



Zone 1

Trinidad and Tobago



Aruba



Barbados



Canada



Curacao



Guyana



Jamaica



St. Kitts



St. Lucia



St. Martin



Suriname



Trinidad and Tobago



USA

ZONE 1 HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRIES	CENTRES/ GROUPS	SSIO MEMBERS	SSE STUDENTS	ISSE	SATHYA SAI SCHOOLS
Aruba	1	3			
Barbados	1	45	15		
Canada	54	5,990	1,933	1	1
Curacao	1	18			
Guyana	14	409	43		
Jamaica	3	45	20		
St. Kitts	1	10			
St. Lucia	1	16			
St. Martin	1	30	8		
Suriname	4	177	45		
Trinidad and Tobago	42	1,935	227	1	5
USA/Virgin Islands	214	12,201	3,143	1	
TOTAL	337	20,879	5,434	3	6



ZONE 1 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



Canada

Coinciding with the sesquicentennial (150th) anniversary of Canada's confederation, more than 100 Canadian Sathya Sai Young Adults, from coast to coast, took part in the "Love for Animals" campaign as part of the SSIO global Serve the Planet project. They shared their favourite quotes, pictures, and messages of love and awareness of animal rights - reaching thousands of people across social media networks.

The SSIO of Canada also joined the Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up to beautify Canada's environment, and Sathya Sai volunteers participated in the national Meals on Wheels programme, serving hot meals to the homeless during the depths of winter.

At local levels, in Edmonton, a landmark 30-year milestone of service was passed as volunteers continued to serve meals, every month, to 120 senior citizens residing in the inner city. To foster interfaith dialog, 110 members of the Sathya Sai Centre of Saskatoon organised a multifaith forum on Baba's 91st Birthday, where representatives from Christian, Islamic, Baha'i, Buddhist, First Nations, and Hindu faiths spoke on the central theme of love and service. In Toronto, the SSIO was invited to participate in the city's Interfaith Council, bringing a new voice to efforts to promote peace and harmony.





ZONE 1 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Curacao

In observance of the Serve the Planet initiative, SSIO volunteers in Curacao visited farms and animal shelters across the island. They fed and cared for animals, and pledged a monthly service commitment.

Suriname

Sathya Sai Young Adults from Suriname organised a Walk for Values in October 2016, with the dual themes of "Love For Animals" and "Go Green." The 4-km walk, held in the capital city, Paramaribo, attracted about 128 people, including 58 newcomers from all walks of life. Participants painted banners with quotes about human values and carried themed flags aloft during the walk. The youth also led values-based games, such as Fishing for a Value, where players could "fish" for letters to spell a value. The day concluded with an interfaith programme featuring performances and talks by representatives of the Arya Samaaj, Brahma Kumaris, Roman Catholic, and Chinese groups.



ZONE 1 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



Trinidad and Tobago

The SSIO of Trinidad began offering SSEHV classes in the town of St. Augustine – teaching life skills and values to 30 children, ages 5–16. The classes included sports, universal prayers, silent sitting, group singing, and other activities. The children also received delicious and healthy meals.

At the Sathya Sai Garden of Blooms Early Childhood Care and Education Centre in Longdenville, students undertook a special educational program for Easwaramma Day. They commenced with multifaith prayers, followed by a mesmerising mix of Sai bhajans in Sanskrit and English, hymns, and quaseedas.

Under the leadership of the Sai Animal Advocates Committee, the SSIO spearheaded an array of projects for serving animals. In September 2016, the committee launched a media campaign titled “Animal Welfare and Sai,” on Sathya Sai’s teachings in relation to animals, and “5 Freedoms,” a guide to taking care of animals with love and compassion. In keeping with this message, a team of volunteers joined an animal sanctuary in South Trinidad that shelters homeless, abandoned, and abused dogs and cats, and offered loving care to about 400 dogs and 24 cats.



Trinidad and Tobago



Trinidad and Tobago



ZONE 1 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

United States of America

To honour the 91st Birthday of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, centres across the United States undertook a variety of service initiatives. In Missouri, Illinois, and Kentucky, SSIO members delivered over 275 large grocery bags full of non-perishable food to senior citizens and supplied over 120 boxes of pizza and other nutritious fare to homeless shelters. In Seattle, 91 shoeboxes filled with gifts, clothing, and school supplies were assembled and distributed around the world, in partnership with Samaritan Purse International Relief. In Southern California, volunteers from four Sathya Sai Centres provided 250 families with food, toiletry bags, and blankets, while three other centres distributed hot lunches to 550 homeless and mentally challenged persons in Santa Ana and Long Beach.

During October–November 2016, the Sathya Sai Centre of Arcadia, California, arranged for three sheep to be spared from slaughter. Likewise, from the West Coast to the Midwest to the Eastern Seaboard, Sathya Sai volunteers worked in shelters, sanctuaries, and on broader environmental projects to preserve animal habitats. For example, in Wisconsin and California, novel initiatives included shoreline clean-ups and educational workshops to protect the environment. After a seminar in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, SSE children were so inspired to become agents of change



USA

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COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

that they undertook a 21-day “No Plastic” challenge, to minimise potentially harmful plastic waste. Sathya Sai children and members of the St. Louis, Missouri, and Southern Illinois Sathya Sai Centres participated in an open house at the World Bird Sanctuary in Valley Park, Missouri, which supports biological diversity and threatened bird species.

In October 2016, SSIO members participated in an interfaith program at the Center for Spirituality and Sustainability at Southern Illinois University. On 10th December 2016, SSIO members organised an annual Christmas and Hanukkah celebration at the Unity Church in Newbury Park, Southern California. SSE students performed a skit depicting similarities between the births of Sathya Sai Baba and Jesus Christ. The SSIO also participated in a holiday parade in Memphis, Tennessee, to raise public awareness about human values.



ZONE 1 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

