



ANNUAL REPORT 2017



Sewa International

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VISION

We aspire to be the pre-eminent, Hindu faith-based humanitarian organization that serves selflessly, and with compassion, to create a positive impact. We envision and strive for a world in which all people live in harmony, free from suffering.

MISSION

Sewa International's mission is to serve humanity in distress, aid local communities, run developmental projects for the underserved, and assist people in transformational change through the power of innovation by mobilizing partners, donors, and volunteers.

We accomplish this mission by focusing our efforts towards:

- Disaster recovery
- Family and child welfare and
- Promoting volunteerism

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- *We believe in the dharmic principles of “Serving Humanity is Serving Divinity” and “Unity in Diversity.”*
- *We believe in service above self.*
- *We practice team work and self-reliance.*
- *We are proactive and responsive to the needs of society while promoting ‘Self Reliance’ among those who are served.*
- *We are pluralistic, trustworthy, and transparent .*
- *We create a positive impact through operational excellence and customer satisfaction.*
- *We respect and safeguard our environment.*
- *We value our volunteers, donors and partners.*
- *We respect the dignity of every human being, consider humanity as one family (vasudhaiva kutumbakam) while serving them regardless of race, color, religion, nationality, gender, and sexual orientation.*
- *We accept and celebrate diversity in people and community, and we are sensitive to the cultural backgrounds of people we serve.*

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Dear Sewa Supporter,

The year 2017 will go down in the Sewa International timeline as a historic year when we ventured into disaster rescue in the USA successfully when Hurricane Harvey hit Houston. Our 1,400 volunteers put in hard work in Houston in the aftermath of Harvey. Tales of heroism abound. We deployed SUVs, trucks, Humvees, and a boat to rescue vulnerable people from certain death. In a great act of selflessness, one of our volunteers in the San Francisco Bay area found out on the social media that a 47-year-old woman, who had just been discharged after dialysis in Houston, with two aged parents (one with Alzheimer's), had appealed for help from rising waters. She was unable to get hold of the National Guard. The volunteer immediately contacted our Houston hotline and appealed for help. The story ended happily with the family being rescued within a few hours.

We also reached out to our brethren in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean to serve them during Hurricane Irma and Maria by providing gas-powered electric generators, solar lights, water filters, and an innovative "bucket" care package. We drew support from the Asian-Indian community via 25 local and national organizations. Our work in Little Cambodia, Rosharon, Brazoria County, Greater Houston, has been resolute as the American Red Cross reached out to us to transport much needed items, such as water, to this hard to reach community during the rescue/relief phase.

Sewa raised over a million dollars for Hurricane Harvey relief and rehabilitation work with 40% of the funds coming via a grant from the Houston

Mayor's and Harris County Judge's fund. We hired 22 case managers on disaster case management and served more than 1,500 beneficiaries in a short span of 4 months – twice the number that we were obligated to, thanks to the extraordinary management skills and commitment by our volunteers.

Though Sewa's work was dominated by hurricane disaster management, work grew in other project dimensions also – promoting volunteering, Sponsor a Child (SaC), Toilets for the Girl Child, Gaata Katha (weaver welfare project), and Bhutanese Empowerment. We completed the construction of a boys' hostel in remote Nepal to accommodate 100 earthquake--orphaned children. This, I had the privilege to inaugurate in June 2017.

Sewa has been investing in systems for the future via a redevelopment of the SaC website, reinvigorated customer relations management and case management systems, our mission-oriented- staff training via webinars, workshops, and internet courses, We received our first large endowment from Prof. Ram Gehani of Washington DC of \$1.65 million, with a promise by the donor to increase it to \$9-10 million over three years.

A major accomplishment was the completion of a 2023 Strategic Plan that was a year in the making with input from donors, volunteers, chapter teams, the National Team, and the Board of Directors. With this, Sewa International is set for growth to achieve unparalleled heights as a Hindu faith-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We are grateful to our donors and volunteers who make Sewa what it is and what it will be!



