

Community Comes Together to Serve 1,000 Hot Meals in Channelview, Texas



Sewa volunteers packed and distributed meals and clean drinking water to affected communities across Houston, TX. Tiffany. Thomas, Councilwoman from district. F (In Red jacket in the middle) attended the event

In the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl, Sewa International partnered with seven other organizations to pack and distribute over 1,000 hot meals to those in need at the Praise Christian Church in Channelview, Texas, on July 14 as the community could not access clean drinking water and lacked power. The event was spearheaded by high school LEADs, who demonstrated exceptional leadership and organizational skills in bringing the community together.

Partners in this initiative included Praise Christian Church, Houston Responds, the American Society of Indian Engineers (ASIE), Lubrizol Volunteers, and the Houston Police Department officers. Each organization played a vital role in making the event a success.

Sewa volunteers packed and distributed the meals prepared by "Just the Crumbs Disaster Relief Ministries" into to-go boxes,

managed car lines, and delivered food to the local neighborhood.

In the wake of Hurricane Beryl's devastating impact, the volunteers have been working tirelessly to support affected communities across the city. The hurricane, which made landfall on July 8, has resulted in 36 fatalities, affected two million people, and caused an estimated \$3.3 billion in damages.

Sewa's relief efforts began immediately, with volunteers responding to calls from those stranded without power and food. Upon reviewing the initial efforts, Arun Kankani, President of Sewa International, said, "We have made progress, but there is still much work to be done. We urge the community to support our efforts through our Facebook fundraising campaign or by donating through our website."

Sewa Represents at the BRICS Civil Forum in Moscow



Shyam Parande, (2nd from left) Global Coordinator of Sewa International, with other Indian delegates at the BRICS Civil Forum in Moscow

Shyam Parande, Global Coordinator of Sewa International, joined a panel of experts, including Dr. Sabyasachi Saha of the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), Atul Jain, General Secretary of Deendayal Research Institute (DRI), Prof. Vandana Saxena of Delhi University, and Prof. Sonu Saini of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) at the 9th BRICS Civil Forum in Moscow, Russia, on July 3-4, 2024. The BRICS conference showcased grassroots leadership, social impact, and cooperation.

Emphasizing the power of collective action in driving positive change, Parande said, "Let this unity inspire us to strive for a better tomorrow, where collaboration and cooperation pave the way for a brighter future for all."

Music for a Mission: Chicago Hosts Fundraiser for Underprivileged Children

Sewa's Chicago Chapter is hosting a fundraiser on August 23, 2024, to support the Sponsor a Child (SAC) program, which empowers underprivileged children in India through education. The SAC program supports children from urban slums, rural, and remote tribal areas, including orphans, semi-orphans, and those from low-income families. By providing access to education, Sewa aims to break the cycle of poverty and create a brighter future for these young minds.

The fundraiser will be an evening event with music by talented artists. Dipti Desai, the chapter coordinator, said, "We hope to bring people together to support a program that brings hope and opportunities to those in need. We can and hope to make a difference."

For more information, contact: sewachicago@sewausea.org

Sewa International - Chicago
Sponsor-A-Child (SAC) Fundraiser

Donate Dollar a day or \$30 a month by visiting sac.sewausea.org

Yeh To Desh Hai Mera
A Musical Story of a Nation...

Director: Milind Oak
Narration: Nachiket Devasthali

Date: **August 23, 2024**
6:30 PM

Location: Yellow Box 1635, Emerson Lane Naperville, IL 60540

Sewa Atlanta Conducts Back-to-School Drive



Volunteers from Sewa Atlanta and the Hispanic community come together to distribute school bags to students at the Back to School Drive

Sewa Atlanta volunteers distributed 100 school bags to underprivileged students on July 2, partnering with the Hispanic community to host a successful back-to-school drive, displaying community spirit and bridging cultural divides.

Atlanta chapter president and Sewa's Vice President of Fund Development, Srikanth Gundavarapu, said that the back-to-school drive sought to empower children by providing essential school supplies, enabling them to start the new academic year with confidence and enthusiasm.

