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Sewa Honors 9/11 Victims

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Sewa International Plans to Support 10,000 Children Affected by Floods; President Srikanth Gundavarapu Visits Nepal



Sewa USA's President Srikanth Gundavarapu (third from left) with the Sewa Nepal team, a stuck school bus and buildings damaged in the floods are seen in the photos on the right

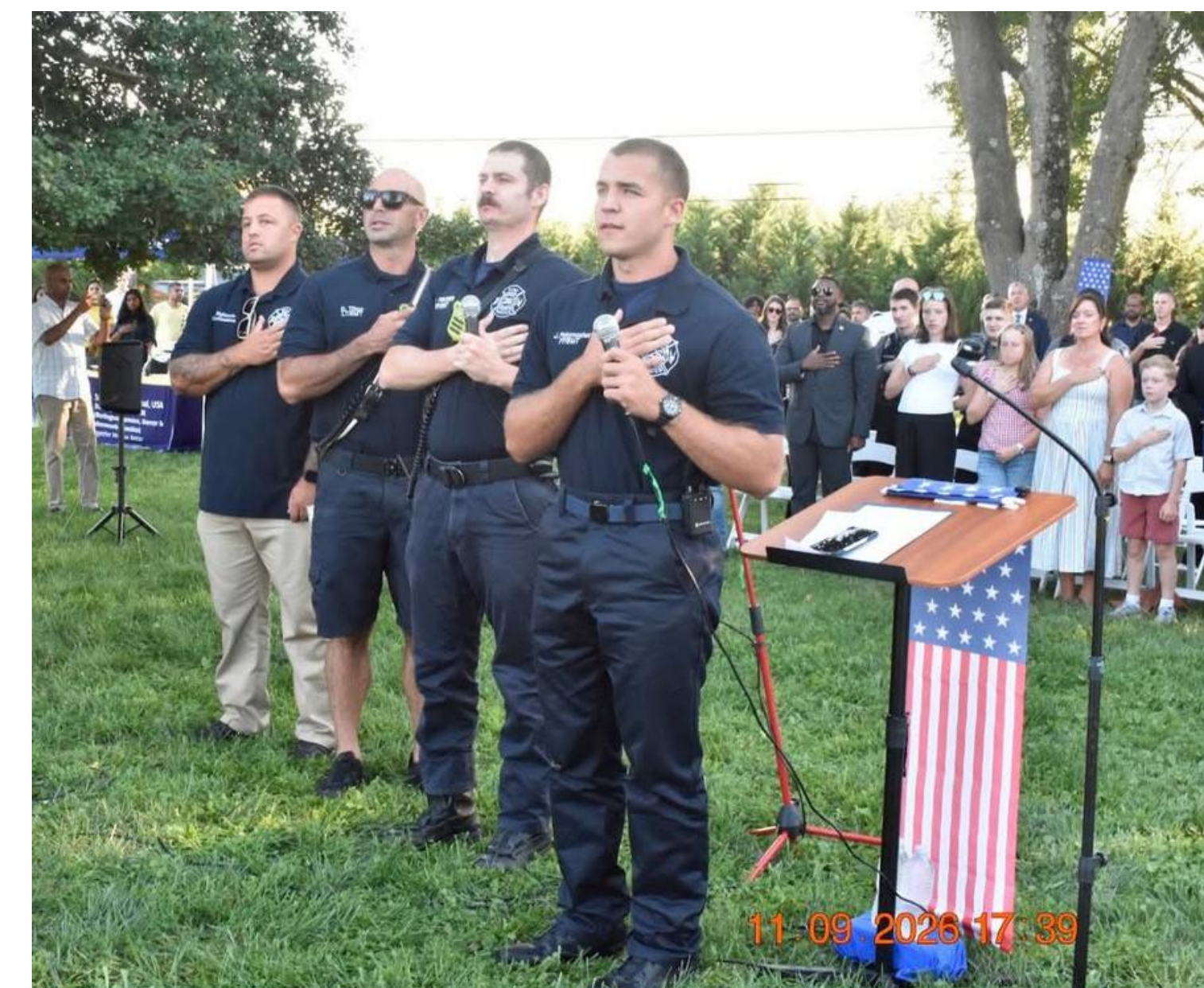
Sewa International is planning to provide educational assistance to 10,000 children affected by recent flash floods and establish 10 skill development centers in flood-hit districts of Nepal to train people who lost their livelihoods.

Sewa's plan to help people recover from the devastating effects of floods includes helping at least 500 families rebuild their homes, helping Nepali farmers restore their agricultural land, and providing mental-health assistance to help people cope with trauma.

Sewa International President Srikanth Gundavarapu recently visited Nepal's flood-affected areas to assess the damage and get an overview of the ongoing relief work. Gundavarapu and a team of volunteers from Sewa Nepal and other partner organizations traveled over 125 miles through the flood-hit communities. Felt overwhelmed by the lives destroyed, families torn apart, and the death and mayhem caused by the floods, Srikanth said helping people rebuild their lives would be Sewa's priority.

