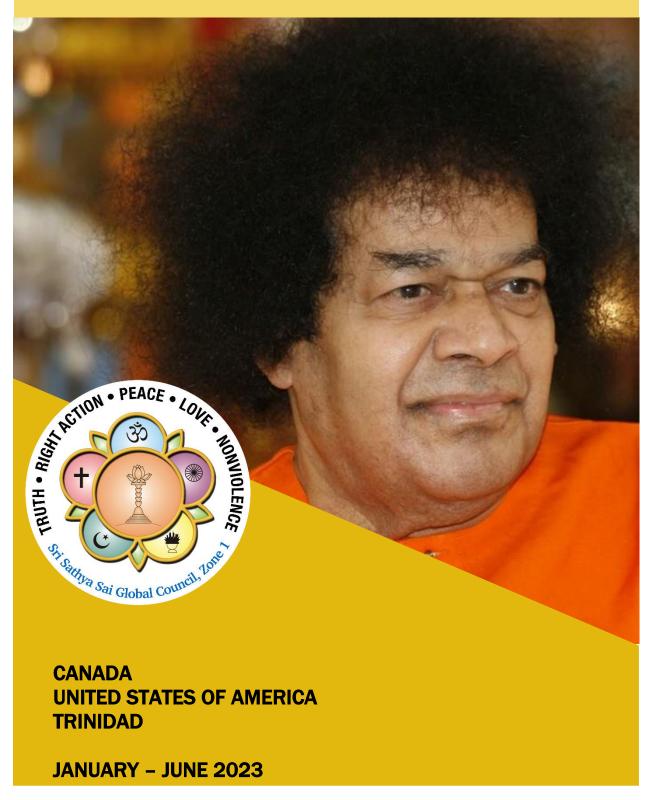
# SRI SATHYA SAI GLOBAL COUNCIL – ZONE 1



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OFFERED AT THE DIVINE LOTUS FEET OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI	

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# **OUR LIFE IS HIS MESSAGE**

The legacy of Bhagawan will be carried forward by our thoughts, words and deeds. As we transform ourselves to manifest more and more of our inherent qualities of virtue, self-control,

and detachment with faith and steadfastness, we will in turn transform our communities and our world.

It is heartening to see the Sri Sathya Sai Global Council family throughout our Zone continuing to work diligently through devotional, educational and service activities on an ongoing basis.

We offer our gratitude to our Dear Bhagawan for these opportunities to serve Him and His organization and we pray that we continually transform ourselves to be worthy of representing His name and carrying on His Legacy.

Your virtue, self-control, detachment, faith, steadfastness — these are the signs by which people read of My glory. January 25, 1963





# **National Service Team**

1. **Turkey Disaster Relief** - On February 18th, Seva team organized a drive to collect winter clothes, jackets, blankets, sleeping bags and hats + gloves to be donated to those impacted by the Disaster in Turkey. Seva team brought the donations to the Vice Consul of the Consulate General of Turkey and he expressed gratitude to the Sri Sathya Sai Global Council of Canada for their contributions towards disaster relief efforts in Turkey.

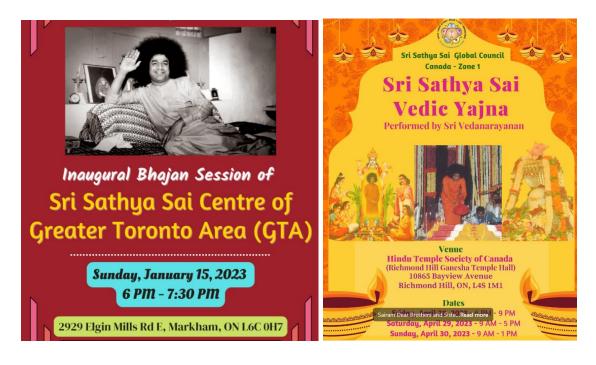
2. **Tree Planting** - On April 22 2023, Seva Team and many devotees from Sri Sathya Sai Global Council, helped the City of Pickering to plant trees.

3. **Vedic Yagna** - Seva Team helped with the coordination of the event which involved a wide scope of activities such as: serving meals to devotees that attended the event over the course of three days, helping serve puja items to all devotees and during puja, cleaning up at the end of each day, helping set up hall and food hall"

# **National Devotional**

- 1. Akhanda Bhajans
- 2. Inaugural Bhajan Session for SSS Centre of Greater Toronto Area
- 3. Three days Sathya Sai Yajna

4. Regular online study circle and Sanskrit classes happening for the last 2 and a half years (conducted by Brother Arunodayan)







# **National Education Wing**

- 1. National Vedha Classes for SSSE Children and Adults,
- 2. National Guru training,
- 3. National Guru Webinar,
- 4. National Gr 4 Classes,
- 5. National Easwaramma Day Retreat,
- 6. Children participated in the National Yajna.









# National Young Adults Wing1. YA led Tabla Workshop2. Assisted with Vedic Yagna3. Tree planting participation



# **Centre Reports**

#### Markham and Eglinton Sai Centre

<u>Service</u>: Participated in the Scarborough Village Community Park cleanup project. <u>Devotion</u>: Conducted weekly online Thursday Bhajans and Sunday Bajans <u>SSSE</u>: Conducted weekly online Sunday Study Circle Conducted online SSE classes on Sundays

#### Morningside Sai Centre

<u>Service</u>: Monthly Narayana Seva to Good Sheppard Shelter downtown Toronto. <u>Devotion</u>: Twice a month in person Bhajan and bhajan practice on other weeks. <u>SSSE</u>: Twice a week virtual SSE classes and twice a week

Kids participated in Easwaramma day program.

#### Victoria Park Sai Centre

Service: Donated food items to Daily bread bank. Participated in Tree planting.



<u>Devotion</u>: We are conducting Study Circle for Seniors. We provide bhajan training to elderly devotees:



<u>SSSE</u>: We are also conducting Balvikas classes for the children regardless of their religious background. We are conducting bhajan practices for young children. In order to encourage the children in centre activities, they receive a certificate of achievement from our centre.



<u>Young Adults</u>: Participated in Sri Sathya Sai Vedic Yajna and assisted the National Seva team. Participated in Tree planting. Donated winter clothing and blankets for the Turkey Disaster Relief drive. Donated Food items to Daily food bank.



Sri Sathya Sai Center of Greater Toronto Area Service: Arranging the Center altar Devotion: Bhajans and Veda chanting



#### <u>SSSE:</u> Lansdowne Sai Centre

<u>Service</u>: Our center participating in all the national and regional seva activities Food bank



Devotion: Bhajans every THURSDAY bhajans from 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. We have 18 members ,including one child and a young adult.



#### **Donmills Sai Centre**

Service: Narayana seva

<u>Devotion</u>: In-person Bhajan every other Sunday and now online Bhajan every Sunday **Sai Samarpan** 

<u>Devotion</u>: We celebrated special events Shivaratri, Aradhana Day, Ramanavami and Easwaramma day. Our regular bhajans are every Sunday.

#### SSSBC of Middlefield

Service: Narayana seva, Christmas clothing and toy drive, supporting national events (like tree planting)

<u>Devotion</u>: weekly bhajans, celebration of special events (Pongal, Easter, Eid, Shivarathri special bhajans and programs, guest speakers to raise awareness on climate preservation and Veda chanting, 48 hour Gayatri chanting

<u>SSSE</u>: weekly SSE classes, students consistently participate in weekly bhajans and special programs, older students are trained to provide technical support, ~100 students enrolled from pre-SSE till Group 4. SSE events include Easwaramma day, monthly Sunday SSE bhajans, mirudhangam classes;

<u>Young Adults:</u> regularly offer special musical programs to commemorate holidays; heavily involved across the wings as gurus, bhajan singers, event coordinators, and office bearers.

