




ANNUAL REPORT

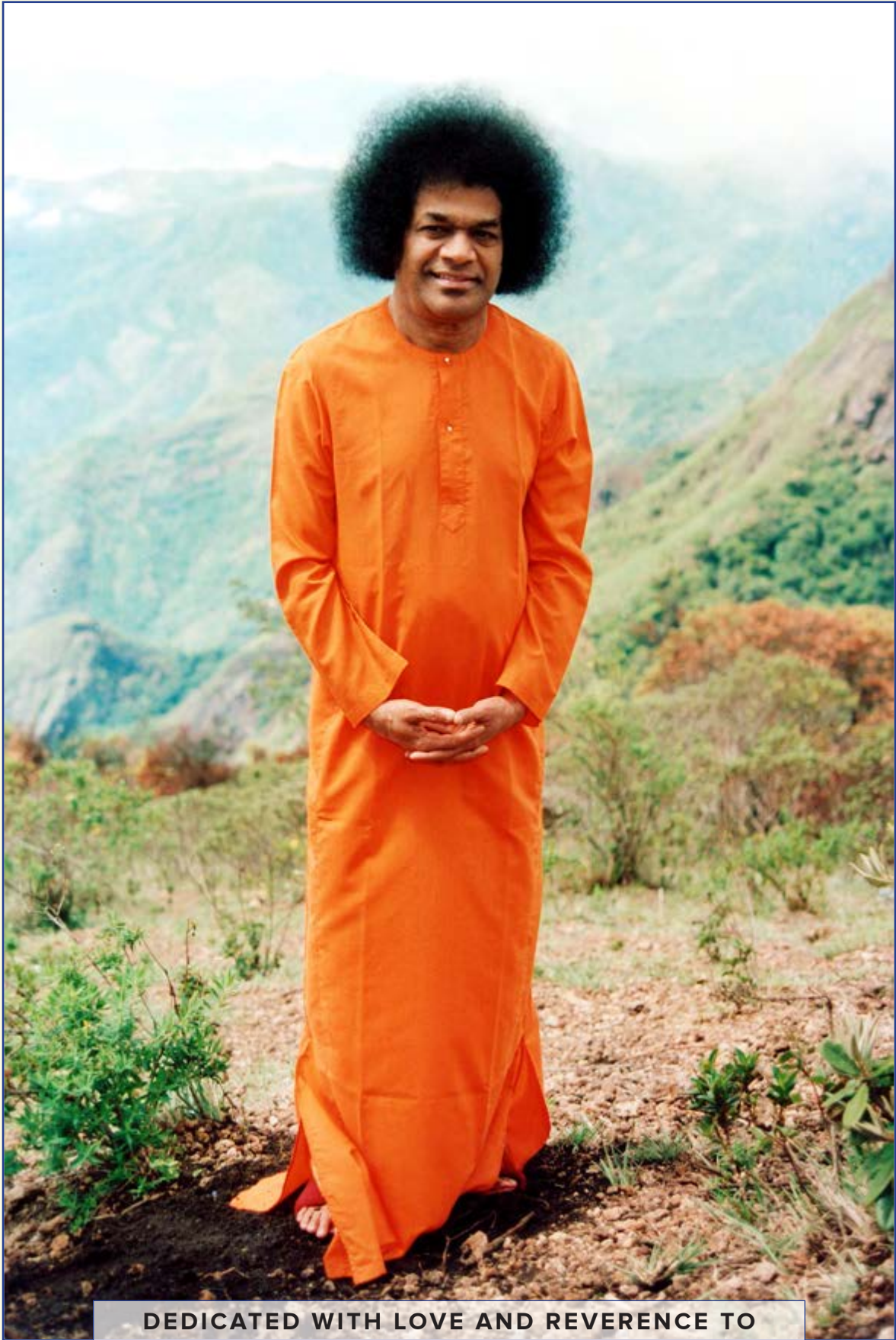
SATHYA SAI INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

2012-2013




“The Organisations named after Me are not to be used for publicising My Name or creating a new cult around My worship. They must try to spread interest in recitation of God’s Name, meditation, and other spiritual exercises that lead man Godward. They must demonstrate the joy derivable from devotional singing and remembering the Lord’s Name, the peace that one can draw from good company. They must render selfless service to the helpless, the sick, the distressed, the illiterate, and the needy. Their service should not be exhibitionistic; it must seek no reward, not even gratitude or thanks from the recipients.”

**–Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba
February 23, 1968**



DEDICATED WITH LOVE AND REVERENCE TO

Sri Sathya Sai Baba



“Let me tell you that nothing is impossible of achievement if an organised society is set on achieving it. Even liberation from material entanglement can be won through serving and promoting the progress of society. Through the sense of unity, the willingness to sacrifice, and the softness of compassion, all objects can be gained. So, the Sai Organisation must move forward with hearty enthusiasm in the field of service to society.”