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9/11 Terrorist Attack Victims Remembered on 9/11 Day in Chesterfield, NJ



Sewa volunteers joined community members for the 9/11 remembrance ceremony in Chesterfield, NJ

Sewa South Jersey Chapter partnered with Chesterfield Township for a Commemoration and Remembrance Ceremony at the 9/11 memorial in Chesterfield, NJ, on September 11. The ceremony honored victims of the 9/11 terrorist attack on the US in 2001.

The Northern Burlington JROTC Unit, Scout Troop 112, and community leaders participated in the ceremony. Sewa and the Chesterfield Township built the memorial in 2024 as a place to remember people who lost their lives and those who served in the aftermath.

Colonel Kevin E. White, Commander of the 514th Airlift Wing at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, delivered the keynote address. Bryan A. Branson, Honorary Commander Emeritus at JBMDL and President of the Armed Forces Heritage Museum, was the guest speaker. They shared personal stories of valor, sacrifice, and courage. State, county, and local officials, first responders, veterans, military representatives, and community organizations also attended the ceremony.

Sewa International USA's National Youth Convention Inspires Youth to Lead and Serve



Srikanth Gundavarapu, President of Sewa International USA (top left), addressed LEAD volunteers (right) who joined the 6th National Youth Convention virtually from across the country, while Prem Pusuloori (bottom left) lit the lamp

Sewa International USA held its 6th National Youth Convention (NYC 2026) virtually on August 30, with about 587 participants and several hundred more joining virtually from across the United States and around the world. This year, Sewa LEAD (Leadership, Education, and Development) program engaged more than 1,700 participants across 27 chapters, who contributed more than 70,000 service hours.

NYC 2026 gave youth a platform to share their experiences, celebrate their achievements, and discuss their role in shaping America's future. The convention celebrated Sewa youth leadership and service through LEAD, which helps high school students develop leadership skills and serve their communities. The convention brought participants together under the theme "250 Years of America's Independence: Honoring the Past, Leading the Future."

Srikanth Gundavarapu, President of Sewa International, welcomed the delegates and said, "Sewa is about selfless service. Our strength comes from unity, compassion, and leadership. I appreciate the dedication of our youth and encourage them to continue serving their local communities with purpose and commitment."

Actively Participate to Shape Future

In his opening address, Congressman Suhas Subramanyam, U.S. Representative for Virginia's 10th Congressional District, emphasized civic engagement, youth leadership, and community service. Drawing from his own public service journey, he said."



"Young leaders have a responsibility to society. Use your voice, embrace opportunities, and actively help shape the future. Lead with purpose and integrity."

The LEAD Alumni Plenary featured former participants sharing how Sewa LEAD shaped their leadership and personal, academic, and professional growth. Their stories highlighted the lasting value of service and community involvement and encouraged current students to make service a lifelong commitment.

Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker, Aakash Selvaraj, Founder and CEO of Sastrah.ai, said, "Identify real-world challenges, develop innovative solutions, build strong teams, and pursue your purpose with perseverance. Innovation can help address critical challenges and improve lives."

Congressman Suhas Subramanyam (left) delivered the opening address; Aakash Selvaraj, Founder and CEO of Sastrah.ai (bottom right), presented the keynote address; and Sarika Gehani, Director, Sewa Board (top right), offered the closing remarks

Sewa International Plans to Support 10,000 Children Affected by Floods; President Srikanth Gundavarapu Visits Nepal

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Gundavarapu and team met with affected families, local response teams, and government officials in Rasuwa, Nuwakot, and Dhading districts. The team saw homes washed away, roads and bridges destroyed, and communities cut off by mud, rocks, and debris. In some areas, temporary zip-lines helped residents cross rivers while connectivity was being restored. Thousands of children are not able to attend school, and families are not able to see dear ones due to the dance of destruction caused by turbulent waters.

Sewa announced a \$100,000 aid immediately after the floods on August 26 and about 90 Sewa volunteers are actively involved in the relief work. The team witnessed the impact firsthand: Families still searching for missing loved ones, children who lost their parents or siblings, and destroyed temples that supported devotees for years. The team met a school principal whose own home was washed away. Despite her loss, she continued to support many of her 800 students.

"Having come here gives me a much greater appreciation of what Sewa is doing on the ground," Gundavarapu said. Working with Sewa Nepal and Nepal CMA (Community Medicine Assistant) Association, Sewa USA has distributed over 800 grocery and hygiene kits and 700 shelter and medical kits.

Sewa volunteers served more than 2,250 cooked meals during the first five days and continue to provide about 150 meals daily. More than 150 people received medical check-ups through health camps. Over 500 emergency lighting and power-support items were provided, and 200 of them given to the Nepal Police.