Sincerely
Prof. Sree N. Sreenath,
 Ph.D., MBA (nonprofit MNO)
 President, Sewa International



Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation

HURRICANE HARVEY



Hurricane Harvey formed on August 7, 2017 and dissipated on September 02, 2017. From the time it formed to when it finally ceased it wreaked havoc. It is estimated that along with Hurricane Katrina it was one of the most devastating hurricanes to hit the United States, costing some 125 billion dollars: houses and infrastructure wrecked, automobiles destroyed, and lives devastated. It displaced 30,000 people, led to the rescue of some 17,000 people, and 106 people died in its wake. An estimated 200,000 homes were destroyed or damaged in Texas with 50,000 of them in Houston alone.

Among those initially affected were a group of Indian students at the University of Houston -- 247 of them -- just arrived from India. They were trapped for two days in flooded apartments without electricity, food or drinking water. Sewa volunteers -- 800 to 1,250 a day -- toiled in the rescue efforts, even as some of their own homes were flooded. Leading the Houston team's efforts was Gitesh Desai, the Chapter President, whose own home was flooded, and who

has spent months working out of his hotel room to oversee rescue, relief, and rehabilitation efforts. Some 200 Sewa volunteers supported the Houston efforts remotely, directing rescues from as far away as California through social media networks. Sewa volunteers also delivered 1,000 hot meals a day to various shelters in downtown Houston and four suburbs -- Cypress, Katy, Pearland and Sugar Land. Volunteers logged nearly 45,000 work-hours, brought in 21 truckloads of supplies, set up a 24-hour helpline, and rescued 687 people from floodwaters.

“

Sewa International's relief support helped us repair damaged roof & ceiling of our home in northwest Houston. This damage resulted during Harvey late August. Sewa's help & support is greatly appreciated. Experience working with Sewa has been excellent.

Krishnan Magon, Houston

”

Sewa has offered counseling services and opened medical clinics to help families cope with the disaster. Volunteers organized activities to keep children engaged as parents struggled to put their homes and lives back in order. Sewa volunteers with relevant professional experience helped families deal with flood insurance and building contractors. Experienced volunteers also helped families apply for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) aid. Some attorneys offered free consultation to anyone affected by the floods.

Sewa is carrying out rehabilitation activities in the Greater Houston Area as well as in Coastal Texas offering the affected families help in identifying and mitigating their unmet needs. Toward that end, Sewa has organized medical camps, and is helping rebuild destroyed homes and damaged roads.

In the small Houston suburb of Rosharon, known as Little Cambodia, close to 200 homes were damaged in the hurricane and its aftermath. People turned to the Buddhist Temple for help, which has been converted to a shelter. Sewa volunteers helped not just with clean up, but provided supplies for the community. Sewa is helping rebuild or clean at least 100 homes for this underserved community, and has helped rebuild greenhouses that are used to grow water spinach.

Sewa has raised \$619,000 toward Hurricane Harvey relief and rehabilitation efforts. In a first of its kind, Sewa International was awarded a \$397,590 grant by

the Greater Houston Community Foundation (GHCF). The GHCF grant was awarded for offering Disaster Case Management Services to the Greater Houston community that includes Houston and Harris County, and to help families affected by the floods rebuild their lives. Sewa hired Ashok Nigam as the Director for Disaster Case Management, and Achalesh Amar as Director of Rebuilding and Rehabilitation. A total of 25 case managers were recruited, and they are working to identify affected families, survey their needs, and organize relief. An additional staff of four was hired to provide administrative and finance-related support. Beneficiaries include people of diverse backgrounds who were affected by the floods. Sewa is working with single parents, senior citizens, veterans, undocumented immigrants, and everyone across the communities. Over 800 households/1600 individuals have already benefited from this work, and the list is growing.



NEPAL EARTHQUAKE REHABILITATION



In the continued Nepal earthquake rehabilitation program, a 50-bed boys’ hostel was inaugurated at Dhading this year. Sewa president Sree Sreenath inaugurated the hostel and 15 boys have moved into the new hostel. Land has been purchased for a 100-bed girls’ hostel at Bharatpur, and a 50-bed boys’ hostel at Lothar in Chitwan district.