**–Sri Sathya Sai Baba
19th November 1981**

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Abu Dhabi (UAE), Bahrain, Dubai (UAE), Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sharjah (UAE), Syria, Turkey

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FOREWORD

Workers in the Sathya Sai Organisation should be filled with the spirit of love and peace and take to service activities. There should be no room for ego or hatred. Whatever the difficulties, we should not become despondent or dejected. You must be bold and courageous and plunge yourselves in the service of society.

**–Sri Sathya Sai Baba
9th December 1985**

The supreme Lord, the One beyond name, form, and attributes incarnated in a beautiful Divine form with the sweet name of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba for the redemption of mankind. He shows us that the path of love is the royal road to attain the goal of human life, namely, realising our divine nature. He emphasises that the best way to love God is to love all and serve all.

Even after His *Mahasamadhi* in April 2011, He continues to guard, guide, and inspire humanity. Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba has said that He has come to re-establish righteousness in the world and repair the ancient highway to God, which has deteriorated over the years. His message of “*Love All, Serve All*” and His system of integrated education based on human values has spread to all corners of the world, irrespective of race, religion, nationality, and colour. His life is His message, and He continues to inspire millions worldwide to live the ideal that “*service to man is service to God*”. Sri Sathya Sai Baba has uplifted mankind through His teachings and examples of love and service by providing free food, free health care, free education, free water supply, and other services to the needy. The global magnitude to which His work has quietly grown is astounding and unparalleled in the history of mankind.

Inspired by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Sathya Sai International Organisation (SSIO) spreads His universal message of pure love and selfless service through 1,969 Sathya Sai Centres in 120 countries outside of India. Members of these Centres are united by a common bond of love for God and the goals of selfless service and self-realisation through transformation of the heart. Centre activities include study of the teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba and the sacred literature of all religions, group devotional singing, meditation, education in human values, and selfless service to the needy with love and compassion.

This 2012-2013 annual report provides highlights of the various activities of SSIO all over the world in the fields of spirituality, education, health care, and community service.

SATHYA SAI EDUCATION

There are currently 29 Institutes of Sathya Sai Education (ISSEs) in 28 countries and 40 Sathya Sai Schools in 38 countries that promote human values-based education in countries outside of India. In addition, Sai Spiritual Education (SSE) classes are organised on a regular basis by the Sathya Sai Centres for children 3 to 18 years old. Sathya Sai Education in Human Values (SSEHV) classes are also organised in the community. Many countries and their official education systems recognise and honour the value of an education that integrates spirituality with academic curricula.

SATHYA SAI GLOBAL HEALTH MISSION

The Sathya Sai International Organisation promotes and facilitates Sathya Sai Baba's Global Healthcare Mission, which provides high-quality healthcare to the needy with love and compassion, completely free of cost. This worldwide effort by Sathya Sai healthcare professionals and volunteers is marked by excellence, comprehensiveness, and a determination to prevent illness and maintain good health for all. During the reporting period of April 2012 to March 2013, approximately 48,000 patients were examined free of charge at 148 international medical, dental, and vision camps in 18 countries; over 155,000 patients were seen at 31 medical clinics in 10 countries across the world; and 28,000 patients from remote villages were treated at Sathya Sai mobile clinics.

In addition, emergency medical and relief services were provided in several countries in response to natural disasters. Specialised services, including mobile health clinics and visits by paediatricians to remote villages were organised in many countries. Sathya Sai volunteers also provided loving service to animals through free veterinary camps.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The service activities in the Centres, Regions, and Zones of the SSIO include providing food, clothing, school supplies, and daily provisions to the needy; building and repairing homes and community buildings; visiting homes for the elderly, prisons, and convalescent hospitals; mentoring needy students; and providing humanitarian relief to those affected by natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, etc. Many Sathya Sai Centres and Groups maintain food banks that supply food and provisions to impoverished families on an ongoing basis. Inspired by Bhagawan Baba's message, children and youth also engaged actively in these service activities.

During this reporting period, disaster relief services were provided lovingly and expeditiously in many areas of the world, including the East Coast of the USA which was devastated by Hurricane Sandy in October 2012; low-lying areas near Jakarta, Indonesia that were submerged by torrential rains and floods in January 2013; the

region near Emilia, Italy that was affected by an earthquake in May 2012; and remote villages in Sri Lanka that were affected by earth slides due to torrential rain and floods in 2012 and 2013; amongst other locales.

In many countries these noble and exemplary community service activities have won accolades and awards from local and national government agencies.

EVENTS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

Sathya Sai devotees from many countries participate with love and enthusiasm in service activities, events, and celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam (“Abode of Supreme Peace”) – Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba’s *ashram* in Puttaparthi, India. These events include conferences, medical camps, community service, major festivals of various faiths and cultures, pilgrimages, and presentations of cultural programmes.