Houston Chapter Honors 9/11 Victims; 300 Volunteers Serve in 10 Service Events



Sewa volunteers joined community leaders to honor 9/11 victims and promote service in Houston, TX

Sewa Houston organized a 9/11 Day of Commemoration and Remembrance at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4010 in Houston, TX, on September 11. Elected officials, first responders, veterans, community leaders, and volunteers gathered to honor those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, and recognize the spirit of service that followed.

The program opened with a flag ceremony by the Boy Scouts, followed by the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance led by Sewa LEAD volunteers. Speakers included Sugar Land Mayor Carol McCutcheon, Stafford Mayor Ken Mathew, Missouri City Deputy Police Chief Jazton Heard, Deputy Fire Chief Jonathan Sabrsula, Fort Bend County Judge Christian Becerra, and mental health coach Sujana Shah.

Speakers reflected on the unity, compassion, resilience, and courage that emerged after 9/11 and encouraged participants to carry that spirit forward through volunteerism and service. This marked Sewa Houston's third year participating in the 9/11 Day of Service program, with more than 300 volunteers taking part in over 10 service activities throughout September.

Service and Sustainability Drive Brings Phoenix Volunteers Together in Scottsdale, AZ



Sewa volunteers supported a service and sustainability forum in Scottsdale, AZ

Sewa volunteers organized a Service and Sustainability Forum at Mountain View Community Center in Scottsdale on September 13. Held in observance of the National 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance, the event focused on service, sustainability, and support for local families. Participants donated clothes, shoes, toys, books, baby supplies, and fabrics for families in need. The event also featured educational talks on healthy and environmentally friendly practices, along with partner exhibitions highlighting environmental care, service, and youth leadership.

Bay Area Volunteers Prepare Burritos for Unhoused Neighbors in CA



Sewa volunteers prepared 300 burritos for unhoused neighbors in the Bay Area, CA

Sewa Bay Area commemorated the 25th Memorial of 9/11 through a Sewa Day of Service in the Bay Area on September 19. Volunteers prepared 300 burritos for distribution to unhoused neighbors. The effort provided meals while offering kindness, dignity, and hope to people in need.

Volunteers Support Aviation Scholarship Run in Marlton, NJ, to Honor LeRoy W. Homer Jr



Sewa volunteers supported the 9/11 memorial 5K in Marlton, NJ, to Honor LeRoy W. Homer Jr Who Died In Terrorist Attack

The LeRoy W. Homer Jr. Foundation held a 5K run and one-mile walk at Evesham Memorial Sports Complex in Marlton, NJ, on September 13. The event commemorated the 25th anniversary of 9/11 and supported future young aviators. Despite heavy rain, volunteers helped run the event and served participants. The foundation was established in memory of LeRoy W. Homer Jr., First Officer of United Airlines Flight 93, which was hijacked by terrorists on September 11 and crashed in Shanksville, PA.

