



Zone 1

American Bison



Aruba



Barbados



Canada



Curacao



Guyana



Jamaica



St. Kitts



St. Lucia



St. Martin



Suriname



Trinidad &
Tobago



USA/Virgin
Islands

ZONE 1 HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRIES	CENTRES/ GROUPS	SSIO MEMBERS	SSE STUDENTS	ISSE	SATHYA SAI SCHOOLS
Aruba	1	3			
Barbados	1	50	12		
Canada	57	6,091	2,105		1
Curacao	1	23			
Guyana	14	354	41		
Jamaica	3	63	29		
St. Kitts	1	32			
St. Lucia	1	15			
St. Martin	1	30	8		
Suriname	4	150	52		
Trinidad & Tobago	41	1,904	256	1	4
USA/Virgin Islands	215	12,259	2,957	1	
TOTAL	340	20,974	5,460	3	5



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In Canada, Sathya Sai Youth launched Canada SAI90, a series of nine initiatives in honour of Sathya Sai Baba's 90th Birthday. A drive was organised to distribute backpacks with school supplies to needy children. The youth conducted sports therapy for autistic children and mentored troubled children. The youth collected medical supplies for victims of the Nepal earthquake and participated in environmental clean-ups of public areas across the country. SAI, an online platform modelled after TED Talks, a popular talk show format, was launched to inspire the youth to share their spiritual experiences in short video clips.

The annual Walk for Values, which originated as a humble school event at the Sathya Sai School in Toronto in 2003, has grown exponentially over the years and was held in over 30 major cities across the globe in 2015. A notable milestone was the Proclamation of Walk for Values Day or Human Values Day by 28 cities across Canada. Out of these, 15 Canadian cities have declared 23rd November, Sathya Sai Baba's Birthday, as Human Values Day or Walk for Values Day.

The Edmonton Sathya Sai Centre participated in an inspiring interfaith event on 28th June 2015 in Whitecourt, Alberta, organised by a Muslim group and a Christian church. The occasion was a wonderful opportunity to share the universal teachings of Baba and His message of unity of all faiths.

Senior SSIO members in Ottawa take part in an environmentally friendly project called Bags-to-Mats, in which they save colourful milk containers, which are cut





into long strips and sewn into sleeping mats. Local churches ship these mats to locations in Africa, where they are distributed to impoverished communities and used as comfortable beds to sleep on.

During a blood donation organised at the Scarborough Sathya Sai Centre as an offering for Baba's 90th Birthday, 99 people donated 90 units of blood. At the same event, 12 new potential donors registered for the One-Match Stem Cell and Marrow Network, for assisting leukaemia patients.

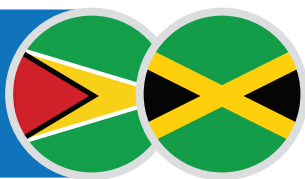
At the Saskatoon Sathya Sai Centre, SSIO members volunteered at the "Bust a Move" event for raising awareness and supporting research for a cure for breast cancer.

Sathya Sai volunteers from the Edmonton Sathya Sai Centre spent every Saturday throughout the tax-filing season (March to May 2015) preparing and filing income tax returns for low-income individuals and families, primarily recent immigrants. The Minister of National Revenue recognised and commended this noble service.

Since 2003, Sathya Sai youth in Montreal have been involved with the Batshaw Youth & Family Centres, conducting human-values based activities for teens placed in foster homes. Recently, they participated in The Circle of Courage, a project that empowers foster children to create art and craft pieces, which are then donated to homeless shelters and homes for seniors. In recognition of their efforts, the Sathya Sai youth received the Kim Kurtz Memorial Volunteer Award.

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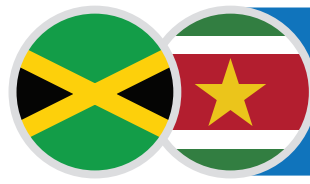


In Guyana, the SSIO organised its popular National Sports and Family Day at the West Demerara Secondary School on 3rd May 2015. The event included a march-past of students singing “Love All, Serve All”, games, study circles and other discussions.

On 5th February 2016, a team of 90 SSIO members from the Pasea Sathya Sai Centre in North Trinidad travelled to neighbouring Guyana to construct prefabricated homes, in collaboration with the local SSIO. The components for these hurricane resistant houses had been shipped earlier from Trinidad, and each house took four hours to erect. A total of nine houses were built and the keys to the homes were handed over to nine needy families, who also received clothing, toys, toiletries, furniture, and essential home furnishings.