More than 300 Sathya Sai devotees from the Buddhist countries of China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and Sri Lanka celebrated the holy festival of Buddha Purnima on 7th and 8th May 2012. Sathya Sai devotees from the countries of Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Uzbekistan presented an inspiring devotional music performance on 6th July 2012. Nearly 600 youth from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, and Nepal participated in the Sri Sathya Sai Youth Spiritual Retreat 2012 from 5th to 7th July 2012 and presented an outstanding traditional Balinese dance that depicted scenes from the *Ramayana*. More than 250 devotees from Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Oman, Sharjah, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Syria, and Iran went to Prasanthi Nilayam and participated in a spiritual retreat from 6th to 12th July 2012. A group of UK devotees presented two beautiful devotional musical programmes in Sai Kulwant Hall on 11th and 12th October 2012. They also presented musical performances on 17th and 25th October 2012. Ladies’ Day was celebrated in Sai Kulwant Hall with two speakers, Ms. Marianne Meyer from Denmark and Ms. Kayoko Hira from Japan. Students of Sathya Sai School, Thailand, performed a Thai dance, and devotees from the Dominican Republic presented a devotional music programme.

Bhagawan’s Birthday celebrations included many presentations by overseas devotees. On 20th November 2012, a delightful dance was presented by the Sathya Sai School children of Thailand, followed by a captivating dance-drama by the SSE children of Bali, Indonesia. The evening ended with a garland of devotional songs offered to Bhagawan by the devotees of the Dominican Republic. On 23rd November 2012, Dr. Phil Gosselin gave an uplifting talk about his experiences with Bhagawan and activities of the SSIO. On 24th November 2012, the final day of Bhagawan’s week-long Birthday celebrations, devotees from Japan presented a musical performance and traditional Japanese dances. Thereafter, devotees from Malaysia enacted a drama with an inspiring message of Bhagawan.

Christmas festivities in 2012 included magnificent decorations, grand performances by the International Adult Choir and Children's Choir, inspiring talks by distinguished speakers, and a touching drama by the children of South Africa. A group of devotees called LASA (Love All Serve All) from the European countries of Austria, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Germany presented an excellent musical programme on 30th December 2012. The Chinese New Year was celebrated on 15th and 16th February 2013 with great devotion and enthusiasm by more than 300 devotees from Hong Kong, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, and Malaysia.

BHAGAWAN BABA—THE ETERNAL COMPANION

Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba is the source and inspiration for millions of devotees around the world, and His infinite love is our sustenance. He is the indweller (*Antaryami*), and devotees continue to experience His omnipresence, omniscience, and omnipotence. He is the light guiding humanity from chaos, despair, hatred, and despondency to joy, peace, and bliss.

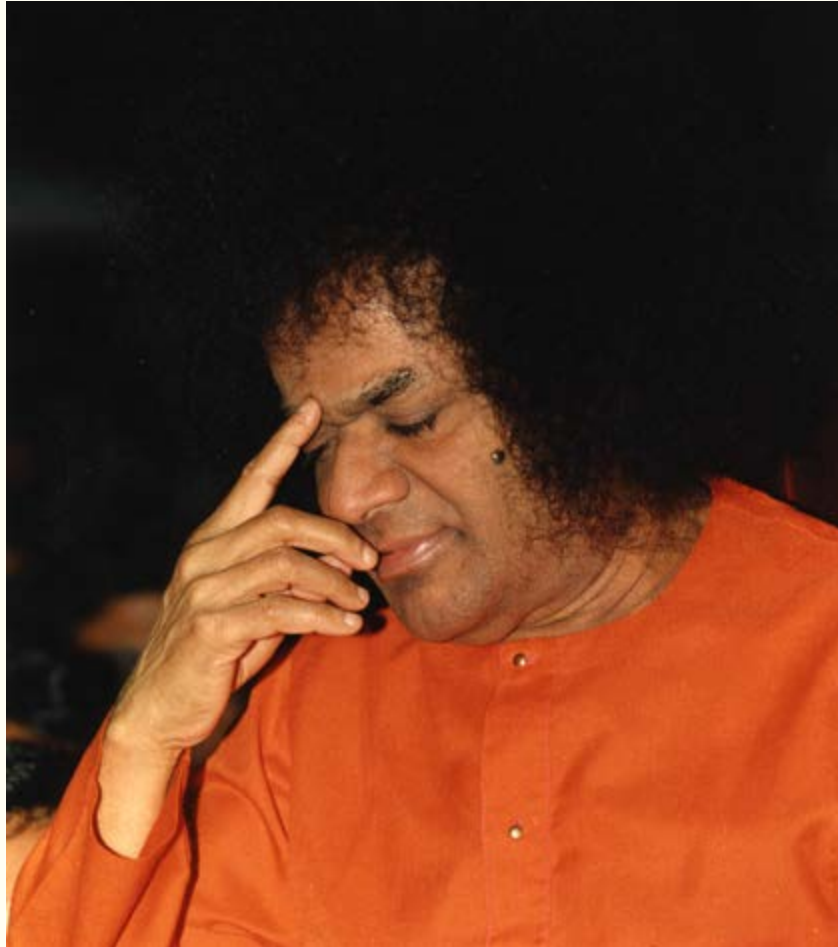
I pray to Bhagawan to shower His grace on us so that we can continue to be worthy instruments in His Divine hands and serve in His Divine mission.