Sewa Chicago Marks 9/11; Reaches Goal to Recycle 1000 Pounds of Plastic Bags

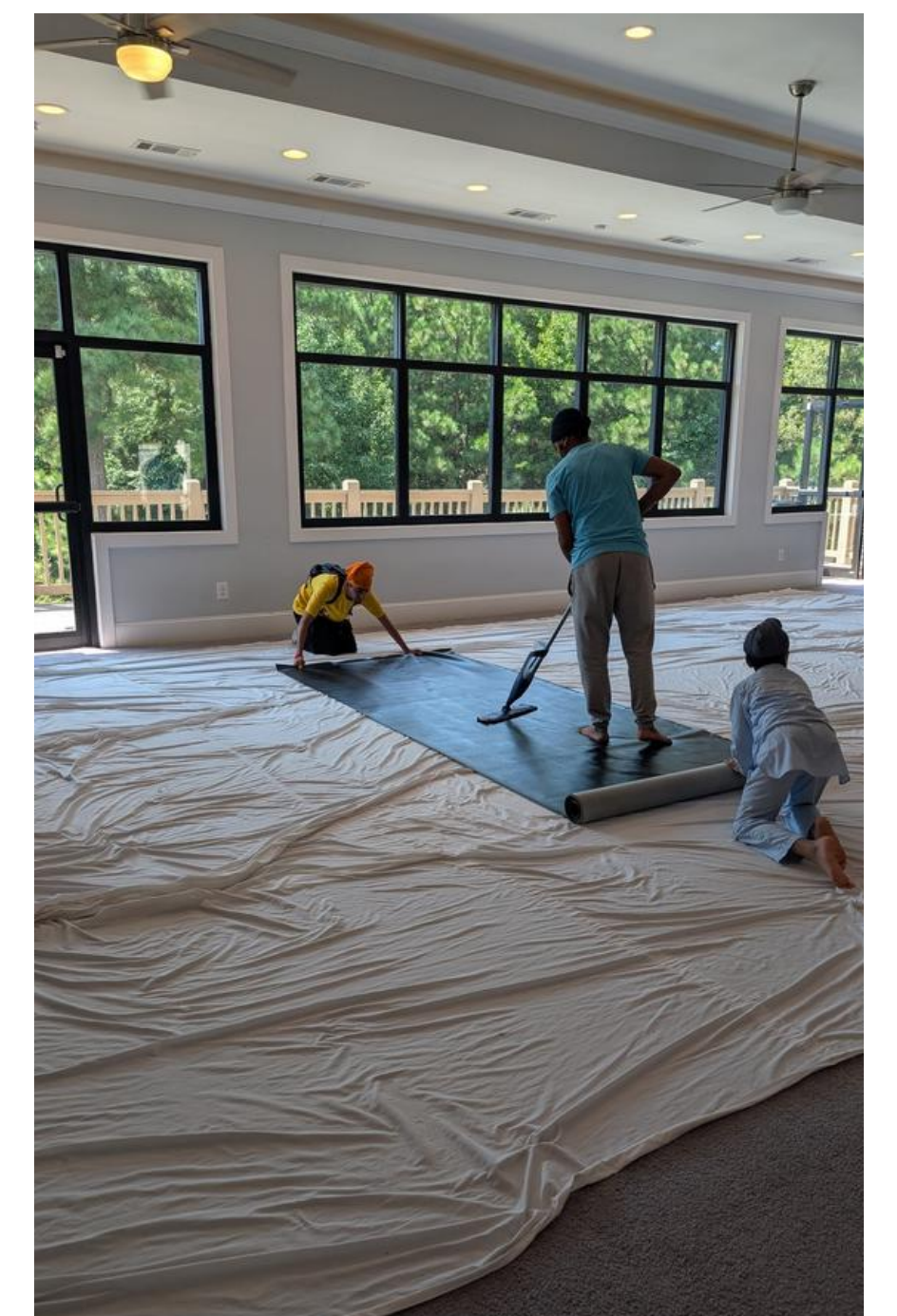
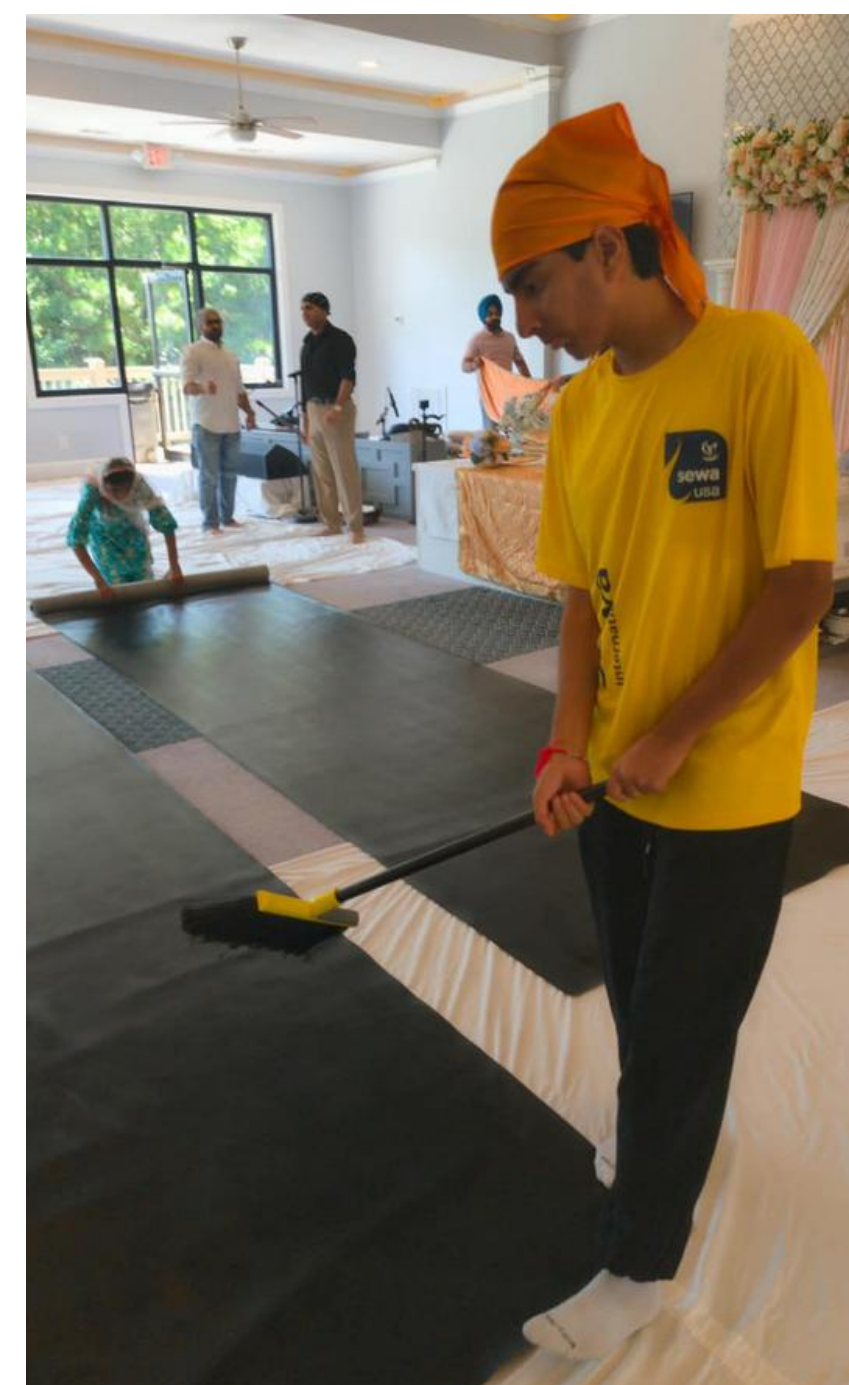


