

Kalyan Seva ----- Report for March 2011

“Annadhanam” or feeding the needy is a program well anchored by the Hindu community in Wichita, Kansas. The homeless at the ‘Overflow shelter’ are housed by the different churches which have a big gymnasium and the resources to house them.

The Christian Faith Center was kind enough to house them in the month of February and the Hindu American Seva Charities was lucky to get an opportunity to feed them supper on one of the Sundays, 20th Feb. 2011 . The church is well equipped with a big kitchen and one of my volunteer leaders Jaya had her group ready to feed nearly 100 people.

The ladies belonging to the Mahila Mandal of the Bhakta community of Wichita did the shopping and made a delicious supper consisting of pasta in Ragu sauce, green beans, corn , baked beans , salad and dressing, bread rolls, ice cream , bananas, coffee and lemonade. Emphasizing the importance of healthy choices the volunteers answered beautifully the questions posed by some of the homeless. They enjoyed the supper, thanked the volunteers for a hearty and healthy meal and retired to bed.

It was a gratifying feeling that we all had and I saw the sparkling enthusiasm in our volunteers who wanted to be involved in serving the community. I was very thankful that as a VISTA, working for HASC, I could mobilize our community and put a program in place. My volunteer leaders are so enthusiastic that I am very confident that they will keep it running. God is great!

The concept of Utsav Seva for the month of February is Kala Seva where the wellbeing of all living beings in the community are emphasized, especially for those who are socially and economically challenged. A few high school students who had come to serve with their mothers at the church got inspired and organized at very short notice to serve again at the same church.

So, in two days, on Tuesday, we were there again to serve supper. The high school junior who has started the non-profit organization to solve poverty

partnered with HASC to serve the needy. They had put together salad, bread rolls, soup, dessert, lemonade and milk.

The high school volunteers were talking how good they feel when they share and care what they have with the less fortunate in the community. Moreover they were very impressed that healthy choices of vegetables and fruits along with protein rich pulses keeps obesity under check and allows everybody to be free of illness.

There were nearly 85 of the homeless people who had signed in and it was another satisfying evening!