Samastha Loka Sukhino Bhavantu – May All the Worlds Be Happy.

Jai Sai Ram.

Dr. Narendranath Reddy

Chairman, Prasanthi Council



“Never give up the Organisation. Regard it as the breath of your life. This is real penance. Having this firm resolve, become exemplary leaders. This is My sole desire. Swami’s love will accompany you everywhere.”

**–Sri Sathya Sai Baba
24th November 1990**

SATHYA SAI INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

LEGEND

- ✚ Medical Camps
- ▲ Medical Clinics, Mobile Clinic, Hospice
- Institute of Sathya Sai Education
- Sathya Sai Schools
- ▼ Sai Centres and Community Service

NORTH AMERICA

- Canada ▼■●
- Costa Rica ▼
- Cuba ▼
- Dominican Republic ▼●
- El Salvador ▼▲●
- Guatemala ▼■
- Haiti ▼▲
- Honduras ▼
- Mexico ▼■●
- Nicaragua ▼
- Panama ▼▲
- Puerto Rico ▼●
- USA ▼+▲●
- Virgin Islands (US) ▼
- West Indies ▼●

SOUTH AMERICA

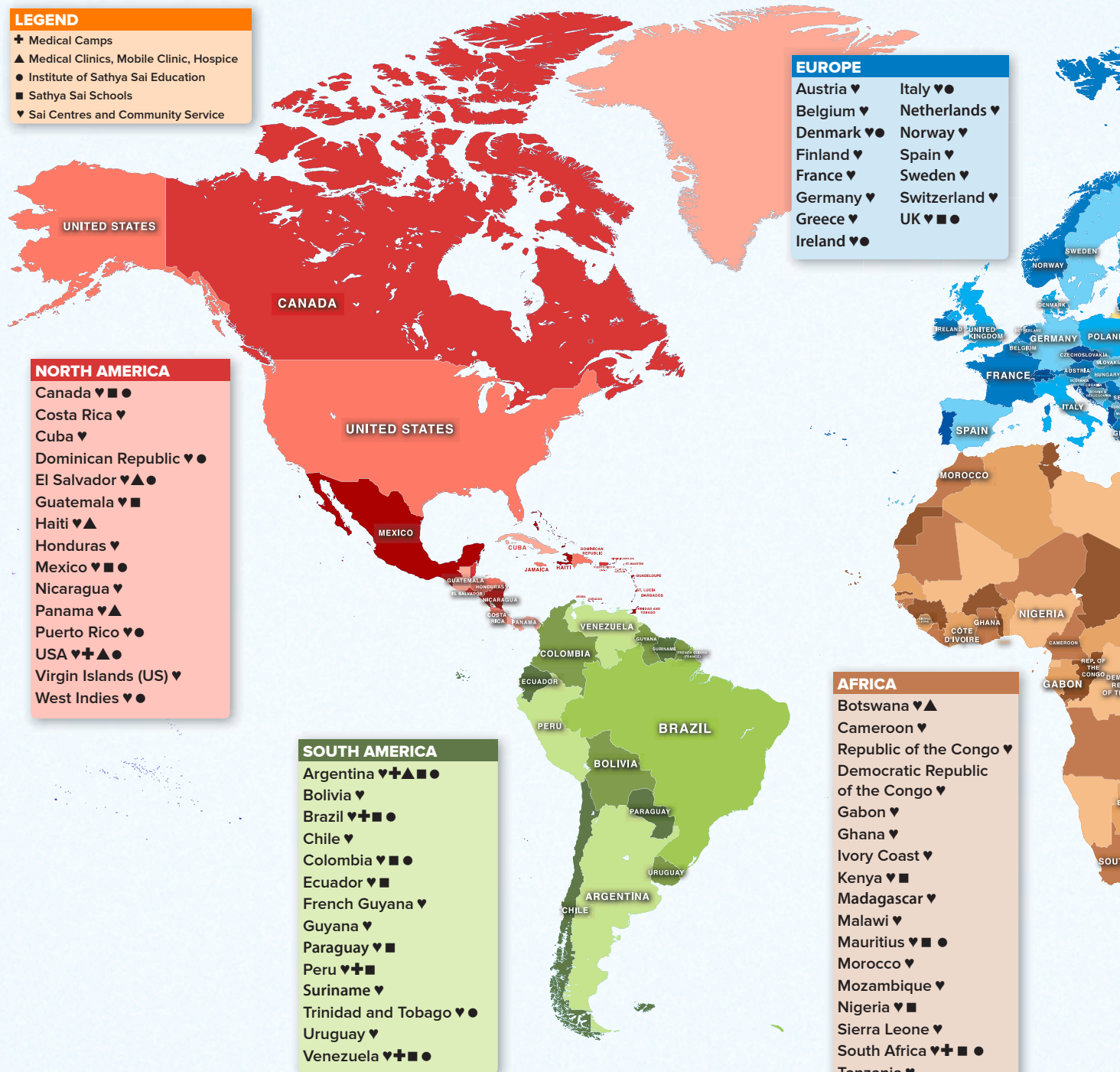
- Argentina ▼+▲■●
- Bolivia ▼
- Brazil ▼+■●
- Chile ▼
- Colombia ▼■●
- Ecuador ▼■
- French Guyana ▼
- Guyana ▼
- Paraguay ▼■
- Peru ▼+■
- Suriname ▼
- Trinidad and Tobago ▼●
- Uruguay ▼
- Venezuela ▼+■●