Sewa recognized Six firefighters for their service in Schaumburg, IL

Nearly 100 LEAD youth, seniors, adults, dignitaries, speakers, and community members gathered at National India Hub for a 9/11 Day of Service in Chicago, IL, on September 6. The program included commemoration, environmental action, wellness activities, and hands-on service. Dignitaries shared reflections on the spirit of community service following 9/11 and emphasized unity, resilience, volunteerism, and giving back. Meditation and yoga offered opportunities for reflection and inner well-being.

Participants made sandwiches, assembled hygiene kits, painted bags, sorted plastic bags, and loaded collected plastic bags for recycling. Six Schaumburg firefighters were recognized for their service. Youth parents, seniors, and other community members also helped exceed the annual goal of collecting 1,000 pounds of plastic bags. District 102 State Representative Michelle Mussman and other dignitaries inaugurated the TREX Sewa Bench to mark the recycling milestone.

LEAD Students Support Langar Service in Gurdwara Sahib, Roswell, GA



Sewa volunteers supported langar service at the Gurdwara Sahib in Roswell, GA

LEAD (Leadership, Education, and Development) students and other volunteers supported a langar service at the Gurdwara Sahib in Roswell on September 6. Three LEAD students and two adult volunteers helped prepare breakfast, assist with langar preparation, clean up after the meal, and wash dishes. The team contributed 30 volunteer hours and helped serve more than 120 people.

South Jersey LEAD Students Support Garden and Food Programs in Freehold, NJ



Sewa volunteers prepared garden beds [first photo] and packed meals for people in need [next two photos] in Marlboro and Freehold, NJ

Sewa South Jersey LEAD students volunteered at the Marlboro Community Garden in Marlboro, NJ, on September 8. The volunteers watered plants, removed weeds, spread wood chips, prepared garden beds, and completed other tasks under the Master Gardener Ellen. The session included a gardening lesson from Master Gardener Bob, allowing volunteers to learn practical gardening skills while serving the community.

Later that day, Sewa South Jersey LEAD students and parents prepared and distributed meals for people in Freehold Township at St. Peter's Church in Freehold, NJ. They made peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and packed meal bags containing cold-cut sandwiches, chips, granola bars, and fresh fruit. The food distribution program relies entirely on food donations and welcomes volunteers of all ages.

Run for Sewa Brings People Together in San Ramon, CA



Sewa volunteers organized Run for Sewa in San Ramon, CA

About 95 participants and 30 volunteers came together for Run for Sewa at Bishop Ranch in San Ramon, CA, on August 29. The four-hour event featured a 10K bike ride, 5K bike ride, 10K run/walk, and 5K run/walk.

Volunteers managed registration, welcomed participants, distributed shirts and bibs, staffed water and refreshment stations, provided route support, and assisted at intersections. Dr. Jyotsna Raghoebar and Dr. Prakash Raghoebar provided first-aid support throughout the event, helping ensure the safety and well-being of participants and volunteers. The leadership team, including Rajesh Shastri, Amit, and Guru, supported throughout the event.

Seniors Explore Meditation and Service in Dublin, CA



Sewa volunteers engaged seniors in mindfulness, creativity, and service in Dublin, CA

Sewa Bay Area brought more than 40 seniors together for a Meditation (Mindfulness), Creativity & Sewa program at the Senior Center in Dublin, CA, on August 28. Monica, a volunteer, led a calming sound bath and mindfulness session using more than 10 instruments to create a peaceful atmosphere.

The session was followed by a "Paint a Bag" activity, where seniors decorated more than 60 reusable bags with Mandala-inspired designs. The seniors chose to donate the bags to Sewa for the Burrito Sewa drive, turning their creativity into an act of service while promoting environmental sustainability. Volunteers Shivangi, Divya, Ragini, and Nidhi supported the program and helped make the event successful.

