforts and reach the people in most need. While we work on the COVID-19 relief efforts, we have continued to offer the program to our underserved students in the refugee and immigrant populations through our **ASPIRE tutorials** (ASPIRE stands for **A**ssuring **S**tudent **P**rogress **I**n **R**emedial **E**ducation)  program. To learn more about the ASPIRE program, go to [www.sewaaspire.com](http://www.sewaaspire.com/).  We continue to provide our **Family Services** offerings to the community in need. To learn more about Sewa International, please visit [www.sewausa.org](http://www.sewausa.org/)

Together We Serve Better.

Sincerely,

Gitesh Desai

President, Sewa International--Houston

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