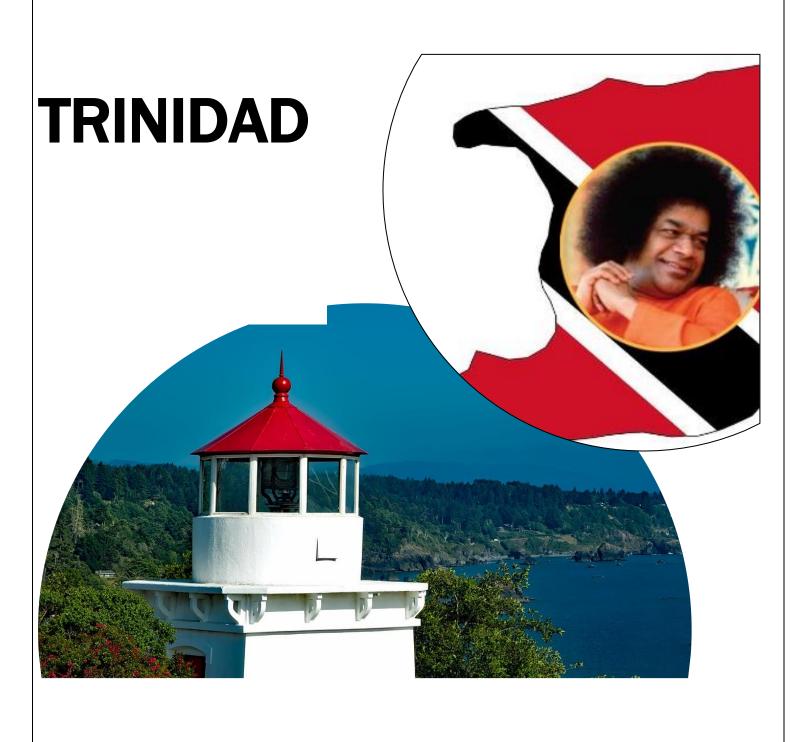
#### Markham Sai Centre

<u>Service</u>: Serving cooked food to homeless shelter, serving food and essential items to Narayans directly (street seva), helping kids with reading skills, helping with centre activities during special occasions and on bhajan days.

Devotion: Sunday bhajans, Thursday online bhajans

SSSE: Balvikas on Sundays and reading Sai literature





# **National Reports**

The Twin Island Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has a thriving diverse population of different faiths and ethnicities. The SSSGC of Trinidad and Tobago is well known and recognized as a service organization with many ongoing projects up lifting our fellow men, women and children. Listed below are some of the activities that have taken place from the inception of this year to May31st 2023. Trinidad and Tobago has a high volume of Seva and devotional activities offered at the divine lotus feet of our lord Sri Sathya Sai Baba occurring at the following Centres:

- 1. Sri Sathya Sai Global Council Center Rio Claro
- 2. Sri Sathya Sai Global Council Center of Milton
- 3. Sri Sathya Sai Global Council Center of Akbar Trace
- 4. Sri Sathya Sai Global Council Center of Lange Park (Global Council Headquarters)
- 5. Sri Sathya Sai Global Council Group of Lakshmi Narayan Temple

# **National Education**

- There are 6 SSSEHV classes conducted weekly, age 11 to 16 years
- 2 SSSEHV classes conducted weekly, age 5 to 10 years
- 2 SSSE classes conducted weekly ages 5 to 10 and 11 to 17 years.

Some of the activities conducted with the kids are as follows: Human Values and Yoga



Animal and Environmental Seva



A program called "adopt a pet" where we rescue strays and abandoned animals, care for them, spay, neuter, provide medical care, and then re-locate them caring home.

## **EHV** programs



Rio Claro Hindu (primary)school and two remote communities, Provided hot meals, for both kids and parents and snack bags for the children.

#### **Project Design**

SSSEHV kids participated in projects to design and build models to compact waste to occupy minimal space. They were recognized by the Ministry Of Education for their efforts and highly praised.



#### Mother's Day in May 2023



SSSE kids conducted a program honoring Mothers on Mother's Day in May 2023.

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you" (Exodus 20:12).

## Family fun day



Everyone came together and participated in a family fun day in honor of Mother Easwaramma

#### A young Adult Initiative



A program in honor of Aradhana Day- where young adults saved their own money and with the assistance of Gurus and parents, prepared hot meals and served to homeless people and needy people in remote villages.

#### Juvenile Prison Visit



On the 24<sup>th</sup> April SSSEHV Gurus together with Seva Wing participated in an interactive human values session with juvenile prison inmates. Toiletries hampers were given to 36 inmates.

#### National Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Seminar



Education personnel joined with NGO's in the region and conducted a seminar on National Disaster Preparedness and Prevention in May 23 2023.

#### **Guyana Visit**



Members conducted SSSEHV classes in Guyana. Two classes ages 5 to 9 years and 10 to 16 years. They conducted a mini walk for values in Guyana and a few outdoors

activities- Love for Nature and Easter program including an Easter egg hunt. Also parents in Guyana participated in parenting program for parents of teenage and preteens.

## **Community Members and Volunteers**



Education Wing network with NGO's, community members and volunteers, prepared hot meals, clothing, bedding, toiletries, towels, bulk food items, and cleaning supplies, to assist flood victims in their areas.

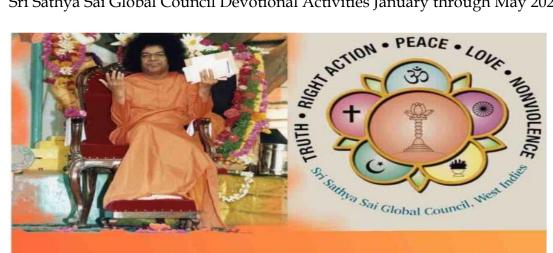
#### Satsang At Lakshmi Narayan Temple



Conducted a Satsang at Lakshmi Narayan temple in April 2023. The topic was how to integrate human values in daily lives.

#### Other:

Education Wing conducts weekly study circles on 5 of the 10 topics provided. Also conducts weekly Gayathri Mantra chanting with SSSE kids and their parents. Sri Sathya Sai Global Council Devotional Activities January through May 2023



Sri Sathya Sai Global Council of T&T invites you to join our First Satsang of 2023

observing Makar Sankranti



**Makar Sankranti** was observed and celebrated on January 15 2023 with devotional singing, a message from Swami and a couple of short divine messages. The ambiance was serene and loving.

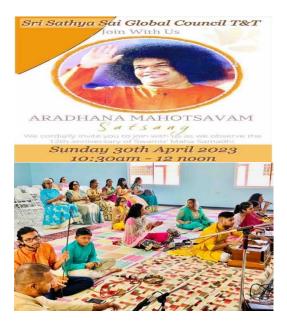
Sri Sathya Sai Global Council T&T

invites you to join us as we observe

The 8th day of Chaitra Navratri Date: 29th March 2023



On 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023 **Navratri** was observed and celebrated with vibrant devotional songs glorying the Divine Mother and a divine message on the inner significance on Navratri



On Sunday 30th April Aradhana Mahotsavam was observed with heartfelt devotional

singing a divine message by our beloved mother Sai and short talks by devotees. It was truly a memorable morning of devotion and inspiration.

# **Young Adult Seva Activities**

Over the past year the YAs have been offering our love to Swami through various aspects of seva.

<u>**Plant Seva:**</u> whereby seedlings (inclusive of patchoi, tomatoes, baigaan, chive, celery, lettuce, ochro and cucumbers) were distributed to 45 families, helping them start their own kitchen gardens.

- 27 Food Hampers were distributed to our brothers and sisters in need

- School supplies were provided to a Form 6 student

- cleaning supplies provided to families affected by flooding in South Trinidad - Financial contribution to a student to help with school supplies and grocery items **Monthly YA study circle via zoom.** 

**Environmental Initiative**: Starting June 2023, will be carried out monthly. With Swami's grace, we hope that this will continue successfully throughout the new year. **Children's Home Visit**: Outing to Movietowne C3 to see a movie with a Children's Home (a home from Chaguanas)

On Sunday 4th June (with the start of the rainy season), YAs distributed 50 packages (blanket, towel and raincoat) to our brothers and sister residing on the streets. They were also given light refreshments in the form on a soft drink and a sandwich



#### **Plant Seva**



On 4th February, YAs gave out plant packages to 35 families. Each package included seedlings (tomato, ochro, cucumber, lettuce, baigaan, patchouli), fertilizers and manure. The package also included a brochure on how to plant and take care of the seedlings.

#### Children's Home Seva



On 29th April 2023c the YAs visited the little ones of the Chickland Children's Home. It was truly a beautiful visit. We had loads of fun with the kids. We took cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, cheese, cereal, personal hygiene items, snack bags, pizza, donuts, drinks, games (Ludo, snakes & ladders, jenga, monkeys, footballs, cricket, face painting). (Attendees from SSSGC-TT: 12) **Rainy Season Preparedness Seva** 

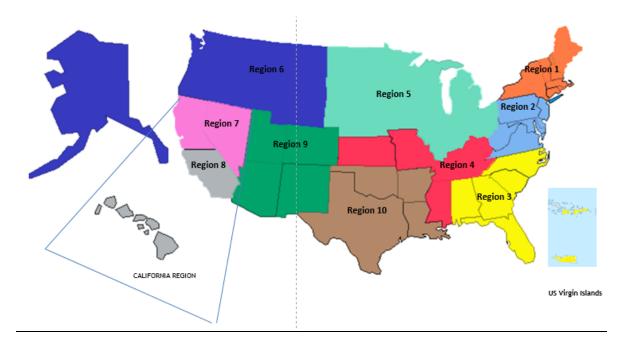


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# UNITED STATES

The Sri Sathya Sai Global Council USA is comprised of 10 regions with a total of 92 Centers/Groups. In the first two quarters of 2023 we are blessed to have 3 additional centers join: Jersey City (Mid-Atlantic, Region 2), Rochester (Northeast, Region1), and Stockton (California, Region 7/8).