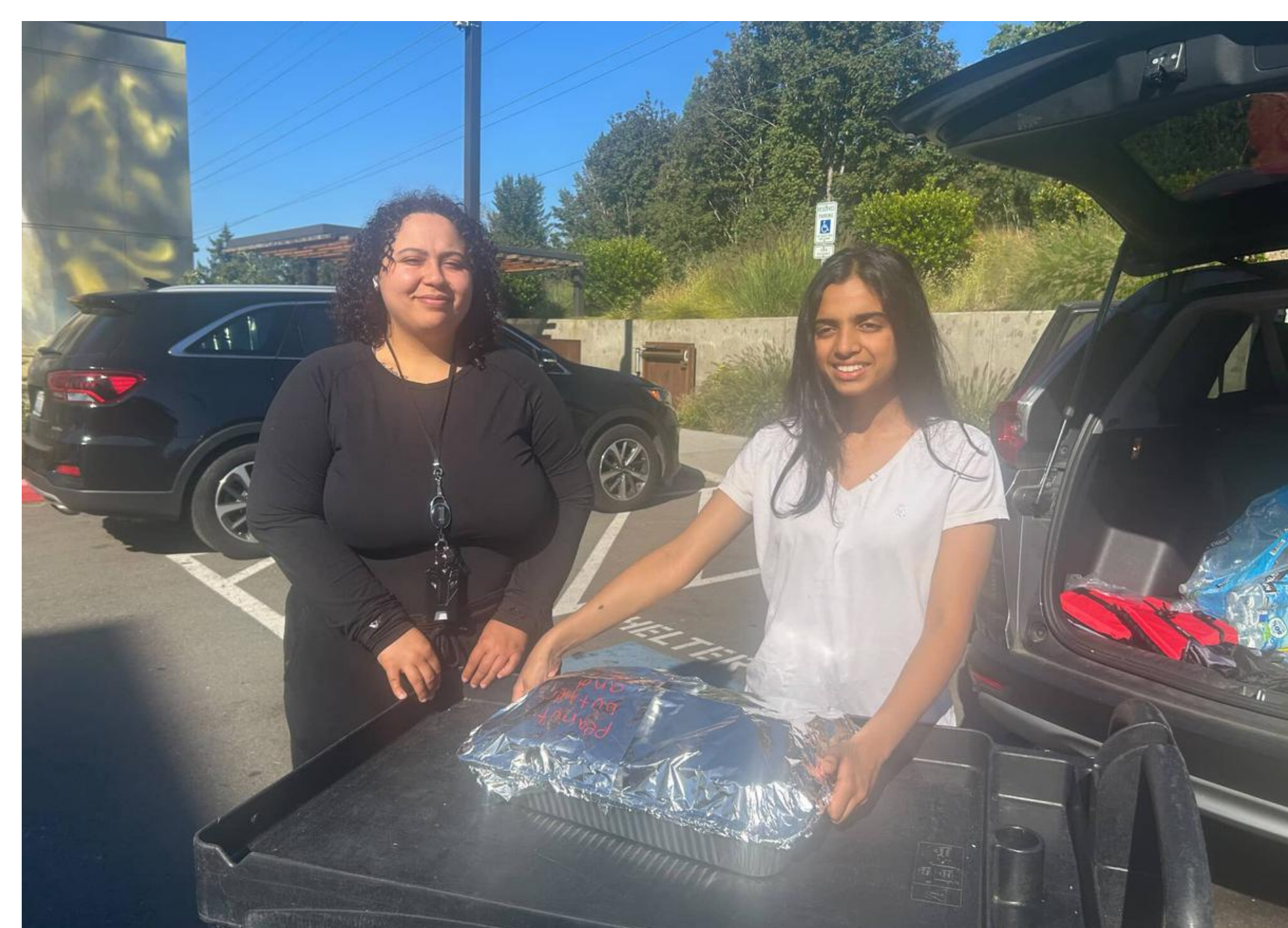
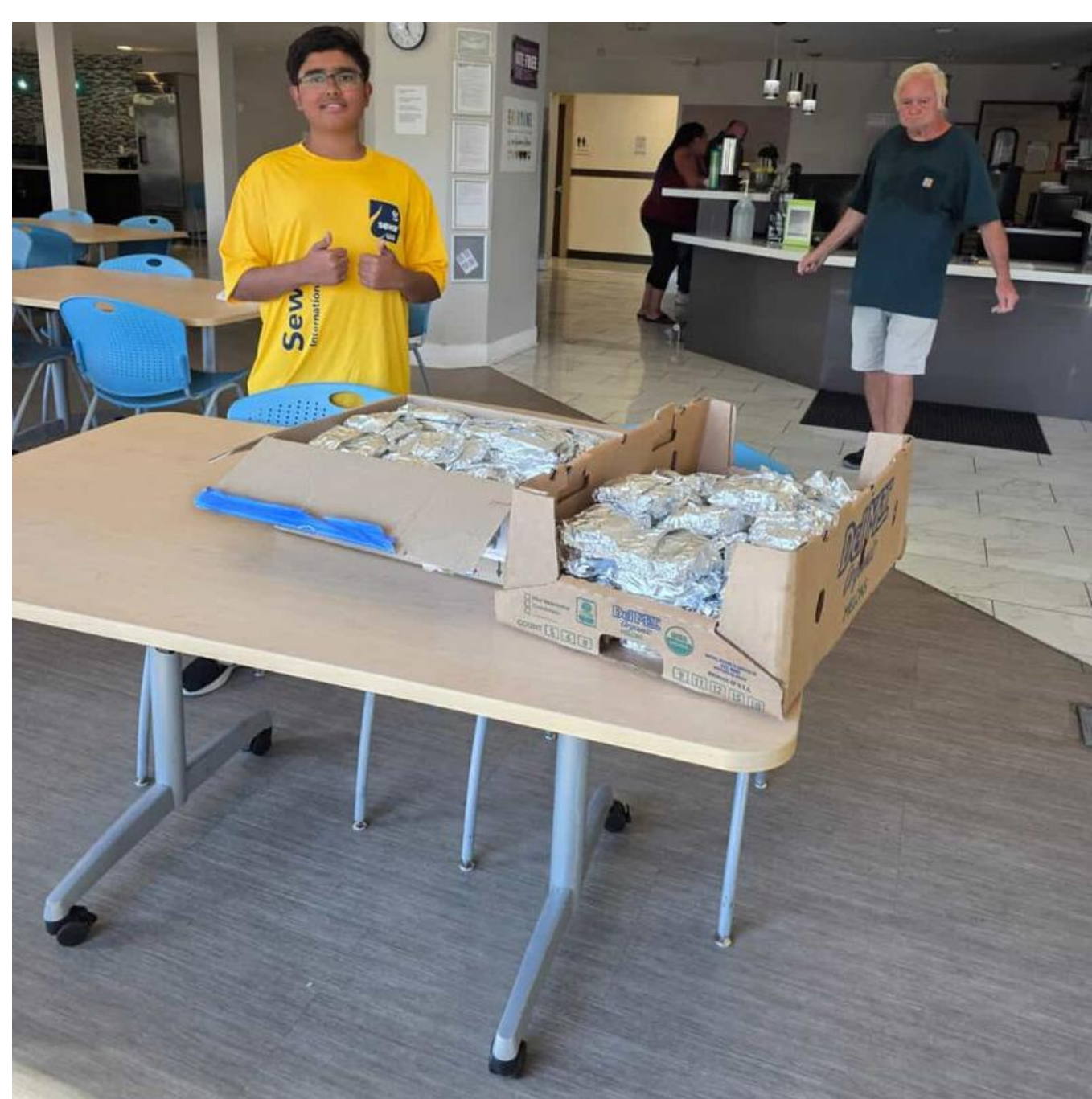
Phoenix Volunteers Serve Breakfast to 550 People in Phoenix, AZ



