

# NEWSLETTER

## **HOUSTON CHAPTER**

September 2022

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Sewa International Charity Golf Event
- Senior Sewa workshops
- Consular camp
- 5K walk/ run
- Hurricane Fiona relief effort drive for Puerto Rico
- TAMU Vaccination program
- Volunteer spotlight-S.E.L.F Team
- Hindu Youth Award to Sewa youth volunteers

### **EVENTS OF THE MONTH**

#### **SEWA INTERNATIONAL CHARITY GOLF EVENT**

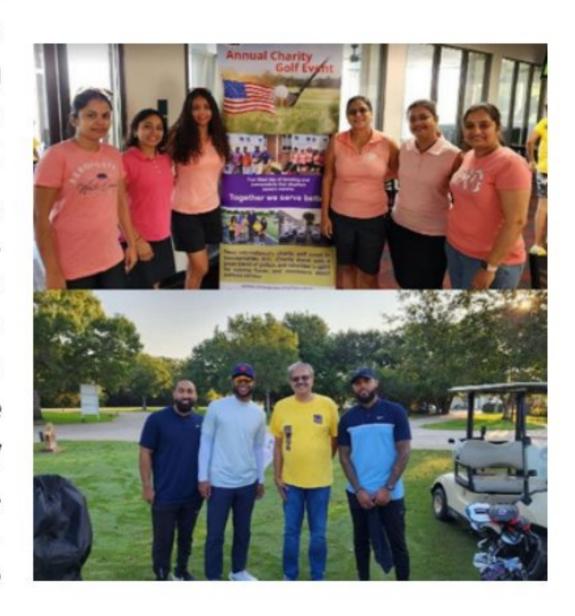






Sewa International's charity golf event to commemorate 9/11 had a successful second year at the Clear Creek Golf Course in Pearland. Texas State Representative, Ed Thompson, District 29, teed off the inaugural shot with the Sewa Golf ball after a moment of silence in memory of the brave victims of 9/11. Mayor of Pearland, Kevin Cole, came out to support the event and give away the awards.

The tournament was held in a four-person scramble format, and fifty six players from across the Houston, Richmond, and Austin areas participated and competed fiercely for the awards. Among those vying for top places were members of an all-women team and a team comprising of LA Lakers guard DJ Augustin and Assistant Coach of Houston Rockets, Rick Higgins. Arun Kankani, President of Sewa International, welcomed all golfers and guests. This event was planned, organized and managed by Sewa volunteers, several of them school children, who turned out on a glorious late summer day to support this cause. Funds raised from the event will be used for service activities. The event was the culmination of months of planning, preparation, and hard work by the Sewa organizing team led by Anup Bhasin and Jaivijay Ramu, who have ambitions of turning this into a larger event next year. Anup Bhasin of Sewa International's Houston Chapter thanked the sponsors - Namma Partner, Southeast Cardiovascular Associates, EAG, the Law Office of Leena Bhasin, Dr. Batchu (Internal Medicine Associates of Houston), Bachcha Tiwari (New York Life), Deep Foods, Awake Solar and Monk's Restaurant for their generosity and support.





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

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# SENIOR SEWA - ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTS FOR FAMILY

Sewa International Family Services- Seniors Sewa group organized a workshop "Essential Documents for family" by Surendran Pattel and Arvind Thekdi on September 10, at Fort Bend County library, Sugar Land. This was the second session by recently introduced group of seniors in Sugarland area. It was very informative and interactive session attended by 28 participants.

# SENIOR SEWA INTRODUCTORY SESSION - KATY

Sewa International Family Services launched Seniors Sewa group in Katy area. The first introductory session was held on September 15, at Cinco Ranch Library, Katy. 47 participants attended this session and the response was very enthusiastic.





#### **CONSULAR CAMP**

Sewa International USA in association with Consulate General of India, Houston, GSH event center and Gujarati Samaj of Houston successfully organized Consular Camp on September 10, at GSH event center. The consulate officers helped in resolving various queries about OCI, renunciation of passport, visa etc. More than 85 people benefited from the drive. The people were happy to receive the required help from the consulate officials.