# SERVICE WING INITIATIVES

# SSSGC-USA Region 1 Service Updates

#### **Preble Homeless Shelter Food Seva:**

For over 15 years, the **Scarborough Sai Center**, **NY**, has continued to faithfully serve the residents of the Preble Homeless Shelter in Portland, Maine. Three to four families participate in sandwich preparation by providing around 100 to 150 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches twice a month. Due to greater demand, the Sai members have increased the participation to 150 sandwiches every week. They also lovingly prepare 4-6 pasta trays for dinner meals at the shelter. Once a month, the members provide breakfast items such as sugar, coffee, syrup, and pancake mix for five families as well as donate non-perishable foods.

<u>SSSPAVE (Sri Sathya Sai Program for Awareness of Human Values and Educare)</u> <u>Initiative at the Homeless Shelter</u>: As part of the community outreach through service, the **Scarborough Sai Center** has initiated service activities to connect with the community with an increased awareness of Human Value Concepts. As a practice, they have incorporated universal sayings and Swami's quotes by preparing stickers and attaching them on each sandwich bag while distributing them at Preble Street Soup Kitchen. Additional SSSPAVE human values engagement is being explored with Preble Street Shelter.

#### **Nursing Home Seva Project:**

The center members of **Scarborough** participate in quarterly visits to nursing homes where they get to closely interact with residents along with a pianist accompanied. Three senior centers were visited during the first half of the year that resulted in marvelous musical sessions with various songs and universal Bhajans sung which brought bountiful joy to the residents and Sai members alike. Also, the Scarborough Sai Center members engaged with the members of the senior homes in reading inspiring quotes from Swami, Martin Luther King, and Mahatma Gandhi.





**SSSPAVE - Sharing Quotes with Nursing Home Residents** 

#### **Easter Service Activity:**

Over Easter weekend, April 9th, 2023, the Scarsdale Sai Group, NY, consisting of 3 to 4 members delivered 50 full stocked bags containing hygiene related items and food items. This was a special holiday service activity.

#### Street Narayana Seva:

A group of Scarsdale devotees came together and joined in Swami's Love to coordinate a Food Seva Project for Narayanas on the streets of New York city, many of them homeless as they live on streets and desperately looking for day-time work. This is a personal interaction with the underserved community to help with basic amenities.

#### **Hygiene Kits Activity:**

The **Scarsdale Sai Group** lovingly put together hygiene kits, including the following items: toothpaste & toothbrush, soap, paper-roll, shampoo, socks, snacks. These items were then brought by a Sai devotee to a park in Manhattan, NY. Then, those items were sent to another devotee who lives in Long Island, NY. The items were then distributed

and well-appreciated by the people who received them locally in Hempstead, NY (which has a local homelessness issue due to the laws where shelter access is limited to legal residents).

#### **Collaborative Sub-Center Seva Activities:**

Undeterred by the limited membership, the **Scarsdale Sai Group** would often join with Norwalk and Stamford Centers in Connecticut as part of sub regional special services activities like clothes, blankets, and non-perishables food drives. This collaboration across 2 states has highly inspired the team involved to do more seva locally and also taught the devotees a big lesson, which is to always have Gratitude to Swami for everything He provides.







Audrey Dryer Food Pantry & Spooner House Food Pantry: Shelton Sai Center, CT, generously donates to the local Audrey Dryer Food pantry and the Spooner House food pantry on a quarterly basis. On special festivals, a list of pantry items will be collected and delivered to the food pantry. The list of non-perishable items includes pastas, pasta sauces, mac and cheese boxes, chickpeas cans, peanut butter, jelly jars, canned soups, canned peas, fruit cans, pancake mixes, pancake syrups, variety of cereal boxes, instant oatmeal, breakfast bars, shopping reusable bags. Members derive great satisfaction in personally distributing these bags to shelters, food pantries, and individual homes.

#### **Spooner House Food Pantry**



#### SSSE Tutoring & SSSE Service Projects:

SSSE students of **Shelton Sai Center** have been teaching online math classes to children overseas in India. Starting when the schools were shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this online tutoring service SSSE students still continues and is often supported by the young adults.

SSSE students took part in a special blanket project during the winter months. They put together blankets for an underserved community. Additionally, they have put together backpacks for children and children's books. Preparing sandwich lunch bags for the children is also a regular activity that the SSSE students of Shelton Sai Center.

**GC Syracuse Sai Center, NY** participates serving the local area homeless shelter by providing pizza and sandwiches every bi-weekly. Additionally, the Syracuse members collect and donate several hundreds of pounds of non-perishable food items to the local food bank four times a year. When a special opportunity was presented in the form of serving the refugee families from Ukraine this year, the Syracuse Sai Center members gathered in a spirit of service and put together many suitcases full of supplies like blankets and clothes, as requested by the organization.





# **SSSGC-USA Region 2 Service Updates**

Earthquake Relief Supplies Service: Sai Centers of Region 2, USA have joined hands in collecting and donating to serve the earthquake victims of Turkey and Syria. Based on the assessment of the immediate needs, items such as tents, non-perishable food items, warmers, socks, jackets were collected. More than 1000 volunteers regionwide participated in this service. Bethesda Sai Center of Maryland coordinated the shipment through Turkish Embassy in Washington DC.



**Edison Sai Center, NJ** in collaboration with Sarva Dharma Sai Center organizes a monthly market seva at South Plainfield, NJ to benefit the low-income communities. Sai volunteers collect rice, beans, cereal, and vegetables, placing them in an open area for distribution by creating a marketplace experience. Other service activities by Edison Sai Center include monthly nursing home visits and Arista Adult Care Center where Sai volunteers get to spend quality time interacting with the elderly guests of the adult care center.

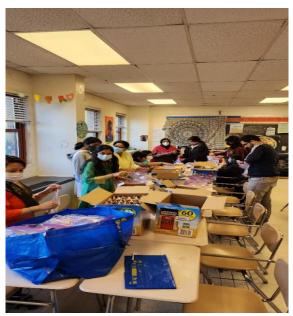
Edison Sai families observe Mahasamadhi Day in community Narayan Seva with all the GC centers together cook thousands of meals for 15 soup kitchens across the state of New Jersey.

**Sarva Dharma Sai Center of New Jersey** facilitates consultation and advice with licensed and self-insured medical doctors of certain specialties. The Center also arranges homeopathic consultations with a licensed and self-insured doctor. These services are conducted on select Saturdays of the month. Every Saturday, volunteers prepare lunch bags for distribution to the needy in nearby communities on a weekly basis.

Besides monthly food donation service activities, the **East Brunswick Sai Center of NJ** members actively participate in SSSPVAE Program by providing remote learning support for underprivileged children. Volunteers conduct weekly Zoom sessions to assist school-going children from 4th to 11th grade.

**Bridgewater Sai Center of New Jersey** members have several green initiatives that include organic farming. Other service activities include monthly food pantry donations, knitting hats for infants in hospitals for Mahasamadhi Day, School bulletin board seva to spread values-based character-building message to Children. Collection and donation of canned foods, fresh vegetables, fruits and water to homeless shelters is one of the most participated service activities by the members of the Bridgewater Sai Center.





**Loudoun Sai Center, VA** organizes a medical camp once a year in partnership with Bethesda Sai Center at the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Other projects include several green initiatives, such as Potomac riverbed cleaning during the springtime and yearly tree planting drive.

Freshly cooked meals and food pantry services are a few frequently conducted service activities by **the Baltimore Sai Center**, **MD**. Tree planting drives in observance of Earth Day is yet another significant service activity by the members.

## **SSSGC-USA Region 3 Service Updates**

**Charlotte Sai Center** activities include serving freshly prepared sandwiches and other food items to the Men's Shelter in uptown Charlotte every Sunday. Other service activities include Adopt a Street, visiting elderly nursing homes, tree planting, etc. In observance of the Aradhana Day, the center SSSE kids prepared more than 100 greeting cards for the residents of the area nursing homes and women's shelter. 108 Sandwich bags containing peanut butter sandwich, banana, chips and juice were also prepared and donated to the Men's shelter.



TOY DRIVE BY MISHITHA Toys delivered at Levine Children's Hospital



HYGIENE KIT DRIVE BY ISHITHA-- All items donated to Salvation Army Center of Hope Shelter for Women and Children



ANIMAL SHELTER DRIVE BY ADITRI-All items donated to Humane Society of Concord and Greater Cabarrus County



FOOD DRIVE BY PRASHANTHI-- all items donated to SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK.