Sewa volunteers served 550 breakfasts to people in need in Phoenix, AZ

Sewa's Phoenix Chapter organized Burrito Sewa as part of the 9/11 Day of Service at Andre House in Phoenix, AZ, on September 6. Phoenix volunteers served a breakfast to individuals and families in need. During the two-hour service activity, volunteers prepared and served 550 warm burritos and oatmeal, along with coffee, juice, fruit, and snacks.

Volunteers Deliver Meals in Multiple Cities in The Evergreen State



Sewa volunteers delivered sandwiches and bento boxes to people in need in various Cities in the State of Washington

Sewa Seattle volunteers organized a sandwich drive as part of their monthly service activities at the food donation program in Seattle, WA, on September 6. Nearly nine volunteers contributed about 27 hours of service and prepared and delivered 120 sandwiches to Porchlight in Bellevue, 30 sandwiches to Helen's Place in Kirkland, and 100 sandwiches to Auburn Shelter in Auburn.

Seattle volunteers also delivered 26 bento boxes containing sandwiches, fruit, and salads to Friends of Youth in Kirkland. The activity served about 176 beneficiaries and was carried out in partnership with Sophia Place, Porchlight, Friends of Youth, and Auburn Shelter.

Cricket for Sewa in Pennsylvania Raises Funds for SHE Program



Sewa volunteers supported the Cricket for Sewa fundraiser with players and supporters in Pennsylvania

Sewa International's Pennsylvania and Delaware Chapter hosted the 11th Annual Labor Day Cricket for Sewa fundraiser in Pennsylvania on September 5 and 6. About 200 people attended the event, which featured 33 teams competing across three divisions.

