

Stories Inside

- Health Session for Seniors in Atlanta
- 5K Run/Walk in George Bush Park, Katy
- Garba Celebrations in Houston
- SewaDiwali Car Parade in Roseville, CA
- Bicycle distribution for school-girls in Andaman
- Upcoming Events

Upcoming Sewa Banquets

- Nov 8, 2025: Detroit Fundraiser Gala Dinner
- Nov 15, 2025: Bay Area Annual Banquet
- Dec 6, 2025: Atlanta Gala
- Dec 13, 2025: Houston Fundraising Gala
- Dec 13, 2025: Denver Fundraising Gala
- Dec 13, 2025: Sacramento Gala

Sewa Supports over 1,800 Children from Single-Parent Families across Sri Lanka



Shyam Parande, Advisory Board Member of Sewa International USA (photo on the left, seated center, front row) joined thousands of mothers and children at the Seva Kutumba Sangamam in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka

Seva International Foundation, Sri Lanka, with support from Sewa International USA, provides monthly educational scholarships to over 1,820 students from 1,003 families across 11 districts, including Batticaloa, Ampara, Kandy, Matale, Mannar, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Badulla, Ratnapura, and Colombo. The initiative, launched in May 2024, recently celebrated its first successful year.

The program supports families where a woman is the sole breadwinner. Children who lost their father to the COVID pandemic or abandoned get educational assistance through this program. Over the past year, the program has made it easier for many mothers to continue to send their children to school while balancing other needs of the family.

Thousands of such “Seva Families” gathered for the *Seva Kutumba Sangamam* in Batticaloa to share their stories and celebrate progress. Seva Sri Lanka also organized similar gatherings in Hatton, Mannar, Kilinochchi, Badulla, and Ratnapura. An Early Childhood Development Week discussion was conducted at the Batticaloa District Health Office, which emphasized holistic learning and play-based development.

Contd... on page 2

At Chesterfield, Dr. Dhananjay Sagdeo Shares Four Decades of Work in Wayanad



Dr. Sagdeo (first photo, seated right) at the Chesterfield event with Sewa volunteers; glimpses of patient care at SVM, Wayanad (right photos)

Dr. Dhananjay Diwakar Sagdeo, Chief Medical Officer and Head of the Sick Cell Disease Project at Swami Vivekananda Medical Mission (SVM), Wayanad, and his brother, retired Wing Commander Vinay Sagdeo, spoke at the Chesterfield Township Municipal Building on October 8. Dr. Sagdeo, describing his experiences and personal journey, highlighted SVM's work, which provides healthcare services and specialized support—including diagnosis, treatment, and counseling—for local tribals affected by sickle cell anemia. Vinay Sagdeo discussed the Vivekananda Residential Tribal Vidyalaya, which provides boarding, meals, and quality education to over 200 tribal children.

Dr. Sagdeo, a native of Nagpur, has served the tribal population in Wayanad for over 40 years, providing healthcare and supporting local tribals suffering from sickle cell anemia. The Government of India recognized his long-standing service to tribal healthcare and contributions to medicine with the Padma Shri award in 2021. Attendees appreciated the brothers' decades of dedicated service.

Sewa Supports over 1,800 Children from Single Parent Families across Sri Lanka



Nearly two thousand of mothers and children participated in the Seva Kutumba Sangamam in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka (first photo). Atlanta Chapter President Madhav Durbha (right photo, standing center) visited a program site in Colombo.

Swami Neelamathavananda, Manager of Batticaloa Ramakrishna Mission; Wijayapalan, President of Seva International Foundation, Sri Lanka; and Srikanthan, National Sangachalak of HSS Sri Lanka, and Shyam Parande, Advisory Board Member of Seva International attended the Batticaloa gathering. They highlighted the importance of empowering women who are taking care of their families alone and educating their children to help them have a bright future.

Atlanta Chapter President Madhav Durbha visited the project sites in Colombo on September 15. "Providing consistent support ensures children can pursue their education without disruption," he felt.