In Jamaica, SSIO members organised an international medical camp from 21st to 25th April 2015, during which 18 Sathya Sai volunteers from the USA, Canada, and Jamaica provided medical services to more than 1,500 needy people at nine





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locations. The Jamaica Ministry of Health (MOH) provided medications and transportation. On 24th April 2015, the international team of volunteers along with local Jamaican SSIO members served dinner to more than 100 homeless brothers and sisters at the Marie Atkins Shelter Home.

In Suriname, Sathya Sai youth organised a Walk For Values on 31st October 2015, as part of the worldwide Serve the Planet initiative. About 140 people, ages 4 to 75, participated in the 4 km walk in the capital city, Paramaribo. Participants wore badges denoting the human value they had chosen to practise. Banners and flags with quotes on human values were proudly displayed, and various values-based games were organised by the youth, such as “Fishing for a Value,” and “Bowling Away the Negatives.”

On 14th June 2015, the Sathya Sai youth of Suriname began serving food to homeless and indigent people as well as to stray dogs on the streets. On Sundays, volunteers prepared and distributed food to about 200 needy people and 80 stray dogs.



COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



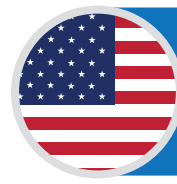
In Trinidad and Tobago, the SSIO continued to lead in the field of education, with several important initiatives. A symposium, “Celebrating Education in Human Values,” held on 15th August 2015, was attended by 400 people including the Minister of Education.

The Annual Sports and Family Day on 17th May 2015 brought together SSIO members from all over the country for a colourful and fun-filled day of activities, beginning with a motorcade procession, which showcased creatively the values of service, compassion, unity, and joy as part of the overall theme, “Love Is the Goal.” SSE children participated in a number of sports and games, including relays, lime and spoon races, and sack races.

The Easwamma Sathya Sai Centre in Penal hosted its first Special Satsang, a concert presented by visually impaired persons (VIPs) of The Blind Welfare Association, on 19th March 2016. The concert was an expression of heartfelt thanks to the SSIO for providing a memorable annual visit to the beach for visually impaired persons over the past many years.

Trinidad and Tobago





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In the USA, for the second year, the young adults of the Northeast Region conducted One Voice – an all-day music festival, on 1st August 2015. This joyful event teaches the audience to appreciate the unity of faiths through devotional songs in different languages and religions.

Several Sathya Sai centres in the Mid-Atlantic region of the USA initiated an “envirocare” project to protect the environment and care for Mother Earth, including tree plantings; cleaning up streams, marshes, and beaches; and vegetable farming. In New Jersey, members of the Bridgewater Sathya Sai Centre planted vegetable beds, for donating the harvest to local food banks or preparing food for others. Members of the South Bethesda Centre participated in the 33rd Annual Clean Up of the Occoquan river, which provides drinking water to northern Virginia.

Another innovative project involving several Sathya Sai Centres was spearheaded by the Flushing Centre in New York. In collaboration with Queens Hospital Center in Jamaica, New York, volunteers prepared 150 packages every month for new



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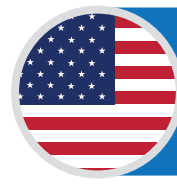


mothers. Each package contained a baby hat knitted by the volunteers and a baby blanket stitched from flannel material.

In the Southeast Region, four Sathya Sai Groups, from Huntsville, Birmingham, Montgomery, and Mobile, Alabama, jointly started the Alabama Loving Hearts project. This work helps the Good Shepherd Catholic Center serve the residents of Mosses, Alabama, one of the poorest counties in the USA. Sathya Sai volunteers helped to distribute non-perishable food and groceries to 200–400 families in an innovative “drive-through” process, where food and groceries were placed by volunteers inside cars driven by the recipients.

Young Adults from Northern California, USA, have been spearheading a tutoring project for immigrant families living in Morgan Hill since 2014. Most recently, 18 children, ranging in age from 5 to 13, attended tutoring sessions every Wednesday evening with their immigrant parents. Visible improvements have been noticed in the children’s performance at school, while their parents are learning and improving their written and spoken English.





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In Southern California, a Special Schools Project originated in February 2014 in response to requests from three elementary schools for basic necessities and supplies for children of indigent families. Volunteers provide 2,000 pounds of groceries to 50 families as well as 40 hygiene kits, on a monthly basis. The SSIO also initiated a programme of providing 75 pairs of shoes annually. To deal with lice outbreaks, 50 lice shampoo kits are supplied quarterly.

In the South Central Region, Young Adults have been conducting a monthly human values workshop for juvenile delinquents ages 13 to 18 residing at a local juvenile detention centre known as The Leadership Academy. The human values programme is creatively designed to have the teenagers each choose a value to practise over a month and then share their experiences. The young adult volunteers learnt to appreciate the innate goodness of the juvenile delinquents.