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#### **5K WALK / RUN**

Sewa International USA- Houston in association with JVB Houston and Arya Samaj Greater Houston organized a 5K walk/ run on September 17. The event started with a warm-up session followed by a walk /run. Over 60 adults and many kids completed it. JVB Samaniji's kicked it off with Namaskar Mahamantra and they also completed this walk.





#### HURRICANE FIONA RELIEF EFFORT DRIVE - PUERTO RICO

Sewa International organized hurricane Fiona relief drive to help the survivors of hurricane Fiona in Puerto Rico. The supplies collection drive for Fiona relief work in Puerto Rico started in Sewa Houston Office on September 24. Sewa International and partners donated two trucks full of water pallets and other supplies. Our AmeriCorps members joined us shoulder to shoulder in this effort. It was great to see so many different departments and organizations working together to help Puerto Rico with material donations.

#### TAMU VACCINATION PROGRAM

To pay tribute to the sacrifice of police, fire department and first responders, SEWA TAMU team, Houston joined hands to go the extra mile to remember their sacrifices and to offer their services to the community during the 9/11 weekend. Three events were held in Brazoria, Jefferson and Colorado counties to reach out to communities with low COVID vaccination rates and community liaisons communicated with approximately 800 people to spread the awareness.





#### **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT**

September 2022

#### S.E.L.F TEAM LEADS



S.E.L.F. team leads comprising of : Sharad Amin, Mahesh Bhatt, Pranav Patankar, Shanti Thangavel & Sharmishtha Shahi

Sewa's "Know Your Healthy S.E.L.F." initiative was started in October 2020 with these objectives

- Encourage physical fitness and development of balanced lifestyle
- Bring people together, provide support, encouragement and guidance in adopting a balanced and active lifestyle.

S = Sleep, E = Exercise, L = Living in the present, F= Food & diet. Houston SELF team was formed in December 2020. Since then they have been organizing 5K's partnering with different organizations, conducting weekly Yoga classes and mentoring runners for the Houston Half Marathon.

# HINDU YOUTH AWARD TO SEWA YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

Every year, Hindus of Greater Houston award inspiring young volunteers for their valuable contribution to community service. This year the event was held on September 10, at Sri Meenakshi Temple, Houston where 6 Sewa youth volunteers received Hindu Youth Award for their exemplary community service. The award winners are Ananya Mahodaya, Shreyus Loyalka, Maitri Paresh Unjia, Antara Chatterjee, Rashu Jain, Anshul Nayak. More than 44 organizations participated in this event and 75 Hindu Youth awardees were selected this year to commemorate India's "Azadi ka Amrit Mohotsav".





#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

September 2022

## SENIOR SEWA WORKSHOP - OCTOBER 8



Sewa Houston - Family services in association with SVYASA Houston presents a workshop for seniors - "Yoga as a way of life for healthy aging" by Smitha Mallaiah on October 8, 2 PM - 4 PM at Fort Bend County Library, Sugar Land. Register at: <a href="https://forms.gle/WUYKq3JmsgMZf5DE6">https://forms.gle/WUYKq3JmsgMZf5DE6</a>

### **5K WALK/RUN - OCTOBER 15**

Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh and Sewa International 5K Walk/Run



Sewa Houston in partnership with HSS is organizing a 5k walk/run on October 15, 7.30 AM, at Arbor Park, Fulshear. Register at: <a href="https://sewausa.org/event-4985420">https://sewausa.org/event-4985420</a>

# SENIOR SEWA WORKSHOP - OCTOBER 15



Sewa Houston Family Services presents a workshop for seniors "Medicare and updates for 2023" on October 15 from 2 PM To 4 PM at tGayatri Temple, 20914 Park Row, Katy Texas. Register at the link:

https://forms.gle/HbKNcDxxJhiwJUWi6

#### SEWA ANNUAL GALA -DECEMBER 4



Sewa Houston is excited to announce our Annual Fundraising Gala "Help Every Life Prosper" on Sunday, December 4, from 4:00 PM at GSH event center. To reserve your table, register at: <a href="https://sewausa.org/event-4958888">https://sewausa.org/event-4958888</a>. Sponsorship opportunities are available.