

Sarva Dharm Seva

December month is awaited eagerly by many people. The joys of Christmas carols singing wherever you go, the light decorations of the houses and businesses create a festive and happy atmosphere. Wherever you turn, there is light, the light of knowledge which kills ignorance.

Doing SEVA in this month, when we share with the less fortunate gives tremendous happiness and satisfaction; there is meaning and purpose to our life when we give. HASC's theme was " Sarvadharm Seva" which means " do selfless service to many in diverse fields".

"Annadhanam" or feeding the poor and homeless was the project that was decided upon by my volunteer leaders. At short notice, it was decided to feed the homeless who are at the Interfaith Inn on all Sundays for supper in December. We are very happy that we could feed around 50 people on those occasions. During holiday time, when these people do not have family, our presence there to feed them made them feel thankful and grateful to the Lord. We all had a contented feeling that we brought a smile on their faces and an opportunity for them to talk about healthy recipes and making good nutritional choices.

Some residents were curious and we gave the recipes to all our dishes cooked with vegetables and lentils. We emphasized the importance of a protein rich vegetarian diet which is much safer and healthier to consume than red meat.

We were thankful for this opportunity of SEVA !

All excited, I called the Kansas Food Bank, who connected me with the Advocacy group to remove chronic homelessness. They gave the Hindu community in Wichita an opportunity to feed the 120 homeless people in the 'overflow shelter'. The date that was offered for January was Sunday, 9th—supper.

A thought crossed my mind that I should involve the youth and the young adults to get involved in this SEVA. I proposed to my daughter who is a junior in college whether she would like to take up this project. She gave an email to some of her friends and within a couple of days I was amazed at the enthusiasm and willingness to 'give'. They came up with a menu of pasta, salad, hot soup, bread rolls, chips, coffee, milk, juice and cookies/bananas for the dessert. It was a great experience for all of them who came to serve in the United Methodist Church.

We fed all the people there, who were very grateful and thanked us profusely . We all left with a wonderful feeling. The young adults and the teenagers involved were very touched and moved by the status of all these homeless people who would have gone hungry if nobody cared for them. A moment to reflect and count their blessings.

This is when we all wished how wonderful it will be if Hindu American Seva Charities had our own facility where we can house some of them and do seva by offering food and shelter for all the needy. With God's grace , a day will come, when we will be in that situation. Till then, we are very thankful to all the congregations working with the Interfaith Ministries and allowing us to partner with them in this seva effort.