



# Sewa News - DC Chapter

*November- December 2017*

## About the Chapter

*Sewa International Washington DC Chapter has been actively conducting various community service programs with the principle of "Service to Humanity is Service to Divine" aligning to the goal and mission of the organization. The chapter actively collects donations for the various Sewa programs carried out internationally inspiring all age groups to participate and volunteer for the cause of humanity. The chapter continues to conduct Food and Donation drives, Tree plantation drive, and Adopt a Highway programs in DC, Northern Virginia, and Maryland regions where tens of families participate with enthusiasm promoting environmental awareness. For more information on our activities and join to volunteer Please write an email to [washingtondc@sewausa.org](mailto:washingtondc@sewausa.org) or visit <https://www.facebook.com/sewausadc>*

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## Diwali Food Drive



The collection of rice bags started from October and program concluded with an handover event in the presence of representative from Fairfax county, VA.

Sewa International DC Chapter thanked Fairfax county Sheriff, Capt. Tony Shobe and Adviser Sewa Internation Mr Ramesh Deshpande to chair as chief guests for the event. Presentation on the major activites of Sewa international DC chapter along with Sewa song was delivered during welcome session of the event. Mr Ramesh Deshpande thanked volunteers for their generous donation of rice bags. Capt. Tony Shobe thanked Sewa International for giving his

In 2015, Sewa DC chapter has started annual food drive to collect rice bags for the DC Central Kitchen for winter. In 2017, it was planned in a different way than previous year by collaborating with 15 other organizations.





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organization opportunity to be part of the good cause and he also showed his personal interest to involve in the future activities of Sewa International.

This year total 5,212 lbs of rice was collected from volunteers in coordination with Balagokulams of HSS, OFBJP, Baldatta, Hindu temple of Virginia, India International School, Kalamandapam, Samskrita Bharati and Vendanta group.

Representative from DC Central Kitchen mentioned that this quantity of rice is enough for 5 months.



## Annapurna

Annapurna program is monthly lunch program served by the DC volunteers at Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Reston, Virginia since October 2015, with an objective of feeding nutritious Indian food to needy people at Shelter. The volunteers cooked delicious Indian dishes at home and served at Shelter on 5<sup>th</sup> November and 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017. Mostly twelve to fifteen volunteers are involved on each Annapurna to cook, transport and serve in the Shelter. Each volunteers spent at least 4 hours for this event activity. Thus total 120 hours of volunteer time is contributed to provide around 200 meals to the Shelter.



## Outreach

Sewa International DC chapter has conducted outreach program at Kaveri Kannada Sangha's Diwali program in Vienna, VA. Total 90 families were present in the program and collected emails of more than fifty families having interest to volunteer in Sewa activities. Almost all students from grade 6 to 12 gave their email address to Sewa International which will be useful to reach out to the student community.



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## Youth for Sewa

On 21<sup>st</sup> October, the DC chapter has launched Youth for Sewa with five youngsters from the high schools in the area. Planning was initiated to conduct quarterly workshops for the high school students collaborating with the Project management Institute (PMI).



## Annual meeting

Annual meeting was organized for reporting of 2017 activities and planning for 2018 at Chantilly, VA. East coast Coordinator, Mr Syam Kosigi ji joined the annual meeting and welcomed new members and briefed about history and activities of Sewa International in US and abroad. He praised Washington DC chapter for growing as active chapter within short period of time. During meeting achievements of year 2017 were reported and also shared about the lesson learned while implementing the activities.

Annual plan for 2018 was discussed and tentative dates for activities were decided. At the end Mr Syam ji thanked everyone for their commitment and volunteering for Sewa International. He also suggested to prepare one strategy document at chapter level which will help to focus on goal.

The following is the team for 2018

<b>Board Advisors</b>	<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Student Board</b>
<i>Jay Mahajan Latha Sundararaman Narasimha Koppula Ramesh Deshpande Rohit Deshpande</i>	<i>Atul Kulkarni Chetan Prabhune Kannan Sundaramoorty Kavibhushan Nawthale Krishna Podagatlapalli Manoj Bandagonda Menaka Peri Raghuram Kalale Rina Tiwari Shweta Deshpande Swarup Kurella Varun Kharbanda Vijaya Dasika</i>	<i>Ajay Bandagonda Lisa Singh Om Nawthale Rishi Saggurti Saahiti Kurella</i>

### Upcoming events:

- Annapurna
- Temple for Sewa
- Suryanamaskar event
- Quaterly meeting