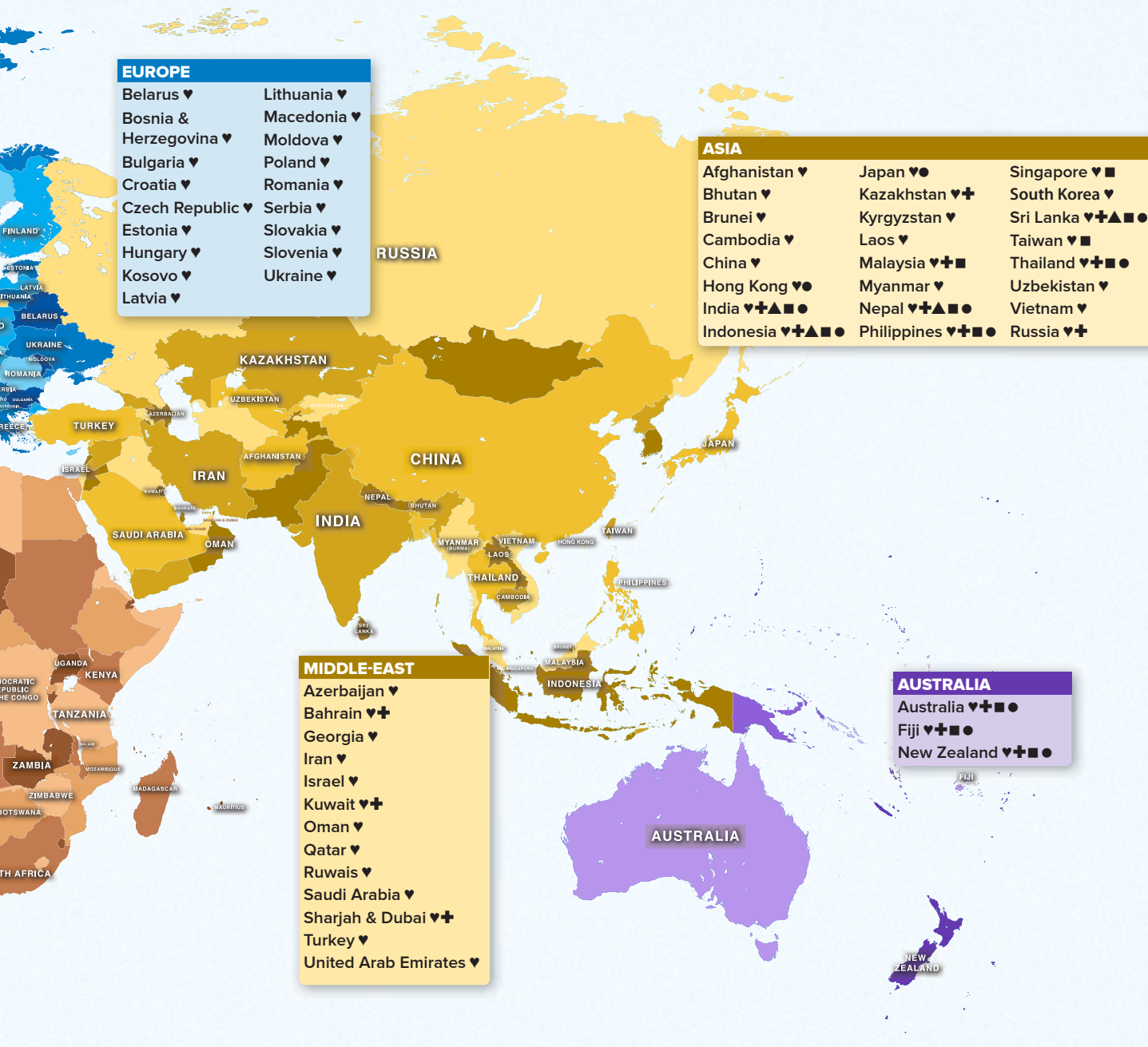
EUROPE

- Austria ▼
- Belgium ▼
- Denmark ▼●
- Finland ▼
- France ▼
- Germany ▼
- Greece ▼
- Ireland ▼●
- Italy ▼●
- Netherlands ▼
- Norway ▼
- Spain ▼
- Sweden ▼
- Switzerland ▼
- UK ▼■●

