



सेवा पत्री (Seva Patri)

Seva Newsletter of Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America (VHPA)

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We are delighted to publish quarterly Seva Newsletter online only to share the various “Seva” activities done by the VHPA to provide the visibility so that it can be replicated and/or reapplied by others as needed. We are looking forward for your constant support and welcome your comments and suggestions.

Focus of this quarter newsletter is on the **Seva in America (SIA)** initiative performed by different VHPA Chapters in USA.

All of us are aware of VHPA’s seva activities in Bharat through SAC project, many disaster relief and rehabilitation work we have conducted both in Bharat and U.S. and many other projects. In addition to all the seva activities being done, VHPA is starting a U.S. focused seva initiative to *inspire, serve and establish dharmic way of life.*

VHPA has chapters and projects across the U.S., which partner with local temples on many seva activities. While these seva work benefit the local community, the total effort that went into the planning and establishing the programs can be leveraged much better if information about these efforts can be made available through a portal to bring awareness and education to larger Hindu communities across the U.S. As of now, all the work done

at the chapters and temples levels remain visible only locally.

Seva in America (SIA) initiative is creating a web based portal that will bring together all the seva program event publication, email distribution, event registration and seva report generation into a centralized location. This portal will also make the successful Hindu Seva activities done at the local level get consolidated and recorded for broader visibility which will inspire more seva initiatives. VHPA chapters, temples and partner organizations can learn from one another and model a seva program based on someone’s successful efforts rather than starting from the scratch.

SIA’s portal is currently in beta testing mode. You can visit the site at <http://www.sevainamerica.org>



Each program stream will have many projects. Some of the projects being envisioned under each stream are listed below. You can propose any new project that is not listed here.

Education: After School and Adult Literacy, School Supplies Kit, Spiritual and Family Counseling

Society: Supporting American Troops, Liberating underprivileged children in America, Yoga for diabetes

Welfare: Food and Clothing Drive for Homeless, Blood Donation Drive, Health Clinic, Disaster Relief

Environment: Projects like Planting Trees, Beach/Park Clean Up and Sustainable Living Education

We strongly encourage you to please visit the site and through ‘**Collaborate**’ menu items register yourself and your organization/chapter. We will also conduct a training session on how to optimally use the website. **If you want to be part of the training session please send an email at manikeeran@gmail.com.**

Currently, we have four program streams in SIA portal:

- a) Education b) Society
- c) Welfare d) Environment

As any Seva activity requires ideas, plans and execution which may consume time and resources, therefore we are encouraging VHPA chapters and Mandirs to learn from each another's experience. If you like a specific program done by a chapter or a partner organization, replicate that program to kick start the work in your area. Please contact Mani Keeran at manikeeran@gmail.com or call at 925-421-0266 for more information.

Here are some of the programs that were done recently by SIA and they can also be used as models:

Education

- Volunteers Teaching Nepali Children 2 times per week (Cincinnati Chapter)
- Support for local literary council (Pittsburgh Chapter)
- Backpack School Supply Drive for Homeless Children (Austin and Pittsburgh Chapters)



Welfare

- Hurricane Disaster Relief & Rehabilitation (Houston, Florida Chapters)
- Monthly food, clothing and essential items distribution to homeless (SF Bay Area Chapter)
- Blanket distribution to homeless shelters in winter (Connecticut Chapter)
- Thanksgiving Day volunteering for the "Meals on Wheels" program to deliver food to the people that cannot leave their homes (mainly senior citizens) (Houston Chapter)



Food distribution to homeless by San Francisco Bay Area Chapter



Packing Essential Supplies for distribution to people in need

Society

- Free Yoga workshop for all (Allentown Chapter)
- Volunteering at the Cow Sanctuary (Lehigh Valley Chapter)
- Model program from our partner organization, Hindu Charities for America www.hc4a.org, Indian Circle for Caring www.ouricc.org and Hindu Gift of Life www.hindusgiftoflife.org
- Support our troops and fire fighters (Pittsburgh Chapter)



Environment

- Program to model www.thecrayoninitiative.org
- Recycling discarded non-biodegradable crayons by melting and making new crayons and distributing them in hospital wards for children (SF Bay Area Chapter)



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