"By working with the Hispanic community, Sewa demonstrates its commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion. We are honored to have been a part of this initiative and look forward to continuing our collaboration with the Hispanic community," he said.

STEM Camp Inspires Young Minds in Vijayawada

Sewa International's Sponsor a Child (SAC) program recently hosted a two-day residential Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) "Anubhuthi Camp" on July 13 and 14, 2024, in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.

Twenty-eight students from grades 8-11, comprising 17 girls and 11 boys, attended the camp. The program offered a blend of hands-on science experiments, model-making activities, yoga, and value sessions, fostering holistic development and creativity.



Sravan (left) Manager, Agastya International Foundation, C.V. Sadasiva Rao, (center) PRO for Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari and Saravanan (right) SAC Project Manager - India at the Anubhuthi camp



SAC volunteers and Participants at the STEM Anubhuthi Camp held in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

C.V. Sadasiva Rao, PRO for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states at Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari, inaugurated the program. Retired Assistant Director of All India Radio, Vijayawada, Subhasekhar, and Chairman of Yazali Farmers Producer Company, Ikkurti Lakshmi Narasimha Rao, shared their expertise and insights on education and learning.

Sponsored by Honeywell and Agastya International, the SAC program seeks to equip underprivileged children with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to thrive in a science-driven future.

Sewa Supports Hollyoak Retirement Center

Volunteers began their efforts when Brooks Spangler, Community Disaster Program Manager at the American Red Cross of Georgia, reached out to Sewa about the dire situation at the Hollyoak Retirement Center on July 11. Within hours, they delivered hot meals donated by Maharaja Bhog, a Houston-based restaurant and food vendor, to the affected seniors.

Sewa's relief efforts began a day before the storm, with volunteers sharing non-emergency phone lines with the community, gathering emergency supplies, and preparing families for the impending disaster. During the storm, they alerted residents to evacuate, avoid damaged buildings and power lines, and consume safe water and food.

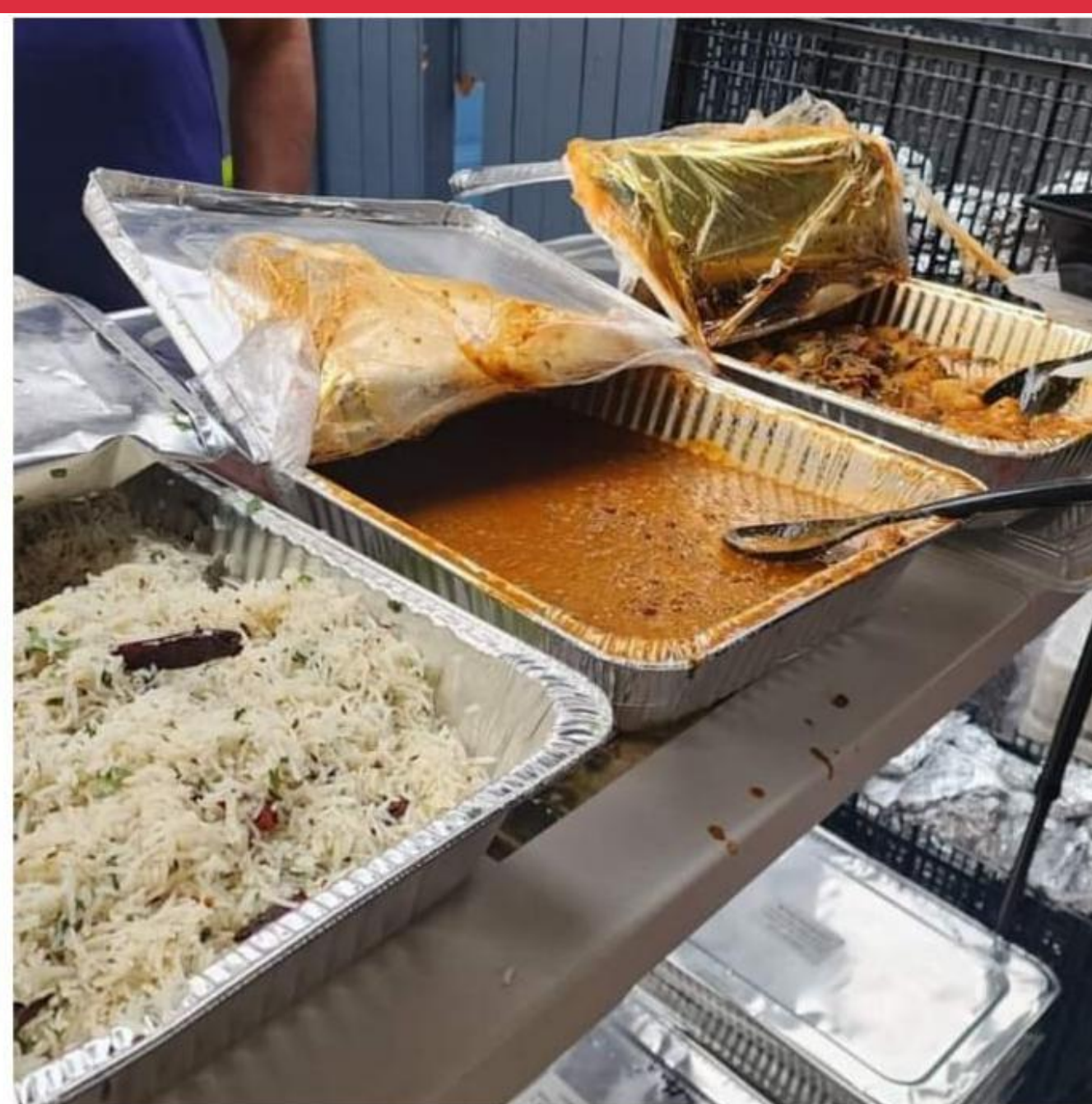
In the aftermath of the storm, Sewa volunteers worked tirelessly to reach out to families without power, delivering ice to help them cope with the heat and sharing information on roofing contractors and cooling shelters.

