



# SEWA-DC

## NEWSLETTER

Sewa International—DC Chapter: Together We Serve Better



<https://www.sewausea.org/Washington>

April 2024

### Discussing Cybersecurity and Giving Back to the Community



Our guest speaker for this meeting was Dr. Vipin Swarup, who has worked at MITRE corporation in cybersecurity for 33 years. He was born in the US but grew up in India. His father strongly believed in the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi, which Vipinji then taught his daughters. He discussed how the world of cybersecurity has changed drastically in his life, from no one knowing about it in 2000 to everyone talking about it today, especially with hackers not only hacking on a government level but now targeting individuals and even students. He also discussed how MITRE makes an effort to give back to the community by offering internships to high school students.



### Volunteer Spotlight



#### Shivani Tadikonda

Shivani started volunteering with Sewa in 2021 while attending ninth grade at the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. Initially joining the Design to LEAD program, she became inspired by the community aspect of Sewa - especially the way that everyone was able to cultivate a common love and enthusiasm for selfless service. She later joined Youth for Sewa and served as its Vice Coordinator for the chapter. Outside of Sewa, Shivani serves as Head of the Education Committee at her school's Environmental Impact Club and plays the Lead Facilitator role for the Kids Are Scientists Too (KAST) program, in which she fosters a passion for STEM within children of underserved elementary schools. Over the past year, Shivani has led a team of twelve as a co-candidate for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Student Visionaries of the Year program, ultimately raising over \$20k to accelerate treatment and advocacy efforts for blood cancer patients worldwide.

### Sewa DC's first National Day of Service



Sewa DC's first National Day of Service event took place on March 16th. More than 40 volunteers participated in park cleanup and plantation at the Eakin Community Park in Annandale, Virginia. It is a joint initiative between Sewa and Americorp to mark September 11th as a National Day of Service in remembrance of the fallen heroes, to show unity and resilience, and to promote volunteerism.

### Get Involved

#### Volunteer

Sewa DC Chapter invites enthusiastic individuals to come forward and join us in volunteering for **community services, food donation (our Annapurna program), Tree plantation drives, and Adopt-a-Highway programs.**

#### LEAD Program

The LEAD program is tailored to inspire and empower high school students, fostering essential leadership skills and a profound sense of social responsibility. Our mission is to nurture socially conscious leaders who not only excel academically but also actively contribute to creating a better world. We always need mentors for this program.

#### Donate

Please click on the **DONATE NOW** link to make your donation.

### Upcoming EVENTS

**April 14, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM:**  
Sewa DC Chapter, Monthly LEAD In-Person Meeting @ 7900 West Park Dr., Tysons, VA.

**April 21, 2:00 - 4:00 PM:**  
Holi festival celebration @ Lake Fairfax Picnic Shelter, Reston, VA 20190.

**April 28, 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM:**  
Sandwich Making for Reston Shelter @ 13379 Glen Taylor Ln, Herndon 20171.

### About Sewa

Sewa International is a Hindu faith-based, humanitarian, nonprofit service organization registered under Internal Revenue Code 501 (c) (3). Founded in 2003, Sewa serves humanity irrespective of race, color, religion, gender or nationality. We specialize in disaster relief and rehabilitation. Our development programs focus on family services; child, tribal and refugee welfare; women empowerment; health; and education. Visit <https://www.sewausea.org> for more information.



As part of Sewa DC Chapter's ongoing efforts to provide meals for the needy, Sewa volunteers prepared more than 200 sandwiches for Reston shelter residents during a meal drive held on March 31st.

For more DC chapter updates, visit our website and social media pages below



**Sewa DC Helpline**  
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