Sewa's Support Helps a Family Grow Vegetables & Dreams

Karumariyamman (name changed), along with her three children from Bogawantalawa—a hilly village in the Elbada Upper Division—is among the many who have benefited from Sewa's program. After losing her husband, she struggled to provide for her children. The small income from her vegetable garden was barely enough to provide daily meals. At times, the family survived on what they could grow or borrow from neighbors. Still, Karumariyamman was determined to educate her children.

When Seva Sri Lanka learned about Karumariyamman's situation, the organization began providing monthly scholarships to support her children's education. "This timely support lifted a heavy burden and gave us new hope. Now my children can study without worry," she said.

Hundreds Join Viksit Bharat 5K Run/Walk in George Bush Park in Katy, TX



Hundreds ran and walked in George Bush Park, supported by volunteers and organizations, celebrating Viksit Bharat's vision

Hundreds of participants joined the Viksit Bharat (Developing India) 5K Run/Walk for Wellness at George Bush Park, Katy, Houston, on September 28. Over 60 organizations and 50 volunteers joined the event, coordinated by the Houston Consulate General's office and executed by local teams. Attendees praised the collaboration and energy, noting how organized participation promoted health and civic engagement.

SewaDiwali: Over 400 Pounds of Food Donated to Family Hope in Fulshear, TX



Over 400 pounds of food collected by youth volunteers were donated to Family Hope in Fulshear, TX

Sewa volunteers donated Over 400 pounds of food to Family Hope Foundation at the Diwali Food Drive in Fulshear, TX, on October 16. Youth volunteers led the collection efforts, gathering items to support underprivileged families. Bob Patton of Family Hope expressed gratitude, noting the donations will be distributed at Sewa's upcoming food fair. Chapter Coordinator, Rajesh Patwari said, they plan additional collections in the coming weeks to extend support and meet the growing needs of families in the area.