"I want to thank the many Sewa volunteers who are helping others despite facing challenges at their own homes, such as power outages and roof leaks," said President Arun Kankani, Sewa International. "Their selfless dedication is a testament to the spirit of community and compassion."



Sewa Volunteers delivered hot meals to the Hollyoak Retirement Center, Houston, TX

Stranded Students Get Aid after Hurricane Beryl



In a swift response to a distress call from the Consul General of India, Houston, on July 13, Sewa provided critical assistance to over 150 graduate students of the University of Houston, left stranded without electricity at Stratford House Apartments since July 8, following the devastating landfall of Hurricane Beryl.

Within hours of receiving the call, Sewa volunteers mobilized to set up a hot meal table, providing much-needed sustenance to the students, who were not only without power but also unable to venture out for food due to the severe weather conditions.

Furthermore, Sewa offered a two-night accommodation with power to over twenty students at a nearby facility, relieving them from the heat-related stress they were enduring.

"We are grateful for Sewa's prompt, tireless, and selfless efforts to provide us relief. Their actions embody the true spirit of service and harmony," said one student.

Sewa Volunteers served hot meals to the University of Houston's graduate students

Sewa Serves Hot Meals to Veterans in Missouri City, Texas

As part of its ongoing relief efforts for Hurricane Beryl victims, Sewa provided hot meal boxes on July 13, to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) at their post in Missouri City, Texas.

The VFW, the largest and oldest war veterans' service organization, has a long history of providing vital assistance and support to America's service members, veterans, and their families.



Sewa's Houston Chapter VP, Dr. Madan Luthra (left) and Joint Coordinator, Santosh Jha, at the VFW post in Missouri City, TX



Sewa volunteers distributed hot meal boxes to Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) at their post in Missouri City, Texas.

Emphasizing Sewa's comprehensive relief efforts for Hurricane Beryl victims, Chapter President Gitesh Desai said, "We are honored to serve those who have served our nation."