AFRICA

- Botswana ▼▲
- Cameroon ▼
- Republic of the Congo ▼
- Democratic Republic of the Congo ▼
- Gabon ▼
- Ghana ▼
- Ivory Coast ▼
- Kenya ▼■
- Madagascar ▼
- Malawi ▼
- Mauritius ▼■●
- Morocco ▼
- Mozambique ▼
- Nigeria ▼■
- Sierra Leone ▼
- South Africa ▼+■●
- Tanzania ▼
- Togo ▼
- Uganda ▼
- Zambia ▼■●
- Zimbabwe ▼





- EUROPE**
- Belarus ♥
 - Bosnia & Herzegovina ♥
 - Bulgaria ♥
 - Croatia ♥
 - Czech Republic ♥
 - Estonia ♥
 - Hungary ♥
 - Kosovo ♥
 - Latvia ♥
 - Lithuania ♥
 - Macedonia ♥
 - Moldova ♥
 - Poland ♥
 - Romania ♥
 - Serbia ♥
 - Slovakia ♥
 - Slovenia ♥
 - Ukraine ♥

- ASIA**
- Afghanistan ♥
 - Bhutan ♥
 - Brunei ♥
 - Cambodia ♥
 - China ♥
 - Hong Kong ♥●
 - India ♥+▲■●
 - Indonesia ♥+▲■●
 - Japan ♥●
 - Kazakhstan ♥+
 - Kyrgyzstan ♥
 - Laos ♥
 - Malaysia ♥+■
 - Myanmar ♥
 - Nepal ♥+▲■●
 - Philippines ♥+■●
 - Singapore ♥■
 - South Korea ♥
 - Sri Lanka ♥+▲■●
 - Taiwan ♥■
 - Thailand ♥+■●
 - Uzbekistan ♥
 - Vietnam ♥
 - Russia ♥+

- MIDDLE-EAST**
- Azerbaijan ♥
 - Bahrain ♥+
 - Georgia ♥
 - Iran ♥
 - Israel ♥
 - Kuwait ♥+
 - Oman ♥
 - Qatar ♥
 - Ruwais ♥
 - Saudi Arabia ♥
 - Sharjah & Dubai ♥+
 - Turkey ♥
 - United Arab Emirates ♥

- AUSTRALIA**
- Australia ♥+■●
 - Fiji ♥+■●
 - New Zealand ♥+■●



“Come just one step forward, I shall take a hundred steps towards you. Shed just one tear, I shall wipe a hundred from your eyes. I bless only thus: May your Ananda, may your Bliss grow. I have come to give you the Key of the treasure of Ananda or Bliss, to tell you how to tap that spring, for you have forgotten the way to blessedness.”

**–Sri Sathya Sai Baba
23rd November 1968**



SATHYA SAI EDUCATION

Brazil

“Education has two important characteristics. One is exposition of facts relating to any subject. The other is the unfolding of the individual’s personality. The first is concerned with matter, the second with divine energy. Education is a combination of the two, a combination of worldly and spiritual knowledge. Education cannot be confined to stuffing the head. It has to melt the heart, refine it and turn it towards God. Man has to be transformed into an ideal human being with a compassionate heart. Every effort should be made to utilise education for the purpose of divinising man.”

**–Sri Sathya Sai Baba
June 1966**

Twenty-nine Institutes of Sathya Sai Education exist in 28 countries and 40 Sathya Sai Schools operate in 38 countries, outside of India, to provide integral education in both human values and secular studies, as taught by Bhagawan. Sathya Sai Centres support the Sathya Sai Education system, which is aimed at building character and instilling human values in addition to academic curricula, in students of all ages, faiths, ethnicities and national origins. The value of this education is appreciated by many communities outside the Sathya Sai Organisation and is recognised by many educational authorities and government organisations around the world. A brief introduction to Sathya Sai Education is given below, followed by notable activities in every zone. Additional information may be found in the zonal reports for each country given in this Annual Report.

OVERVIEW OF SATHYA SAI EDUCATION

Education systems, both informal and formal, are in urgent need of reform throughout the world. There is increasing recognition that the formal system of education administered through schools, technical colleges and universities unfortunately fails children and young adults, because these institutions continue to function based on an outdated need to provide only manpower for an industrialised world. These institutions aim to equip learners with skills for gainful employment and earning money competitively, rather than developing holistic personalities based on human values. There is general agreement worldwide that the formal system of education neglects the development of spirituality and character in children as they grow into adults, which is a direct cause of societal maladies and national and global crises faced today.