**Orlando Sai Center, FL** members participated in Peanut butter sandwich seva project and donated to the Russell homes for atypical children as a part of the Aardhana Day April 24 2023 and for Ishwaramma Day on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Other service activities include collecting dental hygiene kits for the residents of the Orlando rescue mission for women and children.



**Raleigh Sai Center, NC** Sai volunteers focus on serving brown bags with fresh fruits to support the Cumberland County Seniors Meals on Wheels Program. Other service activities include donating monthly breakfast supplies to Raleigh Men's Shelter, Park Clean-up, and Sai Tutoring Program where volunteers provide weekly one to one tutoring via Zoom to an underserved elementary school student from the Durham Public School district. Medical and non-medical volunteers of the Raleigh Sai Center conducted a Vision Camp with support of Garner Baptist church in March, 2023. Sai members also serve at the Pediatric Clinic Food Distribution Project, where grocery bags are distributed to Lincoln Community Health Center Pediatric Clinic's families in need.

**Jacksonville Sai Center, FL** brings smiles to the seniors citizens at Taylor Care Center with Ice Cream Social Service. Other activities include monthly Narayana Seva at Sulzbacher Center's Homeless Shelter and Soup Kitchen Seva at Mission House.

**St. Thomas Sai Center, VA** service activities include serving the residents of the Elder Shelter Brandt and Nana Baby Home and Yellow Cedar Home with nutritious meals along with spending quality time with the residents.







**Asheville Sai Group, SC** participates in Meals on Wheels, collect food items for Manna Food Bank, donation of warm clothing, blankets, tents for the homeless, and serve at the local pet shelter.

## **SSSGC-USA** Region 5 Service Updates

**Indianapolis Sai Center, IN** members participate in monthly Soup Kitchen Service activity on every first Saturday of the month. It involves preparing food at the Soup Kitchen. This service is located at the North Methodist Church located in downtown Indianapolis. Center members of all age groups, gather Saturday mornings at the church, prepare fresh healthy, vegetarian food, and serve it to the homeless. Warm food is served to around 50 people who come to the Church. This activity typically involves 25 or more volunteers from our Center.



Canned Food Collection for Metropolitan Baptist Center Food Pantry is another activity that was organized in observe of Aradhana Day where the members collected and donated over 500 cans of non-perishable canned food and donated to the food pantry.

Items donated included canned fruit, vegetables, corn, peanut butter, pasta, pasta sauce, etc.



Lunch sacks for Homeless Shelter for Men in Indianapolis

Another activity involved preparing 180 sack lunch bags containing peanut butter sandwiches, fruits, etc. which were then donated to the Homeless Shelter for Men in Indianapolis



This activity was solely completed by 13 Group 4 students.

**Columbus Sai Center, OH** members participate in diaper repacking service in collaboration with the Columbus Diaper Coalition which collects diapers from different

sources and distributes them to non-profit organizations. These organizations in turn distribute the diapers to families in need. Members, including the children actively participate in this semi-annual service activity. Other frequently conducted service activities include preparing peanut butter jelly sandwiches on a monthly basis to support the local community centers.



# SSSGC-USA Region 7/8 Service Updates

As a regional service activity, **the CA Sai Centers** support the following local service organizations:

Santa Ana School District: Provide Non-Perishable & dairy items to the families of the students attending SAUSD- 15 families each week.

Olive Crest (provides assistance to the abused kids by providing housing, food, counseling etc.): Provide blankets and non-perishable food items.

Grandma's House: (transitional housing for adults and kids and those affected by human trafficking). Provide hot meals and blankets.

Stand up for Kids (supports homeless kids): Deliver blankets, bed sheets and nonperishable and dairy products once a month.

Huntington Park: Conducted a medical camp on April 30th and also provided nonperishable food items for 800 families.



**Tustin Sai Center, CA** activities for the reporting period include the following: Weekly Narayana Seva to the homeless and emotionally challenged women of the WISE Place, Santa Ana by serving freshly prepared hot breakfast every Saturday. Similar service to the homeless men at Southwest Community Center, Santa Ana.



Breakfast Prep at Southwest Community Center, Santa Ana

In addition to the above activities, Tustin Center is a regular participant in events such as Regional Medical Camp at Huntington Park, Food distribution at Santa Ana/Huntington Park for families via Instacart, Fresh hot dinner meals delivery at shelters in Anaheim (150+ served) and at special service projects every year honoring Swami's Aaradhana day, Guru Purnima, and Swami's Birthday preparing and delivering meals across various shelters in Orange County (250+ served).

**Tri-Valley Sai Center, CA** Sai Center service activities include: Modesto Dinner Seva - Cook Dinner at Modesto Salvation Army Shelter to serve the homeless and hot dinner is served to homeless brothers and sisters at Modesto Salvation Army on every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month. SSSE Sandwich Service - Fresh 120 sandwiches are prepared once a month and delivered to Modesto Salvation Army.

Concord Lunch Seva - Freshly prepared lunch served once a month to homeless brothers and sisters at Concord Adult Homeless Shelter.

Fremont Dinner Seva - Cook Dinner at Homeless Shelter to serve the homeless and hot dinner is served to homeless families with kids once a month.

**Northeast San Diego Sai Center, CA** service activities include: Narayana Seva – Serve fresh hot cooked food of Rice, Chili packed in separate boxes, Fresh Salads and Peanut butter jelly Sandwiches, fruits, clothes and hygiene items collected and delivered every Sunday to the homeless shelters.







**Sri Sathya Sai Baba Center of Concord, CA** service activities include: Weekly Narayana Seva – Once a week brown bag lunches for homeless shelter residents around Concord area distributed with SSSE children including.

Elderly Home Service – Once a week sharing music with Convalescent home residents Singing English bhajans/Christmas carols at the nursing home facility.



Making Holiday cards at the Center and Convalescent home service activity:





## **SSSGC-USA Region 9 Service Updates**

Mesa Sai Center, AZ activities include:

Feed My Starving Children service This service was re-established near Swami's birthday last year after Covid-19. It's on a once/month basis and very well supported by parents and children of SSSE program. We sometimes have parents and children of non-Sai devotees. This service is a very good way to spread Swami's message of Help Ever Hurt Never and Love All Serve All to the communities we line in. Appx 20 volunteers pack appx 600 shelf-stable meal for children of underprivileged countries in appx 3 hr. Volunteers from other local Sai Centers participates occasionally.

iHELP Dinner Service This service was also re-established near Swami's birthday last year after Covid-19. It's on a once/month basis. Appx 10 volunteers prepare a full vegetarian dinner meal for appx 40 people who are displaced from homes. The meal is prepared at home by volunteers and served hot at a local church. The service takes appx 3 hr.

Blankets, Hats / Beanbags This is a new service activity in preparation for Swami's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Appx 8 ladies are making blankets and newborn babies. They buy raw material and stitch blankets. They also make hot massage beanbags used for muscle/joint pain. The target is to keep making ~100 blankets and ~100 beanbags every quarter. The progress is very good so far.

Habitat for Humanity This service was re-established near Swami's birthday last year after Covid-19. It's on a once/month basis and takes appx 4 hours. Appx 5 volunteers help build new homes and provide new hope to people who are challenging themselves to get out of being on road/homeless.

Tutoring We took a mission to establish this service near Swami's birthday last year. As we discovered that our sister wing SSSPAVE is also working on the same initiative, we decided to leverage their expertise. We have given our prospective volunteer names to SSSPAVE committee and waiting for further development.

Refugee Support Apart from the regular service activities listed above, Mesa center has donated clothes, snacks, food, toiletries, first aid kits and provided rides to the airport when needed by the Iglesia Cristiana el Buen Pastor church which conducts refugee camps to help out asylum immigrants. The center has also donated almost 300\$ worth of toiletries, Socks to the Cultural Cup Food Bank.

Phoenix Sai Center, AZ service activities include:

Clothes Drive During the pandemic, we had a high demand for clothes supplies from the homeless People while serving breakfast. In which we were able to hand delivered supplies to the needy across the phoenix valley.

Monthly Hygiene Items Drive Conducted a hygiene-kits drive to support homeless people. This Andre House organization makes a difference by keeping clients happy, which was delivered to various homeless people across the downtown area along with freshly prepared hot breakfast.

Tree Planting Service As part of go-green initiative, devotees in greater phoenix are planting trees/plants in the backyard/community this year to commemorate our Beloved Swami's 98th Birthday.

**Scottsdale Sai Center, AZ** support the jointly participated in the following service activities by the Greater Phoenix area.