UTTARAKHAND FLOOD REHABILITATION

Sewa International supported the relief and rehabilitation program in Uttarakhand, following the 2013 floods that devastated the districts of Rudraprayag and Chamoli. Sewa's initiatives included **Sewa Path** (training in computer use, and knitting skills), **Sewa Krishi** (organizing self-help groups, supporting and teaching organic farming, and horticulture), **Sewa Saahas** (promotion of eco-tourism and adventure sports), and **Sewa Swasthya** (education and training in adolescent girls' health, and personal hygiene). In 2016-2017, the support to these initiatives concluded with the seamless and sustainable transition to our partner organization -- Sewa International (India) -- as a development project to be expanded with the help of sustainable local funding.

Sewa International (USA) also provided initial support to the skill development initiatives undertaken by Sewa International (India) in consortium with F-TEC Skill Development as part of the **Skill Mission** of the Government of India, by helping set up Model Training Centers under the **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra** (PMKK) in seven districts of Uttarakhand –Rudraprayag, Chamoli, Tehri, Pauri, Uttarkashi, Dehradun and Haridwar. Under this program, 2,056 youth from the region trained in employment-oriented job roles and provided with placement support in the sectors of Healthcare, Information Technology/ Information Technology Enabled Services, Tourism, Agriculture, Food Processing, Cosmetology, and Electronics.



“

The knitting center setup by Sewa has been of great help and has immensely benefited us. I come here daily for an hour and do the knitting on the machine, and it takes me about three days to knit a sweater. I have knit sweaters for my husband and four daughters. I plan to start my own little business, build a network, and sell our knit sweaters. This would supplement our monthly household income.

- Ms. Pavitra Devi, Sewa Path
Knitting Centre, Chamoli. ”

Family Services

The **Family Services** Program provides a support structure for the community to help families in emergency situations. Sewa works with the community to help facilitate people in need with information or by providing a volunteer who can help. The main focus areas are Awareness Workshops and Case Management Services



during difficult domestic situations. Sewa supported them by providing information, logistical help for basic needs, car rides for hospital visits and job interviews.

Awareness and Educational Workshops:

These workshops are an important dimension of the **Family Services** program. They provide help and information that can be useful for all age groups in the community. Through these workshops Sewa seeks to provide a platform for the families to be aware of various resources available in the community, empower them with useful information, and provide them an opportunity to learn about building and maintaining a happy family in a safe environment.

In 2017, Sewa **Family Services** teams conducted over fifty awareness and educational workshops on various subjects such as Preparation of Health Care Proxy and Living Wills, Social Security Income, Medicaid and Medicare, Yoga for Health, College Selection for Teenagers, and Healthy and Happy Families. These workshops were conducted by fifteen Sewa chapters.

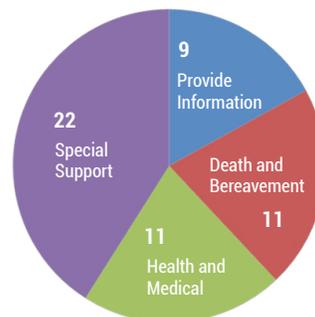
Family Case Management Services:

People are not always prepared to handle life's unexpected situations alone. They approach family and close friends for support and assistance. At times, they may find that they do not have the necessary resources within their network of family and friends.

- Sewa expands this network via **Family Services** in order to empower the community to meet their urgent/emergency needs.
- Sewa's main goal is to help individuals and their families get through difficult times or crisis situations.
- Sewa endeavors to make these hazardous and challenging journeys less stressful with the caring and compassionate support of Family Services volunteers.

Volunteers from 10 chapters across the United States handled 53 **Family Services** cases. The individuals or families needed support in difficult situations such as hospitalizations and medical emergencies, funeral services support, repatriation processes, and help

53 Cases resolved across 10 Sewa chapters



51 Workshops conducted across 15 Sewa chapters



Working with Bhutanese Refugees

Sewa International has been working with the refugees from Bhutan since 2008 when they were provided asylum by the US Government.



Sewa organized heritage camps for the Bhutanese youth at three locations to reconnect them with their roots/culture. Weekly classes in dance, preparation for the SAT exams, and Nepali language classes were conducted at four locations. Through the *Vistarak Yojana* program, seven Bhutanese youth were trained to reach out to their community doing social work.