Seniors Engage in Bhajan and Health Session in Atlanta

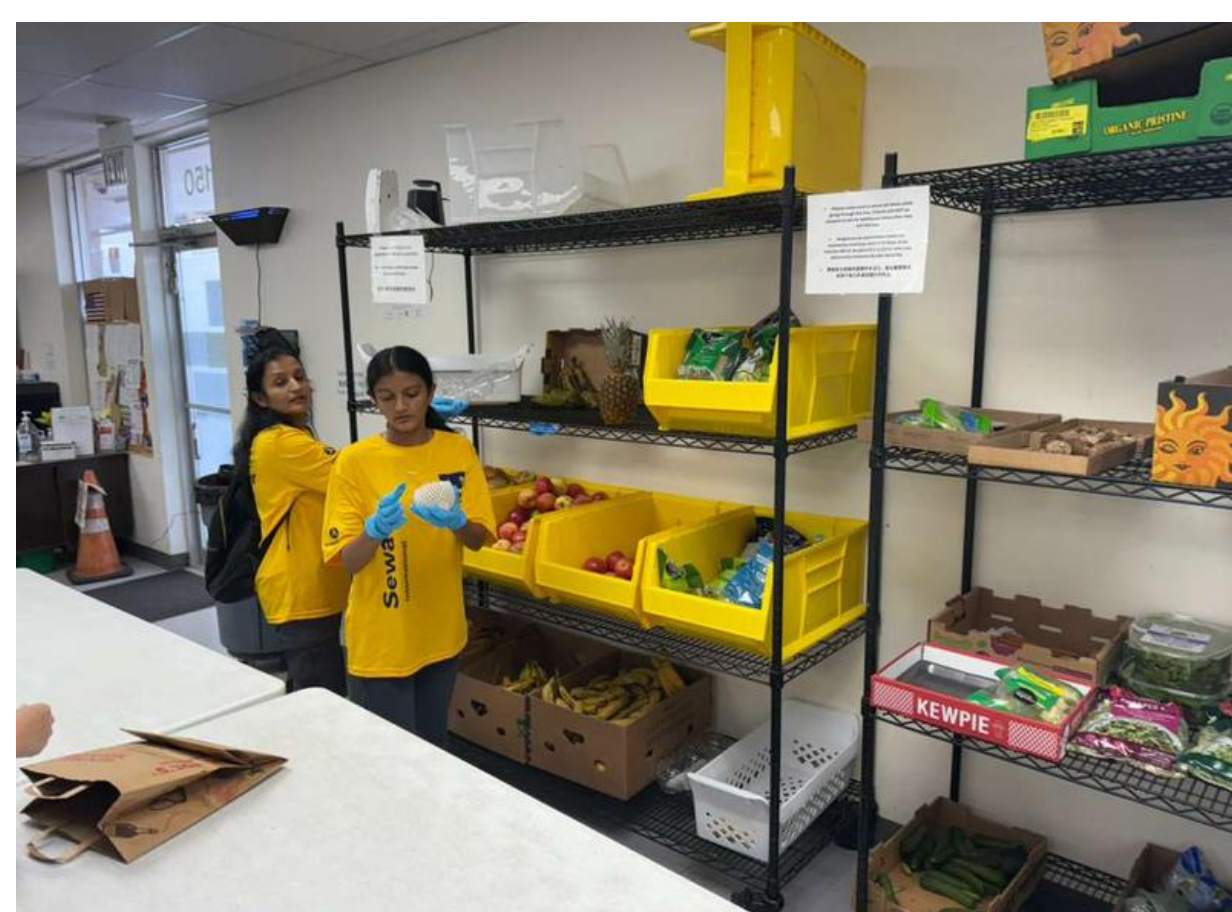


Atlanta seniors (left) enjoyed *bhajan*, health tips, and interactive discussions; AmeriCorps families celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with creativity

Seniors participated in an interactive session at the Activity Center in Atlanta on October 4. Over 50 attendees sang *bhajans* (devotional songs), spreading joy and positive energy throughout the event. Dr. Ravi Bathina presented tips on heart attack prevention and addressed participants' questions, creating a lively and informative discussion. Attendees praised the session for combining spiritual engagement with practical health guidance.

In a related event, AmeriCorps families celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month through creative activities, including Amate (Mexican folk art) painting, flag and bookmark crafting, and games like musical chairs and Red Light-Green Light. Students also practiced yoga poses, combining health and learning. Volunteers engaged seniors and youth through art and knowledge sharing.

Volunteers Support Food Distribution at Tri-Valley Haven in Livermore, CA



Volunteers sorted and distributed food at Tri-Valley Haven, supporting families and fostering community connection

Fifteen volunteers sorted, packed, and distributed food at the SERVE event at Tri-Valley Haven in Livermore on October 18. They helped families in need get essential groceries on time. "Volunteers contributed their time and energy to help others. The activity showed how teamwork can meet immediate needs, enhance well-being, and build stronger community connections." Sewa's Bay Area Chapter Coordinator and Western Region Director, Guru Prasad, said.

Volunteers Support 10K Walk/Run for Fitness and Service in Alviso, CA



Volunteers supported a 10K Walk/Run in Alviso, promoting fitness, service, and connection among participants

Sewa Bay Area organized a 10K Walk/Run at Alviso, CA, on October 4, attracting many participants to promote fitness and service.

Ten volunteers guided participants and ensured smooth coordination throughout the event.

Pravin Dhir, Chapter Joint Coordinator, said, "The walk/run went beyond physical activity, reflecting the mission of selfless service and well-being. Each step improved participants' health, showing the clear benefits of volunteer-led events."

Over 800 Participants Celebrate Garba in Houston



Over 800 participants celebrated Garba in Houston with music, dance, and festive stalls supporting local initiatives

More than 800 participants attended the Houston Chapter's Garba Night on September 5 in Houston. Attendees danced to performances by Umesh Barot and Gujju Bhuriya Shyre Thakkar throughout the evening. Festive stalls offered food, ice cream, and *paan* (stuffed betel leaf), adding to the lively atmosphere. The event concluded with a traditional *Aarti* to the goddess Durga, bringing everyone together in devotion. Chapter's Joint Coordinator, Anup Bhasin, thanked volunteers and donors for making the cultural celebration a success. Participants appreciated Sewa's support for local causes and collaboration.