Andre House Breakfast: This is an ongoing service activity for a very long time, appx 20+ years. It's on every Sunday basis and very well supported by parents and children of SSSE program. We sometimes have parents and children of non-Sai devotees. Phoenix, Mesa Centers and Scottsdale group, Young Adults take one Sunday/month on rotational basis. Appx 10 volunteers prepare a hot breakfast for appx 300+ homeless people. The service takes appx 3 hr.

Monthly Andre House To-go Sandwich Bags Drive: the Sri Sathya Sai centers of greater phoenix, conducted a Peanut butter- jelly sandwiches drive along with breakfast items and juice to support Homeless community. Due to pandemic, there was a high demand of food supplies, in which the donated items were delivered to the Andre House facility.

Blood Donation Drive: Sri Sathya Sai centers of greater phoenix conducted a blood drive in partnership with Vitalent in the valley, which helped to save people in the community hospitals. The blood drive is conducted twice a year.

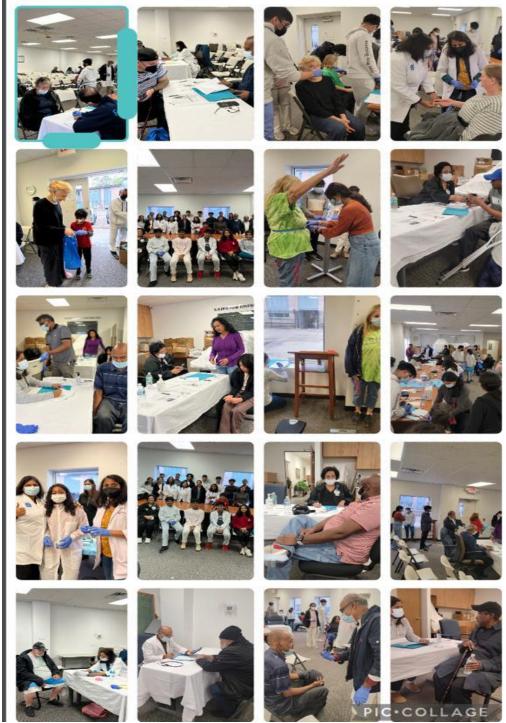
## SSSGC-USA Region 10 Service Updates

<u>**Trees Planting and Give Away with Trees for Houston:**</u> We have planted 54 trees and done a free tree give away of 2500 trees along with Trees for Houston.



<u>Preventative Health Screen :</u> We did a preventative Health Screen at the Turning Point Center and were able to serve the 35 residents at the Center and give medical help and

advice. These were high risk individuals with 66% being obese or having diabetes, 33% with hypertension.



<u>Turkey Earthquake Relief Seva</u> - For the earthquake relief in Turkey our Region was able to send 250 lbs. of winter clothes, diapers, tents, power banks etc. Shipment was coordinated through the Turkey embassy, Houston.

<u>Soles4Souls Seva-</u>Collected and sent 200 pairs of shoes to send to the children who are disadvantaged and for families to start up their own small scale industries.



# YOUNG ADULT WING INITIATIVES

#### SSSGC-USA Sai Young Adult Update

One of the highlights of the USA Sai Young Adult program this year was the first-ever National YA Mini-Retreat in Raleigh, North Carolina in February 2023. With over 100 young adults from all over the US, the Sai-inspired event embodied great unity, love, and teamwork to make this event truly memorable.

First, Young Adults broke the ice and set the tone for the weekend with the **Evolution** of a Sai YA panel discussing the challenges we all face with social media, societal pressures, marriage and mental health. To reflect the diverse interests and experiences among the Sai Young Adult community, the panelists were selected to represent different "ages and stages" of the YA age range, along with different professional and personal interests. The common denominator, of course, was love for Swami and commitment to understanding and applying His teachings.

Throughout the weekend, Young Adults were able to question norms, develop confidence, and delve into the fundamental questions of "Who Am I?" "Where am I?" and "Is that enough?" to help YAs understand that we are truly His instruments and that He continues to guide us lovingly throughout our lives. Some of the key takeaways, based on the interactive sessions:

**Who am I?** - Through the chutes and ladders of life, He's always sending messages meant for you. Fill yourself with love to pop the barrier between you and God.

Where am I? - Life is a game, challenge, dream, and sacrifice. But most importantly, wherever you are, life is love, so enjoy it.

Is that enough? - When answering this question, trust the God within yourself.

Swami sent gems in the form of our workshop leaders. They did an incredible job guiding YAs to find their inner selves.

Through our Peace Plans, we saw how YAs could leverage their skills and interests in one hour to develop and present sustainable solutions to some of our world's greatest challenges. It also reinforced the importance of creativity and working together, often uncovering latent talents and interests among Young Adults when they are given the chance to express themselves. We were enlightened by the divine messages of our **SAIx talks** - the real order of spiritual development is Bhakti, Shakti, Mukti, and stay saying "OMG" for all of the beautiful life experiences and emotions He gives us.

We found ways to center ourselves, physically by learning **Tai chi** and through selfless **service** - making over 108 hygiene kits, cooking nourishing food for homeless shelters, and making affirmation cards and paintings for hospital patients. This is all truly a sign of His grace!

In addition, YAs relished in divine vibrations for over six hours by the act of group devotional singing on the auspicious occasion of **Shivaratri**. This devotional session was even more uplifting because it was coordinated in conjunction with the Raleigh Sai Center's own Shivaratri program, thereby reflecting the balance between Sai Young Adults both flourishing in an environment which allows for expressive creativity and also within the structure of the larger Sai organization.

And through it all, the Young Adults were constantly aware of the Source which made the journey possible. Thank you, Swami!

In addition to organizing and attending the National YA Mini-Retreat, many Young Adults have been busy in their own groups or centers – with study circles and workshops, devotional singing, service projects, or while assisting with the SSSE program, either as gurus or volunteers. Similarly, numerous YAs have remained active with regional or special programs, e.g., plays, skits, or musical offerings, and other broader SSSGC initiatives, such as the 2023 SSSGC Young Adult Program for Leadership and Self-Transformation.











# **DEVOTIONAL WING INITIATIVES**

### **Region 1**

Efforts were directed at promoting engagement within the region, particularly in terms of devotion activities. These activities include the study of Vahinis and the organization of monthly Path Inward for Path Forward (Friday Night Satsangs), as well as collaborative celebrations among Sai Centers within this region.

#### Vahini Study:

In order to generate more engagement and foster a deeper understanding of spiritual concepts, the region decided to embark on the study of Vahinis. This study involved inviting a guest speaker to kick off the sessions and conducting recap sessions over a period of eight weeks. The study commenced with Vidhya Vahini in January facilitated by brother Aruno Uthayan, where the group studied for about 6-8 weeks. At the end of eight weeks in late February, a recap session facilitated by brother Aruno was held, during which participants from the region shared their learnings with the larger Region 1 community. The study continued with the Dharma Vahini in May led by Sister Janani Srinivasan and will carry on for two more months.

#### Path Inward for Path Forward Satsangs:

To provide a platform for spiritual discourse and guidance, a monthly series called Path Inward for Path Forward Satsangs was initiated. These sessions featured guest speakers from Prasanthi Nilayam who shared their wisdom and insights followed by a Q & A session. This gave the attendees an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding and reinforcement of spiritual principles and practices. The Friday Night Satsangs have been well received by the entire region, and Sai Centers have expressed their excitement to participate in such activities that promote unity and oneness. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Dr P L Rani, Dr Siddhartha Raju, Dr. Lathasree and Amey Deshpande from Puttaparthi for their exceptional leadership and dedication in guiding these Satsangs. Their contributions have been invaluable in fostering spiritual growth and creating a meaningful experience for all the participants.

#### **Collaborative Celebrations:**

Sai Centers in Shelton, Norwalk and Scarsdale have been actively coming together to celebrate major functions throughout the year. These centers take turns hosting events, thereby fostering a sense of camaraderie and shared responsibility within the region. Shelton hosted the New Year celebration and Aradhana day, while Norwalk organized a 10-hour Shivarathri event. These collaborative celebrations have been successful in bringing devotees together and creating a supportive and inclusive environment.

### **Region 2**

#### SSSGC Center of East Brunswick, New Jersey

Devotion Wing Activities:-

Our center meets Every Thursday for Bhajans from 8pm to 9.15pm

Every Sunday we have SSSE ,Study circle & Bhajans from 2pm to 4.30pm.

Sunday Bhajans we encourage kids to participate .Each group from ssse kids sing every Sunday.

#### Study Circle:-

Currently we have finished Prashanthi Vahini .This year We are focusing more on Swami's Vahini .

In between we show some talks and discussions from the SSS Media center.