For Bhutanese adults, Sewa offered cultural activities in Bhutanese temples at three locations. Sewa inspired and supported them in starting their own organizations to strengthen community bonds, and in resolving conflict and settling domestic or interpersonal issues. Eight Bhutanese nonprofit organizations have thus been registered and are operational today. Assistance in the form of grant writing and legal

documentation enabled nine Bhutanese nonprofits to receive government grants. This helped them to conduct programs like citizenship classes, applying for Social Security benefits, food stamps, and finding jobs. Eight families that had lost their primary wage-earner were supported financially through Sewa's *Family Services Program*.

In 2017, over 15,000 Bhutanese benefitted, directly or indirectly, through various interventions and activities carried out by eleven Sewa chapters. School dropout rates have decreased, and 15 percent of Bhutanese students are pursuing higher education. Sewa is also monitoring and supporting over 50 undergraduate and graduate students in various American universities.

2017 Beneficiary Details

Sewa International Beneficiaries in 2017

138,032
Individuals



2,490
Households



62,301
in USA

75,731
Outside USA

Disaster Recovery



31,007
Individuals
Rescue Phase

3,820
Individuals
Recovery and Rehab Phase

630
Households



Toilets Construction



65
Toilets



3,567
Girl Students
benefitted



1,150
Households
benefitted

Weaving Community

3,000
Weavers



500
Artisans



50
Tailors



1,326
Children



Supporting Education of Children



1,010

Women
And Youth

Empowerment Programs

Volunteering in 2017

4,532
Volunteers
139,865
Volunteer
Hours

181
Events

30,516
Beneficiaries

Youth Activities and Volunteering

ASPIRE TUTORIALS



Sewa International's flagship after-school tutoring and mentoring program works with refugee, immigrant, and underserved students in our communities. In Houston, the program served 205 students this past academic year. At Euclid High School in Cleveland, an underserved poor neighborhood, 62 high school students were peer-tutored taking most of them from 'D's and 'F's to 'A's and 'B's.



3
Centers



7
Schools



45
Volunteers



165
Tutorials



265
Students



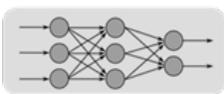
648
Volunteer Hours

GET INSPIRED AND LEAD

Get Inspired and Lead are eight-week long annual summer internship programs offered by Sewa International to high school and college students. The program provides a platform for young adults to explore and innovate ideas and be instrumental in providing resources for the ongoing projects of Sewa International in local communities. In this program, students also interact with community leaders and professionals through engaging symposiums and field visits in June and July each year.



7
Chapters



28
Outreach Program



156
Young Volunteers



261
Students Benefitted



11,980
Community Service Hours

YUVA FOR SEWA



As part of the ten-week international summer internship program **Yuva for Sewa**, nine college students interned in Bengaluru and Pune, India. They worked with doctors, getting hands-on experience in angioplasties and child birth. They also worked on women empowerment projects, and at a day-care center for people with autism spectrum disorders. All interns also spent time in local classrooms, teaching and connecting with children. This enabled them to understand the educational context in India, and helped them establish connections with people as well as learn about their heritage.

“

YFS program worked out really really good. We were very happy to see that Shivani had a great time working at the Sagar Hospital. All the interns were really enthusiastic and had such a good time. They had a fully packed plan for ten weeks and I am sure all the interns benefited greatly from this program.

- Ms. Aparna Thombare. mother of Shivani - a 2017 YFS intern.

”

SEWA DAY

As part of **Sewa Day**, the international volunteering day celebrated worldwide, Sewa volunteers participated in various activities at 32 projects in 27 cities across the US. **Sewa Day** is supported by three guiding principles: serve humanity to relieve hardship; bring a little joy to others; and help sustain the environment.



Toilets and Hygiene for the Girl Child

Started in 2015 in partnership with a local nonprofit organization in Bengaluru, India, the project *Toilet and Hygiene for the Girl Child* was initiated in 2015 on a pilot basis to address local community needs.

The success of the project, support from donors, encouragement from beneficiaries, and most importantly the need from the community made the team rethink and define their objective.