Our efforts are focused on providing comfort and support to the affected communities, and we are grateful for the opportunity to serve the VFW members today. Sewa's gesture is a small token of appreciation for their selfless service."

Volunteers Bring Relief to Houston



Sewa volunteers distributed bottled water to families in need, bringing hope and relief to Hurricane Beryl-affected areas of Houston, TX

In the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl, over 35 Sewa volunteers distributed much-needed water to affected areas of Houston, TX, on July 14.

In collaboration with District F Council Woman Tiffany D. Thomas and Council Member Edward Pollard, the volunteers delivered over 2,200 crates of bottled water to more than 1,000 families.

The joint effort, facilitated by Council Woman Thomas, an advocate for the people of Alief, Briar Meadow, and surrounding areas, and Council Member Pollard, owner of Pollard Legal Group, Limited Liability Company (LLC), demonstrated the power of community spirit in times of need.

Extending gratitude to volunteers involved in this relief effort, Houston chapter coordinator, Nikhil Jain, said that Sewa volunteers' dedication, hard work, and selflessness have made a tangible difference in the lives of those affected by Hurricane Beryl.

Volunteers Distribute Meals, Groceries, and Water

In the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl, Sewa volunteers supported the affected communities in Fort Bend County and beyond.

During the second week of July, when power outages plagued the region, Sewa's dedicated team distributed meals at the Telfair Cooling Center and New Territory Community Center in Fort Bend County.

Additionally, they delivered meals to senior citizens in the Katy and Richmond areas, ensuring vulnerable populations received necessary sustenance.

Furthermore, Sewa provided groceries to a women's shelter in Fort Bend, offering a lifeline to those seeking refuge.

As the organization enters the second phase of its hurricane relief efforts, it looks forward to continued community support.



Sewa Volunteers served hot meals to people in need at the Telfair Cooling Center and New Territory Community Center in Fort Bend County

Alief ISD Board Honors Sewa for Support during Hurricane Beryl



Representatives from the Southwest Management District received recognition from the Alief ISD Board for their donation

The Alief Independent School District (ISD) Board recognized the dedication and support of Sewa International and their other community partners during Hurricane Beryl at the July Board meeting.

The partners were honored on July 17 for their swift response in supporting Alief ISD families during the hurricane.

The Alief ISD Board extended a thank you to the Southwest Management District for their donation of \$2,500 to purchase school uniforms for students. This contribution is making a significant difference in the lives of Alief ISD students.

The Board expressed gratitude to all business partners who demonstrated generosity during the challenging times. Their support is a great help to the community.