Color, Music, and Joy Mark Vibrant Garba Night in Boston



Over 300 joined Garba 2025, celebrating culture, rhythm, and togetherness in a night full of joy

Over 300 performers took part in Boston's Garba 2025 celebration on September 29. The festive evening featured lively performances, delicious food by Fiskie's Café, and nonstop music by DJ Ravlor. Attendees danced late into the night, celebrating togetherness and cultural pride. "The overwhelming response filled the dance floor with energy, color, and community spirit," Kumar Subramanian, Chapter Coordinator, said. The event fostered joy and strengthened bonds that continues to inspire year after year, he said.

Young Volunteers Bring Energy and Service to Garba Celebration in Pearland, TX



Young volunteers energized the Garba celebration in Pearland, TX, celebrating culture and service through Navratri festivities

Over 50 young volunteers supported the vibrant Garba celebration at the Meenakshi Temple in Pearland on September 26. Their enthusiasm and teamwork helped make the *Navratri* (nine nights) festivities a success, blending cultural pride with the spirit of service. "Their efforts helped celebrate Navratri and played an important role in preserving and promoting our rich cultural heritage. The event showed how youth engagement preserves traditions and strengthens generational bonds," said a participant.

Garba Night in Chicago Raised Funds for Students



Garba Night in Chicago raised over 3,500 dollars to support Sponsor a Child (SAC) program in India, blending devotion, dance, and purpose

Over 400 participants celebrated the 27th Annual Garba & Dandiya Evening in Chicago on October 17, blending devotion with purpose. The event raised over 3,500 dollars to sponsor the annual education of ten deserving students in India through the Sponsor A Child (SAC) initiative. Attendees also supported *Smart Sakhi Shirdhon* (a program that trains women in tech-based skills) by purchasing sustainable farming products. "We're deeply grateful for your generous donations, festive spirit, and dance groove on this joyous occasion," Chapter Coordinator, Nags Rajaraman, said. The evening honored *Devi Shakti's* blessings of knowledge, prosperity, and strength.

Volunteers Pack over 180 Burritos for Unhoused Families in Bay Area



Volunteers packed over 180 burritos, supporting unhoused families and showcasing teamwork and compassion in action

Twenty volunteers, including junior participants and new LEAD (Leadership, Education, and Development) families, prepared and packed 180 burritos at the Burrito Sewa event in the Bay Area on October 11. Through the meal distribution the volunteers supported unhoused families. Volunteers said each burrito showed care, proving small acts of kindness build connection.

Milestone 50th Walk/Run Promotes Health and Mindfulness in Houston



Houston's 50th 5K Walk/Run united over 100 participants, celebrating health, mindfulness, and collaboration for wellness

Over 100 participants joined the 50th 5K Walk/Run at Hermann Park in Houston on October 11, organized in collaboration with HCA Houston Healthcare and Peaceful Planet Foundation. The event marked both the 50th milestone of the walk/run series and HCA's 50 years of service in the Texas Medical Center. "A healthy body leads to a healthy mind," said Dr. Munish Chawla, co-founder of Peaceful Planet Foundation. Since 2021, the initiative has engaged over 4,500 participants across 15 locations, promoting wellness, fitness, and mindful living through its S.E.L.F. (Sleep, Exercise, Lifestyle Practices, Food, and Diet) program.

Volunteers Drive 5th Annual Charity Golf Tournament in Houston



Volunteers powered Houston's 5th Charity Golf Tournament, raising funds for Texas flood relief and service projects

Over 60 volunteers supported the 5th Annual Charity Golf Tournament at Wildcat Golf Club in Houston on September 7, ensuring a seamless event for 19 participating teams. Months of planning, led by Anup Bhasin and Vijay Ramu, resulted in a day of spirited competition that raised vital funds for Texas flood relief and other service projects. Volunteers managed logistics, registrations, and contests such as the "Beat the Pro" challenge. LEAD (Leadership, Education, and Development) youth members Anoushka Bhasin and Mahathy Chintalapati emceed the awards ceremony, showcasing youth leadership in action.