With the mission to “empower underprivileged children, youth, men and women through education, healthcare and innovative employment to achieve greater potentials in their lives,” the team, under the able leadership of Jayanthi Ramanan and Ram Ramanan, drew up a plan to expand this pilot project into a India-wide multi-year program. Encouraged by the *Swachh Bharat (Clean India)* mission, launched by the Government of India, Sewa International has taken this up as a star project.

Into its third year of this program, 2017 marked the completion of 218 toilets benefitting 7,167 school children and 3,405 families. Along with building toilets, the team is also focusing on the areas of Education, Community Development, and Primary Health Care. In the area of education, over 1,700 students have

benefited from after school tuition centers: six centers in Varanasi, and four centers in Bengaluru.



Under the community development program, more than 1500 beneficiaries from the weavers’ community were provided access to training and workshops, e-commerce guidance, and technology support. Income of more than 450 farmers increased as we linked them to stores nationwide, avoided middlemen, leading to a more sustainable and profitable business model. Education of farmers through training on better farming practices and educational support to their girl children helped in the holistic education of and service to the community.

Primary healthcare beneficiaries included 15,160 school children and families from rural areas.

“

Thank you Sewa International for providing toilets to our school. Now, we don’t have to wait until we get home. We can concentrate on classes without worrying about taking a break to walk a long distance to attend nature calls in open fields, avoiding prying eyes. We are locking the toilets after every use, and we clean them by assigning cleaning duties among ourselves.

- Pushpa, Grade 9 student from Lucknow Government School

”

Sponsor a Child

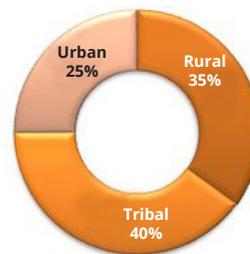
Sewa's **Sponsor a Child** program serves children from low-income families through the payment of school fees (tuition), and providing school uniforms, books, subject-matter coaching, career guidance, and counseling.

Children of the *invisible poor* benefit from this program. The '*invisible poor*' are the maidservants, taxi/auto drivers, construction workers, vegetable vendors, day labor, etc.

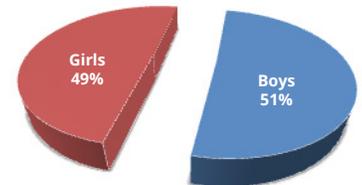
In its seventh year now, the program has seen tremendous growth in both the geographic reach and the number of children sponsored. The program has now expanded beyond India into Nepal. In India, Sewa serves children from ten states: Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Manipur, and Telangana. In Nepal, Sewa serves children who were orphaned during the 2015 earthquake. Supporting this program were 423 benevolent donors who have contributed to changing the lives of 1,326 beneficiary children – an increase of 160 children or 14 percent more beneficiaries since 2016.

The sponsored students include a good mix of boys

and girls, and children from urban, rural, and tribal areas. The program provides holistic education to the sponsored children by encouraging them to participate in extracurricular activities such as drawing, painting, performing arts, and sports. Interaction with volunteers from high-tech and software companies, who are the children's role models, affords new opportunities to these children to understand and prepare for the world we live in. An interesting challenge has been that the needy girl students get sponsored very quickly as donors prefer them. However, Sponsor a Child staff is working hard on educating donors to sponsor needy boys also, to balance our portfolio.



Category-wise Sponsorships



Gender-wise Sponsorships

THANK YOU NIKIL, SEWA IS PROUD OF YOU

Nikil, a beneficiary of *Sponsor a Child* program, from Pathi High School, Karnataka scored 94% in the 10th grade 2017 state-level examinations.

Nikil's parents, Rathnamma and B. V. Srinivas, are day laborers who struggle to make ends meet. He has two elder sisters who are married. His teacher provided academic encouragement, tutoring him after class hours and offering moral support. Nikil is also an athlete winning the 2nd most valuable player award at the county-level volleyball competitions. The financial support from Sewa's **Sponsor a Child** program enabled Nikil to score consistently well throughout his schooling. With these achievements, and a renewed confidence, he is pursuing his dream of becoming a medical doctor.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Prof. Radheshyam Dwivedi, Ph.D. (Chair)
Ramesh Bhutada, M.S.
Mukesh Goel, M.D.
Prof. Manohar Shinde, M.D., Ph.D.
Sridhar Talanki, B.S.