In the informal system of education, parents are a child's first teachers to influence their holistic development. But they have largely delegated this vital task to schools and other formal systems of education and training. This trend is largely due to economic demands, modernisation, and a focus on the objective, material world, while neglecting the inner world of spirituality and values. Children and young adults face very different challenges today than those faced in the past.

Concerned with the state of the world, Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, in His infinite mercy, gave humanity the gift of an educational model, both formal and informal, that develops children holistically. In this model, parents, the community and the educational system share the responsibility of raising the child as a spiritual being who is also competent in the secular world. While this system was developed in India as *Balvikas* ("blossoming of the child"), in overseas countries it is known as Sai Spiritual Education (SSE) for the children of Sathya Sai devotees and Sathya Sai Education in Human Values (SSEHV) for the children of those who have not yet discovered Swami. Through His teachings, Bhagawan has raised the level of awareness of meeting children's inner needs for both spiritual and secular growth. Sri Sathya Sai Baba's emphasis has been on the five human values of truth, right conduct, peace, love and nonviolence. He established model schools and a university in which education combines spirituality and secular education in a seamless fashion, to lead to full development of personality and character.

The Education Committee of the Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation is the body charged with overseeing educational programmes in the Sathya Sai International Organisation based on His educational philosophy. Guidelines developed by this Committee for SSE (*Bal Vikas*, in India), for SSEHV and for the Sathya Sai Schools and Sathya Sai Institutes are now being comprehensively implemented around the world.



Thailand

SAI SPIRITUAL EDUCATION

SSE programmes for children of Sathya Sai Centre members are active in over 90 countries. Most countries have produced their own culture-specific material, based on Bhagawan's teachings, for training teachers and for children's lessons. In 2012–2013, there was a further consolidation of the SSE programme in which approximately 300,000 children and 5,000 teachers participated outside of India. The programme for students in Group 3 (ages 12–15) and Group 4 (ages 16–18) faced a challenging situation, as many students of this age drop out due to academic workload, social interests, and other factors. In 2012–2013 many countries focussed more closely on developing pedagogic strategies and teaching material of greater relevance to these age-groups; early reports of higher retention of children in these age-groups are highly encouraging. This is leading to the development of a larger group of more spiritually-oriented youth in the Sathya Sai Organisation internationally.

SATHYA SAI SCHOOLS

Sathya Sai Schools follow the curricula of a country's mainstream education enriched with human values. At present, there are 40 Sathya Sai Schools in 38 countries outside of India. They are not for profit and generally do not charge tuition fees. Many of them are gaining recognition as top schools in their countries and are registered, licensed or recognised by the local educational authorities.

INSTITUTE OF SATHYA SAI EDUCATION

Institutes of Sathya Sai Education (ISSEs) are legally constituted bodies that oversee the Sathya Sai Schools in the country. They provide guidance to the Sathya Sai School to become established as a state-of-the-art school that can act as a model school for the country by demonstrating proper integration of education and human values into the government-established curricula. They conduct training of teachers in the philosophy of Sathya Sai Education and in the pedagogy of SSEHV, working both in the Sathya Sai Schools and in the public sector schools. In addition, they conduct research into SSEHV and develop human-values-based material for schools and communities. They establish links with government agencies to promote SSEHV. The ISSEs also develop human values programmes for parents, youth and devotees in Sathya Sai Organisations. At present there are 29 ISSEs in 28 countries.

SATHYA SAI EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES

SSEHV programmes are designed for children of all faiths and backgrounds and are conducted in state schools, community centres and other locations provided by hosting organisations. They are based on the five foundational human values of truth, right action, peace, love and nonviolence. About 100,000 children in 50 countries take part in SSEHV programmes.

ZONE 1 COUNTRIES

In the USA and Canada, the ISSE consolidated teacher training in its introductory and intermediate courses, during the reporting period. The Canadian Sathya Sai School has been ranked as the top school out of 2,700 public and private schools in the province of Ontario by the Fraser Institute, based on the school's outstanding results in the grades 3 and 6 achievement tests.

The Ministry of Education in Israel has accepted the SSEHV training, and it fully supports the educational improvement training for all teachers. In Northern Israel, four SSEHV training courses were conducted for teachers.

The ISSE in West Indies developed a comprehensive policy handbook and training modules for Sathya Sai Preschools and conducted a series of SSEHV workshops in two schools in West Damerara and Guyana. It also published articles on Educare in the local press and is developing links with the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture, for an SSEHV programme for at-risk youth.

ZONE 2 COUNTRIES

There are 13 ISSEs and 16 Sathya Sai Schools in Latin America, which are making outstanding progress in the dissemination of SSEHV.



Philippines



Ecuador

Mexico has two ISSEs and two Sathya Sai Schools, located in the cities of Chihuahua and Cuernavaca. About 108 students, from kindergarten to sixth grade, attend each school. SSEHV classes are held weekly for 80 children in Mexico City and for 22 youth at a juvenile detention centre in Monterrey. An ISSE diploma programme is well established in Mexico. In October 2012, about 1,200 professional teachers from all over Latin America participated in an SSEHV workshop in San Luis Potosí, organised by the ISSE of Mexico.

