



सेवा पत्री (Seva Patri)

Seva Newsletter of Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America (VHPA)

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

Focus of this quarter newsletter is virtual fundraising events done in 2020 for **Support a Child (SAC)** project and other COVID-19 related seva done in USA. SAC is a non-profit organization that started in 1985 by VHPA. SAC provides education, food, housing, healthcare, and mentoring to the underprivileged children of Bharat. SAC is run totally by volunteers' efforts, with minimal overhead costs. Major beneficiaries of SAC funding are Sewa Bharati, Sewa Dham, Vivekanand Kendra, and Bharat Kalyan Pratishthan (BKP) run hostels. These children receive education from 1st grade to 12th grade. One can Support a Child by donating \$250 per year per child. If interested please send a tax-deductible contribution to: Support a child - VHP of America, PO Box 1229, Mason, OH 45040; Email: request.SAC@gmail.com; Phone: (513) 953-9580. Visit sacusa.org for more information.

From last four years (2016 -2019) SAC is doing fundraising events in USA in different cities to raise funds to support these children in Bharat. Through this fundraising event SAC was able to raise funds to support 1738, 2139, 2464 and 3064 children in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, respectively. Goal set for 2020 was to raise funds to support 3500 children. Although SAC team had identified a group to perform shows in USA in Aug and Sep of 2020, however, due to COVID-19 pandemic situation SAC could not do fundraising shows in person as it was done in the past (in different cities conducted by SAC local chapters). Instead in 2020 SAC did three virtual shows with three different group of artists. Beside the entertainment part, each show also included Emcee speech + SAC 2020 presentation about SAC mission and achievements + SAC Movie showing different SAC hostels in different part of Bharat, testimonial videos of the children living in these hostels as well as donation appeals to the audiences.

SAC first virtual show was on Aug 29, 2020 - **जीवन के रंग – हंसी के संग Hasya Kavi Sammelan**. In this show four famous Kavi in Bharat entertained audiences for two hours with their hasya, patriotic and Ramjanam Bhoomi related recitals.

This show had Gajendra Solanki, a well-known stage performing Hindi poet from last 25+ years, who has done more than 2500 Kavi Sammelans across the Bharat and abroad including recitation and anchoring. This virtual show also had other well know Kavi - Dr. Sarita Sharma, Dr. Sunil Jogi and Dr. Praveen Shukla. They all are acclaimed Hindi poet/poetess reciting comic verses from last 20+ years. This show was watched on >470 devices which translates to 1000+ audiences. Audience provided quite a positive feedback after watching the show. More than 120 children were supported during the show.

The banner features the VHPA logo and 'SUPPORT A CHILD (SAC) Present' with the tagline 'SAC is a Project of VHPA'. It announces 'FREE VIRTUAL ENTERTAINMENT ON AUGUST 29, 2020 @ 8:30 - 10:30 PM (EST)'. Below this, there's a photo of a smiling child. The main title 'जीवन के रंग – हंसी के संग HASYA KAVI SAMMELAN' is written in Hindi with decorative elements. At the bottom, four portraits of the performers are shown with their names: Gajendra Solanki, Dr. Sarita Sharma, Dr. Praveen Shukla, and Dr. Sunil Jogi.

SAC had Second Virtual show on Sep 12, 2020 – “Atithidevobhava - अतिथि देवो भव”, a Musical Dance Drama performed by Sapphire Creations from Kolkata, Bharat. This dance drama piece अतिथि देवो भव took audience to a journey through the enriching culture of Bharat. A collage of dances, music, percussions, instruments, visuals, costumes from East, West, South and North of India were presented. This show mesmerized the audiences from not just USA but other parts of the world too. SAC again raised funds to support >100 children during the show and lot more after the show.



Third Virtual Show was done on Oct 10, 2020, was **BHAVARASATA** (Sound of the Nation) - **Sur aur Saj Ka Sangam** by Grammy Nominated Tabla/Percussion Maestro Pt. Subhen Chatterjee and Bandish Fusion group. In this show audiences enjoyed a fusion music with a thoughtful blend of improvisational concept that was rooted in jazz as well as Indian music and harmonic influence from European classical music. This show was also well attended and raised funds for supporting children living in SAC hostels in Bharat. SAC is still receiving the funds after the virtual show. Audiences highly appreciated the testimonials from the SAC hostels students.



COVID-19 Seva in Cincinnati, OH, USA

Hindu Women’s Network (HWN) of Cincinnati has donated funds to Lakota Reach Out agency. Lakota Reach Out is a non- profit agency, providing helping hands to those living in West Chester and Liberty Township in Ohio by putting help and hope into the hands of the community. They distribute both fresh and canned food to the needy families through their food pantry. Their goal is to provide support in a way that is both dignified for clients and cost efficient for donors. Due to Covid-19 outbreak, there are many families who are laid off from work and they have been coming to their food pantry first time in their lives. Reach Out Lakota, bridge the gap between today and tomorrow. HWN decided to buy food for their pantry so the needy families and their children can get food twice a month from them. They have huge demand and they are only able to serve families once or twice a month.



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