BOARD OF ADVISORS

K.K.Aggarwal, M.D.
Shrinaryan Chandak, M.S.
Saumitra Gokhale, M.S.
Amit K.Misra, J.D.
Girish Mehta, M.S.
Prof. Yashwant Pathak, Ph.D.
Dhiren Shah, C.P.A., C.M.A., C.F.O.

EX-PRESIDENTS

Srikanth Konda (2003-2005)
Gautam Desai (2006-2008)

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Sree N. Sreenath, Ph.D., M.B.A. President
Arun Kankani, M.C.A., Executive VP & COO
Anil Deshpande, M.Tech., VP Marketing & Development
Ashwani Garg, B.Tech., M.B.A., VP Administration
Sandeep Khadkekar, B.E. (Hons.), VP Organization
Venkat Santhanaraman, FCMA., CIA., MBA., VP Finance
Kirthi Jain, CMA. Director of Finance and Control
Swadesh Katoch, B.Sc., Director, BRE & Disaster Relief
Syam Kosigi, M.Sc., M.B.A., Director, Volunteer Engagement and Chapter Support
Rakesh Pathak, M.Sc. M.B.A., Director, Technology Services
Bharath Ramaswamy, M.S., Director, Special Projects

BALANCE SHEET

(Amt in USD)

Opening Fund balance (Net of liabilities)	\$ 1,312,200
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	\$ 2,193,315
Closing Fund balance (Net of liabilities)	\$ 3,505,515

INCOME STATEMENT

Income

Income - Cash	\$ 4,314,408
Income - Kind	\$ 16,714

INCOME - TOTAL **\$ 4,331,122**

Expenses

Fund Raising Expenses	\$ 128,218
General & Administrative Expenses	\$ 143,355
Program Expenses	\$ 1,866,234

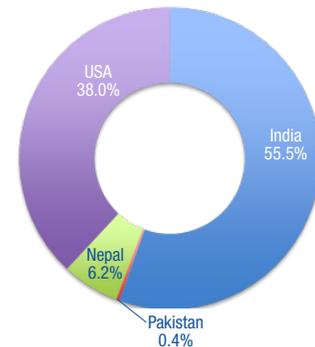
TOTAL EXPENSES **\$ 2,137,807**

SUPLUS/(DEFICIT) **\$ 2,193,315**

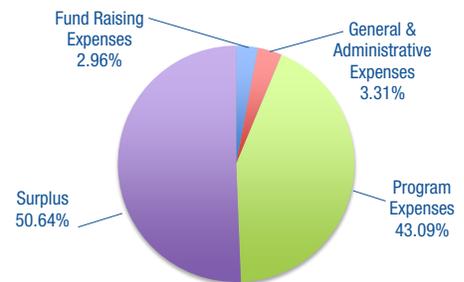
PROGRAM EXPENSES BY THEME

PROJECT	TOTAL
Child Welfare	\$ 28,237
Disaster Relief	\$ 360,820
Education	\$ 866,555
Health	\$ 62,596
Refugee Empowerment	\$ 122,975
Rural Development	\$ 50,757
Tribal Welfare	\$ 30,245
Volunteer	\$ 217,548
Other Projects	\$ 126,501

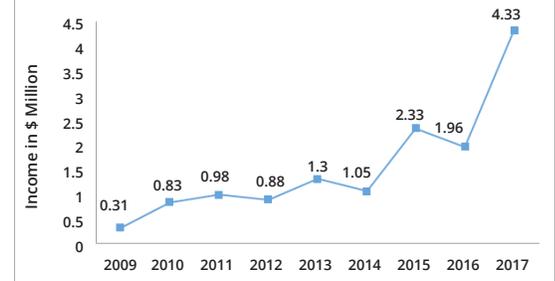
Program Expenses - by Country



Expenses Ratio



Growth of Donations



Program expenses by Theme