The Houston Chronicle Recognizes Sewa for Outstanding Efforts

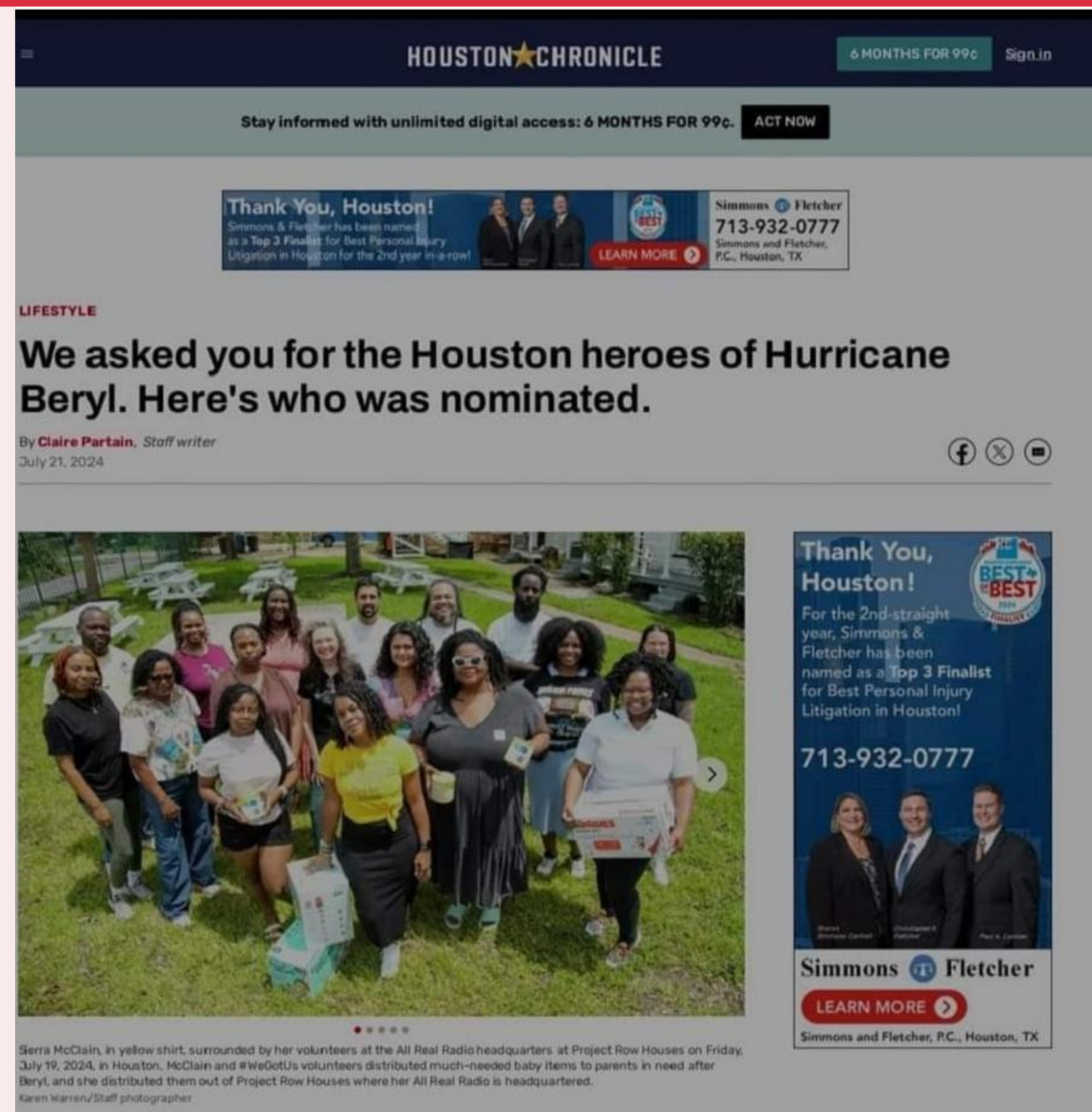
The Houston Chronicle in its July 21st edition acknowledged Sewa International's contributions to hurricane Beryl relief, particularly in the Cambodian refugee community in Rosharon, Texas. Volunteers Ranjesh Patwari, Abhishek Bhat, and Santosh Jha received special recognition for their tireless work in distributing essential water supplies. Sewa volunteers supplied more than 120 gallons of water to Rosharon in Brazoria County, Texas.

"We are proud to have partnered with community leaders and organizations to serve thousands of individuals, including senior citizens and students," said Nikhil Jain, chapter coordinator. "Together, we made a real difference!"

Volunteers Deliver Aid to Impacted Medical Students

On July 15, Sewa responded to a call for assistance from students living near the Medical Center, who had been without power for over a week due to Hurricane Beryl. Sewa arranged for approximately sixty meals to be distributed to the affected students.

Sewa and Hindu Yuva (a student organization) volunteers hand-delivered each meal to the students. The volunteers were met with words of gratitude and appreciation from the students. The Consul General of India, Houston, recognized Sewa's efforts, highlighting the importance of providing meals to the affected.



Volunteers from Sewa and Hindu Yuva hand-delivered meals to students living near the Medical Center in Houston, TX

Community Rallies in Beryl Relief Efforts

As Sewa supports Hurricane Beryl victims, the community has shown immense support and gratitude. "I never thought I would be in this situation. God miraculously does things, and as human beings we do not have any clue. Please let me know how I can help Sewa," said one recipient of Sewa's relief efforts.

