

## **December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Report from Rema Venkatasubban**

Last Month, November was a great month as it was Deepavali, the festival of Lights season, a time when we share what we have with and care for the less fortunate around us. HASC was quick to organize DhanSeva in the series of Utsav Seva . "Dhan" is a Sanskrit word which means " to give" and 'seva' means selfless service.

The story behind this festival Deepavali depicts a symbolic victory of good versus evil and so I believed that this is the time to bring smiles and happiness to those who are having a hard time with the recession and unemployment.

Some volunteers from HASC went to "Lord's Diner", a shelter run by the Catholic Charities to serve food on three Fridays in a row. Physicians of Indian origin had a health camp at the Hindu Temple of Greater Wichita on first weekend in November and had free screening of tests.

Another volunteer of HASC who is a financial planner organized a financial planning seminar at the Wichita Public library in their downtown facility. The location of the library facilitated people from all walks of life to attend this seminar and benefit from the information.

HASC's partnership with "Global Faith in Action" opened a golden opportunity for some of us to attend the 'Amazing Faiths" dinner and discussion. This round table discussion over dinner with people from different faith groups was very educative and productive. There were discussions on the problems that many of us face due to faith related affiliations. We all came to a unanimous conclusion that we will do our best to bring about social justice and be engaged in our community by promoting interfaith activities. Our first step was to organize visits to the Hindu and Buddhist temples, Muslim mosque and some churches in town.

At the interfaith meetings, we brainstormed the problems in the community and various means to address these problems and build healthier communities.

At the end of the day, I am happy that November had been a month when HASC and its volunteers have shared a lot with the community in which they live in.

As I look forward to December which is recognized as a month of "Sarva DharmaSeva" , I see myself feeding a lot of homeless along with the volunteers of HASC!!!!