Sewa partnered with Tennis Cricket League (TCL) of Greater Philadelphia. Downingtown Cricket Club, Chuggs Sports, Sports Checkout, and Philadelphians Cricket Club also supported the event. Funds raised through the event will support initiatives that empower girls through Sewa's SHE (Sanitation, Hygiene, and Empowerment Project for the Girl Child) project.

Breaking Stigma and Building Confidence Through Hygiene Training in Dhor, India



Sewa volunteers conducted a menstrual hygiene session and distributed SHE Flow Kits in Dhor, Gujarat

On September 7, healthcare professionals conducted a Menstrual Hygiene Management training session at Dhor Kanya Primary School in Gujarat. As part of Sewa's SHE (Sanitation, Hygiene, and Empowerment Project for the Girl Child) project, volunteers also distributed SHE Flow hygiene Kits during the session.

Sewa also formed a WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Menstrual Hygiene) Club to help students develop healthy hygiene habits and encourage them to promote awareness among their peers. The initiative helps girls manage menstrual health with greater knowledge, confidence, and dignity. Sewa's efforts aim to create a safe environment where girls can discuss menstrual health without fear or shame.

Sewa Fellowship: BeAnd Make Capacity Building Camp Concludes in Pune, India



Sitting left to right, second row: Nilesh, Director- Leadership and Capacity Building, Shyam Parande, National Advisor, Jinesh Lal, Executive Director, Sewa International Bharath (SIB), with Sewa fellows at the BeAnd Make Camp in Pune, MH

Sewa Fellowship Batch 4 completed its BeAnd Make Camp at the fellowship program in Pune on September 6. Nineteen Fellows spent the day learning, reflecting, and building teams.

Sessions led by Shyam Parande, National Advisor, focused on leading by example, developing future leaders, and working with communities to understand their needs and address root causes. Fellows also explored self-development through goal setting, time management, accountability, and attention to detail. The sessions emphasized building strong character, maintaining curiosity, and continuing to learn through relationships, books, and life experiences.

The camp concluded with a cultural program presented by the Fellows and village girls at the hostel.

Flood Relief Reaches Families in Bihar, India



Sewa volunteers distributed ration and relief kits to flood-affected families in Supaul and Saharsa, Bihar, India

On September 6, Sewa International provided essential relief to flood-affected families in Supaul and Saharsa, in Bihar, India. During the first week of September, Sewa distributed 1,120 ration and relief kits to 560 families across the Kosi region.

The kits provided essential supplies to help families meet their immediate needs during the floods. Sewa volunteers worked with local communities to ensure timely distribution of the relief supplies.

Songs & Dance Competition Raises \$15,000 for Sponsor a Child Program in Denver, CO



Sewa volunteers organized a cultural fundraiser supporting children in Denver, CO

The Denver Chapter organized its first community fundraising event featuring dance and singing competitions in Denver, CO, on September 12. The event raised about \$15,000 in net proceeds to support children through the Sponsor a Child program and other social causes in Colorado.

The competitions included 16 classical and film-based categories across age groups, with first-, second-, and third-place prizes awarded in each category. About 275 contestants participated, and all received certificates while a large audience cheered their performances. About 50 volunteers managed registration, stage activities, judging, awards, and hospitality. The event brought together performers, families, supporters, and volunteers to celebrate music, dance, and culture while supporting social causes.

The Sewa Path – Staying Safe in the World of Scams



The Sewa Path continues its monthly journey with the release of Episode 2: “Staying Safe in the World of Scams,” featuring Dr. Mukul Saran, a physicist, engineer, and lifelong teacher. The official trailer was released on September 16, followed by the full episode on September 18 on the Sewa International USA YouTube channel.

With scams becoming increasingly sophisticated, this episode offers practical insights into recognizing common scams, understanding how scammers operate, and taking simple steps to protect ourselves, our families, and our communities. Watch the episode, share it with your family and friends, and help spread awareness. Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMsHs-DSLgs>

Beyond Charity: Building Bonds of Kinship



A charity can meet an immediate need. Sewa goes further—it means listening, staying connected, and seeing service not as a transaction between a giver and receiver, but as a relationship built on shared values.

In the article “Beyond Charity: Building Bonds of Kinship,” Srikanth Gundavarapu, President of Sewa International USA, reflects on the meaning and spirit of daan — the ancient Indian wisdom behind Sewa.

Read the full reflection here: <https://ow.ly/JH2550ZJHh>

Upcoming Events

- October 10, 2026: Sitar Maestro Sanjeev Korti | Code Ninjas Mill Creek Town Center, Mill Creek, WA
- October 17, 2026: Sewa Bay Area Dandia Night 2026 | Centerville Middle School, Fremont Blvd, Fremont, CA
- October 17, 2026: Sewa Boston Garba 2026 | Minuteman High School, Marrett Rd, Lexington, MA
- October 24, 2026: Happy Diwali 2026 | N Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ
- November 15, 2026: Sewa GALA – H.E.L.P. 2026 Annual Fundraiser | GSH Event Center, Houston, TX

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