Volunteers Deliver Relief Supplies to Families in Flood-Hit Villages of Kullu, India



Volunteers provided relief materials to 77 families in Kullu, helping them rebuild after recent flooding

Seva Bharati Banjar unit volunteers distributed essential relief materials to over 70 disaster-affected families in Kullu, in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh on October 4. Supported by Sewa International Bharath, the team reached Latada and Kanoun panchayats in the Sainj block, providing tarpaulins and blankets to help families. Additional blankets were given to elderly residents needing extra care. Beneficiaries expressed deep gratitude to Sewa for their timely support, which provided comfort and stability as they began recovering from the disaster.

Musical Fundraiser Backs Team USA Women's Blind Cricket World Cup Journey



Seattle concert (first two photos) raised funds to support Team USA Women's Blind Cricket Team's (third photo) debut at the 2025 World Cup

Sewa organized a musical event in Seattle, WA, to raise funds to support Team USA's first-ever Women's Blind Cricket Team as it prepares to compete in the 2025 World Cup in New Delhi on November 25. Seventy guests attended Sewa's fundraiser, featuring Anusha and Vasundhara Raturi, on October 25. The team USA includes athletes from 11 states, with two players from Washington state. CABI-USA and Samarthanam USA organized an eight-day residential coaching camp in San Jose earlier this year, from July 26 to August 2. The camp provided intensive training to 17 players. The program aims to build leadership and confidence among visually impaired athletes through teamwork and mentorship.

Mobile Medical Unit Educates over 400 Students on Hygiene in Manipur



Mobile Medical Unit educates over 400 students and 21 teachers in Manipur on hygiene, oral care, and skin health

The Sewa run SBI Sanjeevani Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) conducted an awareness session at Koinonia Training School & Institute (KOTSAI) in Hnahringkhui, Chandel, Manipur, on October 15. The session reached over 400 students and 21 teachers. The team provided interactive demonstrations on personal hygiene, oral care, and skin health. "Promoting healthy habits helps prevent common infections and builds lifelong wellness," Jinesh Lal, Executive Director, Sewa International, Bharat said. The session empowered students with practical knowledge, reinforced good hygiene practices, and highlighted the importance of preventive health education in schools.

Skill Centre Hosts Job Fair, Celebrates 240 Trained Students in Varanasi



Varanasi Skill Centre celebrates 240 students, awarding 50 job offers and promoting youth employment through training programs

The *Rojgar Mela* (Job fair) and Certificate Distribution Ceremony at the Skill Center in Rajatalab, Varanasi, on October 16, recognized 240 trained students. Fifty students received confirmed job offers, while 73 were shortlisted for second-round interviews, reflecting the program's impact on employment opportunities. Supported by IDBI (Industrial Development Bank of India) and NSDC (National Skill Development Corporation), the event highlighted skill development as a pathway to sustainable livelihoods. "This ceremony showcases the tangible results of training and dedication," a Sewa International, Bharat representative said, emphasizing how structured programs empower youth to build careers and contribute meaningfully to society.

Colorful SewaDiwali Car Parade Brings Festive Spirit and Food Donations to Roseville, CA



Diwali Car Parade in Roseville, CA, collected 300 pounds of food and celebrated the festival's spirit of giving

Over 25 Sewa volunteers joined the 6th Annual Diwali Car Parade in Roseville, CA, on October 25, collecting over 300 pounds of food for local families. The event aimed to raise awareness about Diwali and promote SewaDiwali, a nationwide food drive held during the festival. Before the parade, participants gathered for a brief cultural program featuring songs and messages about service and giving. "The purpose of SewaDiwali is to bring communities together in the spirit of sharing," said SERVE program coordinator Prabhakar Maramreddy. SewaDiwali lead for the greater Sacramento area, Chiranth Kalyanpura, explained the ongoing donation drive. The parade covered a six-mile route through busy streets before concluding at The Grand India Cuisine of Roseville.