#### **Celebration/Observance of Festivals**

Swami's Birthday
Aradhana Day
Ram Navami/Easter
Buddha Poornima
Eshwarama Day
Thanksgiving Day Bhajans
Christmas



#### SSSGC Center of Baltimore, Maryland

Weekly study circles we read and contemplated on pre-conference materials such as 'Daiva preethi, Paapa Bheethi and Sanganeethi', 'Ten guiding principles' and 'Dharmic Challenges'.

Member volunteers read a paragraph, followed by discussion by all participants and end the discussion with take aways.

Swami's presence was felt during the discussions to guide us through these deep topics. These Materials clarified doubts that come across in day to day life and materials helped to put the Swami's teachings into practice for participants.

A summary of the discussion is shared in the weekly center email. Here are some recent take-aways:

1) God is the embodiment of love and the ocean of compassion.

2) Have confidence in yourself and strive to understand well the nature of God's love.

3) To secure that love is the sacred goal of human life.

4) Dharma is the foundation for the welfare of humanity. it is the truth that is stable for all time.

5) Man has to slay the six-fold beast of inner enemies (arishadvarga) that lead him on to disaster Thus, only can dharma be restored.

By Swami's Grace, we had a Easwaramma Day Program from Saturday, May 6th from 10 PM EST to 2 PM EST which included plays of SSSE Children, Musical Offering by YAs and Bhajans from center members.



All center members enthusiastically participated throughout and shared the joy of singing Swami's Glories on this very auspicious day.

#### SSSGC Center of Delaware

Our center meets every 2nd and 4th Sundays between 3:30 PM and 5:30 PM. Study circle is conducted between 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM while children attend SSSE during the same time. Currently we are conducting Satsang on Dhyana Vahini. We read the literature, then discuss and share our experiences among the group. We sing bhajans from 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM concluding with Sarva Dharma Prayer and Arathi to Swami.

Parenting Study circle happens every first Sunday of the Month from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM while the SSSE children prepare Sandwiches and Trail Mix to distribute at a nearby homeless shelter. We sing bhajans after that and disperse.

We celebrate various festivals throughout the year. Starting with Shivaratri, Ram Navami, Swami's Aradhana day, Eswaramma day, Guru Pournima, Dasara, Akhand Bhajans, Swami's birthday and Christmas. Guest speakers are invited during Swami's birthday and throughout the year whenever someone is available.



SSSE Children participate in many of these Celebrations actively. During this year's Eswaramma day children lead the bhajans for the whole program and played instrumental music. SSSE Children also offer a play during Swami's Birthday Celebrations. During this

year's Eswaramma Day SSSE students studied Swami's 10 guiding principles and made a presentation at the center. SSSE Children sing bhajans throughout the year. They are taught bhajans during SSSE by the Gurus.

#### SSSGC Center of Loudoun

Loudoun Sai Center meets every Sunday during the year from 9:30 am onwards at Claude Moore Recreation center.

- 1. Bhajan/Devotional Singing
- 2. Study Circle/Satsang on Swami's Teachings
- 3. Celebrations/Observance of Festivals
- 4. Participation in National/Regional Programs

#### 1. Devotional Session

3 Oms

Opening Prayers, Swami Darshan Video followed by Ashothram, Jyothi Meditation, Sai Gayatri Chanting etc. Learning of new slokas, Veda pertaining to relevant festivals Satsang related to Vahinis or 108 Divine Names, CLC satsang material followed by Bhajans 3 Oms Bhajans – Lyrics are projected for Live Bhajans Swami 's Bhajan Closing Prayers Sarvadharma Prayer Aarathi Samastha Lokah Mantra Vibhuti Mantra

SSSE Bhajans:

- SSSE Bhajan workshops are conducted 2 times in a Month where bhajan gurus teach and train the kids by explaining the meaning and correct pronunciation of the bhajans with thalam and Shruthi.
- SSSE students offer bhajans on the First Sunday of the month.

Special Events:

SSSE/YA and Adults participation in Special Events National Regional Level Programs Center Level Programs (Swami's Birthday/Sri Rama Navami/Easter/Aradhana Day/Easwaramma Day)

Learning Veda and Sloka pertaining to festivals:

- a. Mantrapushpam
- b. Hanuman Chalisa

#### c. Lingashtakam

#### Continuing to learn:

- Madhurashtakam
- Durga Suktam
- Ganesh Pancharatam
- Sri Sathya Sai Navaratna Mala

### 2. Study Circle

Center members completed Satsang on Prema Vahini. During the Study circle session, facilitators conduct interactive sessions with active members who bring in their reflections, experiences and apply them as life applications.

#### **Parenting Study Circles:**

Parental workshop study circles are conducted with parents and members every 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, sessions had various discussion on human values parenting about Sai life and mission, balvikas and Sathya Sai on parenting, inherent values of child and role of mother and father.

#### 3. Center Festivals and Events:

- 1. Guru Purnima 2022 celebrations Guest speaker Soumya Panchanathan followed by bhajans.
- 2. Krishna Janmashtami was celebrated by singing bhajans of Lord Sai Krishna.
- 3. Ganesh Chaturthi was celebrated with bhajans related to Sai Ganesha.
- 4. Celebrated Dasara festival by singing glory of divine mother Sai.
- 5. Avatar Declaration Day was celebrated by inviting Brother Abhi Kaul followed by Bhajans.
- 6. All center members including SSSE, and YAs participated in global akhanda bhajans.
- 7. Swami's 97<sup>th</sup> Birthday was celebrated by chanting vedam, musical offering with bhajans, Guest speaker talk and Cake cutting for Swami.
- 8. Christmas was celebrated with carols by SSSE and English bhajans offering.
- 9. New Year Eve Bhajans we welcomed the new year by singing glory of Lord Sai.
- 10. Sankranti 2023 festival was celebrated center with swami discourse and bhajans.
- 11. Chinese New Year was celebrated by SSSE students 'presentation, chanting Buddam Sharanam Gacchami, Swami Discourse followed by Bhajans.
- 12. Maha Shivaratri was celebrated by chanting Rudram, Lingashtakam followed by offering of Shiva bhajans by SSSE, YA's and Adults.
- 13. Namasmarana as part of Bhagawan's Centennial birthday celebrations, members offered Laksharchana chanting of OM SRI SAI RAM.

- 14. Chanting of Saraswathi Ashtakam by SSSE kids on occasion of
- 15. Rama Navami Celebrations Hanuman Chalisa Chanting followed by offering of Rama Bhajans
- 16. Easter was celebrated with Swami discourse followed by SSSE kids bhajans.
- 17. Aradhana Mahosthavam of Bhagawan chanting Mantra Pushpam, offering musical skit by adults and YA's followed by guest speaker talk by brother Balu Karanam.
- 18. Easwaramma Day (SSSE students offered their gratitude to Lord Sai and Mother Easwaramma with Dramas, Dance, Sloka chanting, Music program and Bhajan Medley.)
- 19. SSSE Graduation Day 2023

Graduation ceremony for Group 4 kids

#### Speech by graduates

Musical Offering by special guest Dr. Sivaprasad Komaravolu (Whistle Wizard) Arathi and closing Prayers.

- 20. Sri Sathya Sai Vratam Center performed Sri Sathya Sai Vratam every Ekadashi or Purnima of the month at a member residence.
- 21. Rudra Abhishekam was performed at member residence every Masa Shivaratri of the month.

#### 4. Center participation at Regional / National Events

With Bhagawan's grace, center members including SSSE kids, YA's participated in various events at National, RadioSai, Regional.

- 1. National Global Akhanda Bhajans
- 2. Radio Sai Global Akhanda Bhajans
- 3. Regional Memorial Day Retreat.

Here are some of the photos from our center/regional activities in the past:



Guru Purnima 2022:

### Ganesh Chaturthi, Diwali, Dasara Celebrations





## Akhanda Bhajans at Center/National/Radios



Swami Birthday Celebrations 2022





Christmas & New Year Eve Program:



Aradhana Day Program:



### 2023 Pictures Sankranthi/Chinese New Year/Maha Shivaratri/Rama Navami



#### **Region 3**

#### SSSGC Center of Atlanta

Atlanta Sai Center has celebrated several festivals and occasions during the previous 12 months each one filled with Swami's messages, Swami's stories and Swami's glory. Here are a few of the events that we celebrated.