Another individual, who received food from Sewa, expressed thanks, saying, "A hot dinner after four days hit the spot! Thanks to all the volunteers and Sewa team for coming forward in any crisis."



Sewa volunteers distributed 120 gallons of bottled water to families in need, bringing hope and relief to Hurricane Beryl-affected areas of Houston, TX



Sewa Volunteers served hot meals to people in need across Houston, Texas

Emphasizing the importance of community support during the crisis, Arun Kankani, President of Sewa International said, "Sewa has been serving people worldwide during disasters, and many Houston residents remember our relief efforts and rebuilding work during Hurricane Harvey in 2017. I appeal to people to donate to Sewa's 'Together for Texas' campaign to help Houston recover."

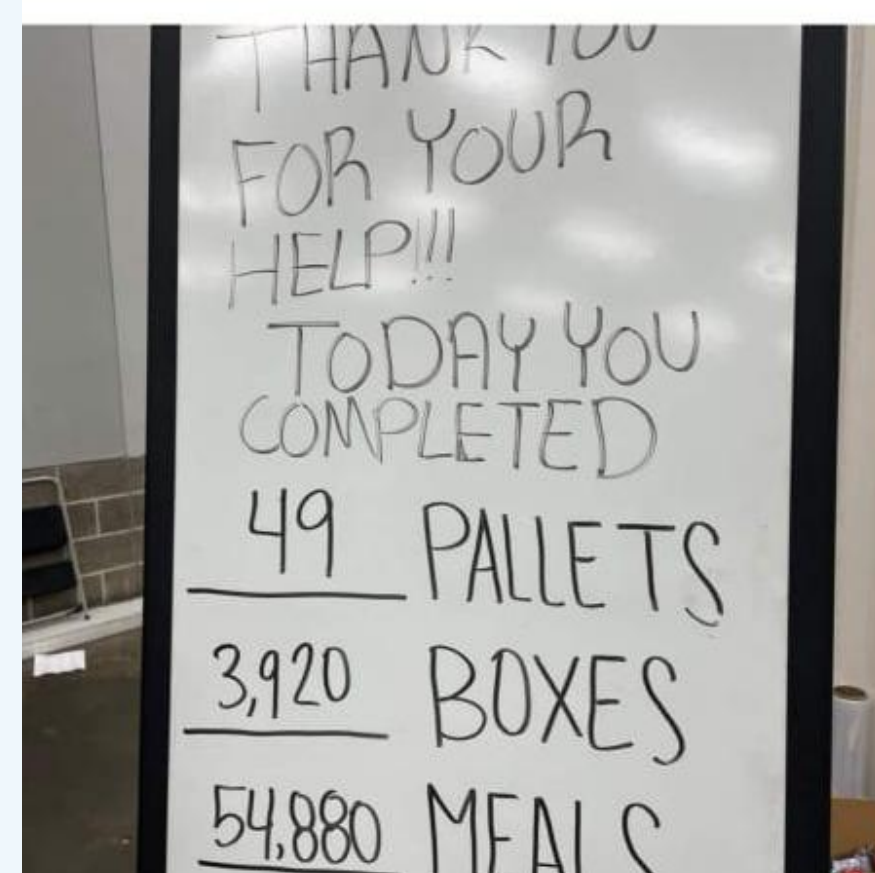
As a member of the Texas Gulf Coast Regional Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (TGCRVOAD) and other regional groups, Sewa continues to respond to the needs of the Greater Houston Community. For assistance or to support Sewa's efforts, call the helpline at 281-909-SEWA (7392) or email houston@sewausea.org.

Sewa Brings Crucial Aid to Fresno and Rosharon Communities

On July 20, Sewa Houston partnered with Houston Food Bank to distribute essential food items, including watermelons, apples, water, milk, and SoPakCo emergency meals, to families in Fresno and Rosharon affected by Hurricane Beryl.

Sewa mobilized over fifty volunteers to assist those affected by Hurricane Beryl, turning the Houston Food Bank into a hub of selfless service. The volunteers filled 49 pallets with food, equivalent to 3,920 boxes, providing approximately 55,000 meals for disaster relief to families across Houston.