The Silent Smile That Spoke to My Heart

- Jinesh Lal, Executive Director, SIB



Jinesh Lal, Executive Director, Sewa International Bharat, gave away bicycles to school-going girls in Andaman

It was a pleasant evening in Andaman, a picturesque island in the Indian ocean. It was a special event organized by Sewa International's SHE (Sanitation, Hygiene, and Empowerment Project for the Girl Child) program, focused on providing bicycles to school-going girls. Around thirty girls had come with their parents. The atmosphere was filled with anticipation, laughter, and excitement.

As I spoke about how a bicycle can change a girl's life—helping her reach school safely and save time —my eyes stopped on one small girl sitting quietly in the audience. She had a sweet smile on her face — calm, silent, and full of innocence.

Unlike the other girls who were talking and laughing, she silently watched everything. Her smile caught my heart. I mentioned her in my speech, "Look at that little girl—her smile shows real happiness and hope." When it was time to give out the bicycles, she walked up to the stage, received her bicycle with the same gentle smile, and quietly returned to her seat—no over excitement, no jumping with joy — just a simple smile on her face.

Later, one of our volunteers came up to me and said softly, "there is so much sorrow behind that little girl's smile. Her family has been through tremendous trauma. Her father passed away a few years ago. Her mother remarried, but was brutally killed in front of the girl by her stepfather, who is now in jail. Now she and her five sisters live with their grandparents."

My heart felt heavy. That little girl with a calm face had endured so much pain at such a young age. And yet, she smiled — not with sadness, but with strength. I am sure it wasn't just the bicycle that made her face so radiant. It was something deeper — the realization that she is not alone, and there are people ready to support her and stand with her. That smile was her quiet acknowledgment that she was not alone.

Since that day, her face often comes to my mind. Her silent smile touches something deep within me. I still struggle to control my emotions — sometimes tears well up, and I find myself turning away to hide them. I ask myself — after twenty years in social work, have I truly made a difference? Seeing children like her reminds me how much more there is to do, and how many lives still wait for even the smallest spark of hope.

But then I remind myself, maybe this is the reason I continue this journey. Maybe the meaning of all these years lies in moments like this — in one child's smile, in one spark of courage, in one heart that refuses to give up. That day in the Andaman Islands, I didn't just see a girl receiving a bicycle. I saw hope wearing a smile — a silent reminder of why we serve, and why we must never stop...

Family Honors Final Moments of Suresh Jain's Mother in Sonapat

Chairman of the Sewa Board of Directors, Suresh Jain's mother passed away at the family home in Sonapat, Haryana, while he was in Nagpur escorting dignitaries from the USA on October 2, Vijay Dashami.

Before her passing, she took up Sallekhana Vrata (a religious vow) and voluntarily gave up all food and water for 18 days, demonstrating remarkable inner strength. Though she could not speak or open her eyes in the final days, she remained aware of her surroundings and offered her last *Pranams* (salutation) to the deity of Mahavir Swami, the founder of Jain dharma.

Join Sewa's Year-End Campaign!

As we wrap up the year, let's celebrate the spirit of Sewa together. Our campaign highlights Education, Women Empowerment, Volunteer Development, and Family Welfare, leading up to Giving Tuesday.

Your support matters!

Follow, like, share, and spread the word to make a greater impact.

Together We Serve Better!

Upcoming Events

- November 10, 2025: Sewa Diwali Food Drive 2025 - Kentucky | Online / Kentucky (drive runs through Nov 10, 2025)
- November 13, 2025: Sewa Diwali Food Drive (Boston) | Boston — Diwali Food Drive (Nov 13 — Nov 15, 2025)
- Mid-November, 2025: Sewa Detroit LEAD 2025–2026 | Detroit, MI — LEAD program kickoff/program starts mid-November 2025
- November 21, 2025: Sewa Diwali Food Drive 2025 - Indiana Chapter | Online / Indiana
- November (ongoing) 2025: Dallas — Sewa Diwali 2025 | Dallas area (Diwali campaign runs Oct 7 – Dec 21, 2025)

Sewa International:

P.O. Box 12440 Emily Ct, Unit
901, Sugar Land, TX, 77478

(708) 872-7392

content@sewausa.org
www.sewausa.org



Editorial Team: Vidyasagar Tontalapur (Director Communications), Prof. Ramesh Rao, Inchara Kumar (Intern)