#### Krishna Ashtami

We designed an hour and half program that juxtaposed the life of Lord Krishna with that of Swami and looked at how each of their lives only to discover that both of them offer similar message! This program was filled with childhood of Krishna and Sai Krishna, youth of both of them and adult life and message of both of these incarnations. Glimpses from the days events can be see here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zsRmtLKgwQA&list=PLPovtwE2P1eW4yIIW19 UnA\_nww5Nt1Ch4

#### Ladies Day

Atlanta Sai Center has celebrated Ladies Day in a grand manner. We had two special speakers on that occasion along with a special ladies appreciation activity. Glimpses from this day can be seen here:

Cultural Activity: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=izLqtJ58TzQ</u> Speaker 1: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=upJ7bDotjDM</u> Speaker 2: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=um8yRcX722w</u>

#### Akhanda Bhajans

Atlanta Sai Center had a very energetic and inspiring Global Akhanda Bhajans in November! We also had the Church members (the Church where we have our weekly devotional service) come and join our devotional bhajans on that day. They came and sang songs too on that day. With over 275 people in attendance it was a glorious occasion.

Glimpses from the day can be seen here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-Mpl7txlrQ

#### Talk to Mrs. Geeta Mohan Ram

We had Mrs. Geeta Mohan Ram as a special guest at our Center and she gave a very inspiring talk on that day.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5RbwhAP1Nw&t=407s

#### Swami's Birthday Celebrations:

Atlanta Sai Center celebrated Swami's birthday in a big way. We had several service projects that we participated in and also had a very special devotional program. With close to 300 people in attendance the energy was palpable.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bu9HNGRUoGc

#### Mahashivrathri

We had a truly blissful Mahashivrathri celebrations at the Center. For the first time we performed Ekadasa Rudrabhishekam at the Church during the midnight which went on until 3.00AM. This was after a couple of hours of energetic Shiva Bhajans.

**SSSGC Center of Raleigh Sai Center:** Bhagawan on this years auspicious occasion of Maha Shivarathri. The spiritually uplifting program started with a themed altar on Saturday at 5:30 PM with Rudram Chanting, Lingashtakam, SSSE bhajans followed by bhajans by seniors, adults and National YA's. Omkaram and Suprabhatham started at 5 AM and bhajans concluded with energizing Unison Shiva Medley and Arati and closing prayers by 6 AM.

#### R03-Raleigh-P2



**SSSGC Center of St. Thomas:** With immense gratitude to Swami for giving us an opportunity to serve in this Divine mission, we started our New Year 2023. We all were very excited with our New roles. The transition was very smooth as most of us had served in a different position and now just had to focus more on a different aspect of the organization.

The first big event of the year was Shivratri. We had very strong participation especially from the SSSE kids. We all, including the kids sang bhajans, everyone did the Lingam pooja and devotes also sang a beautiful Bhajan Medley. The event ended with Havan and chanting of Maha Mrityunjaya Mantra 108 times.

On Aradhana Mahotsavam, bhajans were rendered with love by Sai members. This musical journey interspersed with cherished memories and inspiring experiences by long time Sai Devotees.

**SSSGC Center of Charlotte:** After the new officer's took over for the 2023-2025 term, many events thus far had been celebrated and offered to Swami in a grand way. Every month, there is "Glory of Sai" which is a member experience satsang. Members share how Swami has touched their lives and their personal transformation. Study circles are conducted every week followed by devotional bhajans. The first sunday of the month program is offered by SSSE with bhajans.

Shivaratri : Leading to the Shivaratri for 21 days, members were provided opportunity to study Swami's teachings on Shiva for each day and reflections were collected for member sharing. The Shivaratri program began at 5.30 pm with Aumkaram followed by Ganapathi Atharva Sirsham. Devotees listened to Swami's discourse on Shivaratri which is then followed by Bhajans adult and SSE. The SSSE children offered a beautiful medley which is then followed by Lingothbhavam and Vibhuti Abishekam. Members offered bhajans that contain the word Lingam and Vibhuti. Simultaneously videos of Swami doing the Vibhuti Abishekam were played. The bhajans went on throughout the night with special rudrabhishekam performed at midnight. The event ended with a beautiful medley by adults, suprabhatham and mangala arati.



Sai Picnic

Members of the Center got together for an informal picnic at a local park. The event is filled with fun games for adults and children. The center officer's provided updates on each of their areas of responsibility and took feedback from other members on areas of improvement.



#### Aradhana Day

The center celebrated Bhagwan's Aradhana day in a grand way with 5 other centers in the region joining together. The event started with a Nagara Sankeertan with Swami on the Palki. Guest speaker Brother Kumar was invited and he shared many inspiring stories of his relationship with Swami and how he was trained by Swami on bhajan singing. The YA did a panel discussion while the SSSE prepared a skit. The adults got together and offered Sathya Sai Pancha ratna kritis. The recitation was so mellifluous and took several months of practice. Musicians joined from neighboring centers and made it a grand offering. The event ended with high energy bhajans.



**SSSGC Center of Clearwater:** Birthday Program was conducted on Nov 20th, 2022. The theme was "Religions are many, GOD is one". We had a vibrant SSSE program, followed by speakers from the center.

Shivaratri Program: A full night uplifting bhajan was conducted on Shivaratri night starting at 9 p.m. till 7:00 a.m. the next morning.

Aradhana Day Program: Guest speaker brother Ravi Mariwalla energized the audience with his talk. The SSSE program included skits on devotion, speeches, bhajans and dances.

#### **Region 5**

**SSSGC Center of Indianapolis:** At Indianapolis Sai Center, we hold bhajans every



Sunday morning at 11.30am. In an effort to increase outreach and participation from SSSE parents and student community, we have introduced a new initiative, whereby SSSE students have a platform to showcase their talent and at the same time make an offering to our beloved Lord. SSSE children have been offering an instrumental bhajan every week to Swami. Right

before the bhajans, an SSSE child with knowledge of any musical instrument selects a bhajan of their choice and offers it to Swami. This has encouraged a lot of SSSE families to attend bhajans. At the end, they also offer Aarthi to Swami. We have started this initiative from Sankranthi this year, and we have seen a good amount of interest from the SSSE community and we hope that the Divine Grace of Bhagavan draws more of His children to His Lotus feet. In addition to holding bhajans every Sunday morning, our center also offers special musical programs to Swami on occasions such as Aradhana Day, Shivarathri, Guru Purnima, Ram Navami, Krishna Janmashtami, New Year, Christmas and Easwaramma Day. For Shivarathri we held bhajans from 6pm to midnight. The night was filled with the glorious repetition of Swami's name by children, adults and young adults alike.

**SSSGC Center of Columbus:** Devotees at Columbus Center meet every Sunday. Devotional program includes Veda chanting followed by bhajans.

Typical bhajan sessions include bhajan medley that is sung in unison. Apart from listening to center members experiences with Swami, we have had the great blessing of listening to many visiting devotees share their experiences during these Sunday sessions. All the major festivals are celebrated at the center with a special devotional program to highlight the inner significance of the event. On the holy occasion of Bhagawan's Aradhana Day, brother Bharat Datt shared numerous experiences that Bhagawan blessed him and his family with.



#### SSSGC Fort Wayne group: Currently are doing

monthly bhajans and we have special bhajans for Swami's birthday, Shivarathri, Rama Navami etc that includes additional Swami discourse/videos for all of us to see and enjoy.

We also started the weekly Satsang series titled Listen, Absorb and Assimilate series where center members along with some from the region also join in virtually via zoom on Thursdays for the last 3 months or so. We are planning to continue this towards Swami's 100th birthday. We are also embarking on additional service activities/ planting trees locally as part of preparations for Swami's 100 th birthday.

#### Region 7 (Northern California)

SSSGC centers of Trivialley and Concord got together to celebrate Shivarathri. On the occasion of Sri Rama Naval, Trivially center members put together a play based on Sri Ramayana. All the major festivals are celebrated at centers including Easwaramma day. Most recently, a mini retreat was coordinated on the theme of "Bend the body, Mend the senses and End the mind". Guest speakers included Sri Vedanarayanan from Prasanthinilayam and Dr. Balu Karanam, National President, SSSGC USA. Program also included whistle wizard Sri Siva Prasad presenting a bhajan offering.

#### **Region 8 (Southern California)**

SSSGC centers in southern California celebrated all the major festivals including Shivarathri and Eswaramma Day. On the occasion of Bhagawan's Aradhana Mahotsavam, Sri Prem Anosh from Prasanthilayam spoke to the devotees in this region. Special Satsangs were held with Sri Vadanrayanan and Sri R.J Rathnakar, Managing Trustee of the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust from Prasanthinilayam. A mini retreat was conducted with Sri. Vedanarayanan Kollengode as the guest speaker.

#### **Region 9**

#### SSSGC Centers in Phoenix area:

1. On Jan 1st, Scottsdale and Mesa centers together hosted a talk by Mr. Manoj Bhimani, who is the Managing Trustee of the Sri Sathya Sai Heart Hospitals in Gujarat, India, that are totally dedicated to humanitarian and charitable causes.