Sewa volunteers expressed gratitude to the Houston Food Bank for assistance. The community's long-term needs are immense, especially for Rosharon's greenhouse farmers, who lost crops, greenhouses, and wells. More support is essential to help them rebuild and recover.



Sewa Volunteers and partner organizations served hot meals to families affected by Hurricane Beryl, in Fresno and Rosharon, Texas

Uttarakhand Villages Get Healthcare



Sewa MMU provided essential medical services to residents in Uttarakhand, India

The Sewa Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) travels 24 days a month, reaching over 300 villages to provide essential medical services directly to residents' doorsteps in the hilly terrain of Uttarakhand, India, where hospital access can be challenging.

The MMU offers a range of primary healthcare services, including blood tests, X-rays, and ECGs, ensuring timely check-ups and referrals to hospitals in emergencies. Specialized services include eye care, dental care, women's health, general check-ups, BMI assessments, prenatal and postnatal tests, pathology, and Ayurvedic treatment. Villagers also receive basic medications for a nominal fee. This initiative serves a broad demographic, from infants to senior citizens, ensuring that even the most remote communities can access essential healthcare.

Chicago LEADs Cohort Makes Significant Impact

The 2024 cohort of Sewa Chicago's LEAD program, comprising 132 participants, contributed over 3,000 hours of service on June 28. Their efforts included mulching the land in a local park.

The activities of the LEADs cohort spanned a wide range of areas, including environmental protection, security, education, and support for family shelters.

Besides their service work, the participants enjoyed holistic activities like yoga and meditation, with career support.



Sewa Chicago's LEAD members mulching fallen tree branches in a local park

Teeing-off for a Cause: Fourth Annual Sewa International Charity Golf Event



SEWA INTERNATIONAL CHARITY GOLF EVENT

SEWA USA

CLEAR CREEK Houston
Saturday, 9/14
3902 Fellows Rd. Houston, TX 77047

Registration 7:00 AM
Shotgun Start 8:00 AM
Lunch 1:00 PM
Prizes 1:30 PM

Format 4-Player Scramble
\$500 / Team
\$150 / Person

CONTACTHOUSTON@SEWAUSA.ORG
(281)-630-8685

LAW OFFICE OF YOUNG HEALTH

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Fourth Annual Sewa International Charity Golf Event commemorates 9/11 events by bringing together golfers and volunteers to raise funds for recovery efforts following the impact of Hurricane Beryl. The event will take place on September 14, 2024, at the Clear Creek Golf Club in Houston.

We offer several sponsorship packages and encourage you to share this opportunity with golfers in your community and workplace. Your support will make a significant difference! Sewa looks forward to everyone's participation and seeks volunteers for this good cause!"

For more info:

Phone: (281) 630-8685

Email: contacthouston@sewausea.org

Register here: [Event Registration] (<https://sewausea.org/event-5800248>)

LEADs Team Tackles Food Insecurity in Central Jersey

The Central Jersey LEADs team recently addressed food insecurity by preparing and delivering meals to the New Brunswick United Methodist Church on July 27.

The volunteers gathered for a group cooking session, fostering friendship and connection, with a menu featuring chickpea curry, rice with peas, and flatbread.

New Brunswick City Government and the United Methodist Church at New Brunswick extended their gratitude for the LEADs' contribution.

Rajesh Sharma, chapter coordinator, said, "This initiative showcased the true spirit of service and community, allowing volunteers to witness the meaningful impact of their work. The Central Jersey Sewa LEADs are honored to be part of this effort and anticipate continuing the support."



The Central Jersey LEADs team prepared meals

Upcoming Events

- Aug 17, 2024: Sewa, HSS, & Art Of Living - 5k Walk/Run | Arbor Park - Morgans Spur Dr, Fulshear, TX
- Aug 17, 2024: Visit to Eternal Gandhi Museum Houston | Riceville School Road, Houston, TX
- Aug 18, 2024: Sewa Detroit - Health Care Proxy and Living Will | Virtual (Zoom)

Sewa International

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