2. For Maha Shivaratri, Mesa center hosted 12-hour overnight bhajans, starting with Sri Rudram chanting.

3. For Aradhana Mahotsavam, Mesa center hosted a talk by Prasanth Sai Gauripeddi, who had the good fortune of getting educated in Swami's educational institutions from kindergarten to post graduate degree.

4. On May 20<sup>th</sup>, Mesa center hosted the first Nagar Sankirtan/ Walk for Values of 2023. (Picture attached). We plan to have 3 more this year – in June, September and

October. Also attached is a picture of the Relay race conducted by the YAs at the WFV, to demonstrate the values of cooperation and patience.

5. In June, another small batch of SSSE children and YAs will get together to learn the Sri Sathya Sai Suprabhatam.

6. Ongoing - Studying Vahinis, Gayathri/ Sai Gayathri Chanting once a quarter.

#### **Region 10**

New Year Eve Bhajans: The SSSGC center of Dallas started 2023 with a special bhajan on New year eve till midnight and stating the year with Ganesh bhajan and Arathi. We also had SSSE children participating in large numbers along with adults and YAs.

Shivarathri: SSSGC center of Dallas celebrated Shivarathri this year with 12-hour bhajan for the first time. The bhajans were interspersed with vedam, shiva stutis/shlokas and with the suprabatham at 5am followed by group rendition/Shiva bhajan medley and arthi.

https://www.youtube.com/live/\_S1HDfvoJ6k?feature=share

Aradhana Day: Special event was conducted on the Aradhana day this year starting with soul-stirring gbhajans on our Bhagawan. Following the bhajans was a wonderful talk by a senior devotee Shri Krishnaswamy on how to do aradhana for Swami as all devotees listened with rapt attention. The section of the event was a musical offering starting with devotional song O Sai Maa and concluding with Swami's favorite qawwali 'Sai Bin Raha Na Jaye'.

https://www.youtube.com/live/gPt5HZ7UMqI?feature=share





#### Aradhana Day Photo



#### EDUCATION WING INITIATIVES

• National modular training for Gurus and parents. It is done both online, in person and hybrid.

• Harmonious Homes- Human Values Parenting- Study circles for parents are being done in Centers. The guides are prepared at the national level.

• Sathya Bodhaka- Teacher of Truth- bimonthly study circle guide for Gurus.

• Lamps of Love- Gurus enrichment. This was an enrichment done for Gurus region by region. The topic was chosen based on their needs.

- National Online SSSE class for families who do not have a Center within 1 hr of their home.
- Work In Progress-

 $\circ$  Group 4 curriculum based on Bhagwan's discourses.  $\circ$  Group 1-4 curriculum teams are being assembled.

### **Regional Initiatives in USA**

## Region 3: Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, St. Thomas (US Virgin Islands), Alabama

#### Total Number of Children- 340

#### Gurus- 60

Activities include

Regional Service opportunity,

Retreat workshops leading opportunities for guru's and students.

Center presentations that can be part of zoom programming online.

Participation in ladies day retreat and leading workshops.

Encouraging Harmonious Homes parenting study circles and monthly SSSE service at center levels.

Encouraging out of the box field SSSE lessons such as go green lessons out in orchards, fields etc.

Regular parent orientations are part of every center activity. Aradhana Celebrations are big in the Centers.

Region 7, 8- California, Pacific Online Classes

#### Total Number of Children- 138

#### Total number of Gurus-44

Lamps of Love Program by Sister Sumana Murali to inspire all Gurus.

Followed by 70 day Sadhana to Listen to Swami's Discourses Everyday By All Gurus,

Sai Veda Classes for all groups of Children, Parents and other center members. Regular Orientation, Study Circles,

Gurus Study Circles and Service Activities with Children and adults in the center. Group 4 Children are also helping local temples and churches and restaurants by offering music as a community activity.

Group 4 Children and Adults also participated in Christmas Celebrations in the local churches.

We may extend this participation to other faiths.

Children also participated in Global Akhanda Bhajan and Regional Retreat. The Gurus participated in a 70 day sadhana to listen to swami's discourse. Before they used to ask me for a curriculum. Now Swami is guiding them and they know how to prepare for a class.

#### **Region10- Texas** Total Number of Children- 72

#### Gurus-17

Gita Vahini and Gita study circle for Gurus in Houston in the summer, Houston children shared voice notes every Thursday for the Thought for the day, voice notes on Sunday with a Chinna Katha - a little story from Bhagawan. Austin students and teachers had 3 beautiful seva outings - lake clean up and bottle cap seva one graduate this year.

**Dallas Center-** All classes were held on site in dedicated class rooms at the Center premises.

Average attendance in all classes throughout the academic year was around 80%. Apart from classroom learning and project activities, students were also trained in Bhajan singing and were given regular opportunities to participate in weekly Center bhajans.

Students were encouraged and provided opportunities to participate in Veda classes organized by the Center. A few SSE students regularly participate in these classes. Group 4 students participated in community service projects under the guidance of the Center Service Coordinator.

During Aradhana Day, Swami's Birthday, Shivarathri and Easwaramma Day celebrations, students were allocated dedicated time for bhajans and music programs. Two SSSE presentations were organized at the Center for students to share their classroom learning experiences and project activities with their parents, grandparents, and other center members – once during Avatar Declaration Day celebrations on October 22, 2022 and again on February 18, 2023.

During Easwaramma Day celebrations on May 6, SSSE students enacted a one-hour play dedicated to '*Early Years of Swami's Life'*. The play was well received by an audience of over 200 people. Significant dedication and hard work from the students, training from teachers, and encouragement from parents contributed to the ultimate success of this play.

Frequent parent-teacher interactions and strong commitment from parents contributed to the overall growth and stability of our SSSE program during the first year.

A formal teachers training program was organized by the Center for all 9 current SSSE teachers and three interested teachers. The training program was conducted by the National SSE Coordinator and her training staff.

#### **Houston Center**

Committed students - Small and intimate group

Had the first in person Aradhana celebration for Swami on April 22

Trivia every weekend on stories from the Gita ,Bible, Mahabharata , Ramayana , Holy Quran etc

Every month we had a new prayer for embracing unity of faiths and new a bhajan Thursday recorded thought for the day from the Children – Good thoughts

Sunday Chinna Katha recorded by the children - Good words

Every monthly seva had a children's participation and especially in the month of December and April which we commit as Seva months exclusively. Good Action We came a full circle with Good Thoughts, Good Words, and Good Actions, as we closed the year

#### Region 2- Mid Atlantic Total Number of Children- 394

#### Gurus-165

**Regional Initiatives-**

Meeting of the Minds- Weekly initiative that allows Gurus to share their lessons and successes in class.

Lesson Plans are shared through Google Groups.

Bethesda: Orientation for parents

**Baltimore:** Weekly study circles are conducted from Sathya Sai Speaks discourses. These study circles are regularly attended by SSSE parents and members. Also, we organize Narayana Seva two times a month and harvest seva two times a year. These seva activities help increase participation and involvement from SSSE parents, children, Gurus and members.

**Loudoun:** We have parent guru orientation, SSE Expo day, satsangs for parenting **Hockessin:** Regular meetings and communication with Gurus, Programs for special events. Annual picnic on graduation day.

Edison:

1) Sai parenting workshop and study circle.

2) All group SSSE kids participating in Sandwich seva regularly

**3)** SSSE kids participating and doing Open market seva monthly once. Group 4 SSSE kids mandatory monthly once participate in this seva activity helps in packing and distribution too.

4) YA conducted Easter workshop

5) Almeda center bhajans, arts & crafts seva for elderly done by adults and SSSE kids.

6) SSSE kids participate in Swami's Aradhana day & birthday programs. 7) SSSE kids prepare games like guess the character, escape room. SSSE group 1 kids present yoga Suryanamaskar they learnt in class.

8) Easter egg hunt for kids

9) Bhajans learning sessions for kids and adults.

10) SSSE kids retreat skit and Escape room participation

**11)** Park hotel food seva monthly once participation from both adults and SSSE kids.

- 12) Winter kit seva distribution & greeting cards
- 13) Relief efforts for turkey earthquake
- 14) Little hearts school seva & distribution of kits & supplies

**Bridgewater:** Bridgewater center conducts a Parenting study circle once every month with topics customized according to SSE child / Parent's needs. However, few of the quotes are picked up from the harmonious home – human values parenting sessions.

#### **Region 5**

#### Total Number of Children- 42

#### Gurus-10

Center initiative at Indianapolis.

- 1. Service activities for children- soup kitchen
- 2. Musical offering by kids for 5 mins before bhajan session on Sundays. Family and Child who made the musical offering perform Aarathi for Swami









#### SSSGC-ZONE1





## OFFERED AT THE DIVINE LOTUS FEET OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI



# Aum Sri Sai Ram