The Sathya Sai School in Guatemala City, Guatemala has 108 students. The ISSE in El Salvador conducted two diploma courses; the diploma in SSEHV is recognised by the Ministry of Education in El Salvador, and the Teacher's College promotes teachers who take the course. Sathya Sai devotees organise SSEHV classes in Margarita Duran, an adopted school. SSEHV classes are also broadcast weekly by radio station UPA.

In Panama, trained SSE teachers conduct SSEHV classes in three schools, and two Sathya Sai Centres support an SSE programme of 80 students and 8 teachers. Community SSEHV and SSE programmes are also established in Haiti, Guadeloupe and St. Maarten.

ISSEs in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico conduct SSE classes, organise seminars and provide active SSEHV programmes for the community. One of the adopted schools in the Dominican Republic has won highest honours in scholarship among 5,000-plus schools, and the school director attributes this success to the SSEHV programme.

During this reporting period, more than 2,000 students attended the 16 Sathya Sai Schools in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela. Over 300 students attended SSEHV classes in the Latin American countries. The Latin American ISSEs together offered 33 courses and 22 workshops or presentations on integral education as taught by Bhagawan.

ZONE 3 COUNTRIES

Australia has an ISSE in Canberra. Because of the country's size, the ISSE delivers some of its programmes through hubs in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and the Sathya Sai School in Murwillumbah in Northern New South Wales. The activities of the education wing of the Australian Sathya Sai Organisation are closely integrated with the ISSE. Most of the trainers in SSE and SSEHV hold the nationally accredited Certificate 4 in Training and Assessment. One of the most significant activities in ISSE in Australia was greater emphasis on the development of pedagogy for SSE Groups 3 and 4, and teaching material and a



Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

formal programme of Youth Apprenticeship training. The ISSE prepared a facilitator training manual in response to requests for improvements in facilitation techniques. The ISSE also held facilitator training workshops in Sydney and Canberra.

The Australian ISSE developed and launched a five-day introductory course on the life and teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba for SSE teachers and Sathya Sai devotees. The course was delivered in Sydney, Canberra, Adelaide, Melbourne, Perth and Brisbane, and certificates were awarded to 171 participants. During this reporting period, the ISSE further developed teaching material for its Certificate 4 in Training and Assessment, based on the teachings of Bhagawan. This material was presented to a second group of students in Brisbane, in collaboration with a registered training organisation.

Australia has a successful Sathya Sai Primary School with 120 children. Teachers in the Sathya Sai School engage in regular seminars on SSEHV and a formal training programme conducted by the ISSE. Australia has an active SSE programme for 730 children, delivered by 200 teachers. A Sathya Sai Parenting Programme continues to be delivered to Sathya Sai devotees by an ISSE coordinator for this programme. A Self-transformation Programme, based on the Nine-Point Code of Conduct, continues to gain momentum in Australia.

New Zealand has a kindergarten school, an ISSE and an active SSE programme for 200 children, delivered by 50 teachers. With the assistance of the Australian ISSE, the New Zealand ISSE launched a formal training programme for trainers. Fiji has an ISSE, a Sathya Sai Primary School, and an active SSE programme for 410 children, de-



Sri Lanka

livered by 59 teachers. The ISSE has been very active in introducing the SSEHV programme into state and private schools through a system of trainers and monitors. The ISSE in Fiji has prepared a set of books on SSEHV for grades 1 through 12 of the state schools. The Ministry of Education is in the process of officially recognising the SSEHV programme for all schools in the country.

The Sathya Sai Primary School in the Philippines is attended by 162 children. The school receives awards in fine arts and dance competitions on an on-going basis. The SSE programme is also well organised in Philippines.

ZONE 4 COUNTRIES

A total of 22,500 children are taught by about 2,000 SSE teachers in the Zone 4 countries. Several Sathya Sai Schools and active SSEHV programmes for about 1,600 children are supported by 120 SSEHV teachers. ISSEs have been established in Thailand, Indonesia, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

A registered Sathya Sai Educare Academy is established in Malaysia. It organised a convocation during a Sathya Sai Convention in August 2012. The Sathya Sai School in Malaysia has 171 students and 15 teachers.

The ISSE in Indonesia is very active in developing links with the state education system. SSEHV is delivered in the state schools by local teachers and staff trained by the ISSE. Indonesia has 642 SSE students and 118 teachers in its Sathya Sai Centres in Bali, Jakarta, Medan, Surabaya and Bandung. Sai Prema Kumara, a Sathya Sai kindergarten school in Bali, Indonesia, has 58 students and 9 teachers. It is accredited as a Grade A school by the local Department of Education. The Sathya Sai Primary School has 211 students and 19 teachers.

Singapore has a licensed Sathya Sai kindergarten school with an enrollment of 90 children. The SSIO of Singapore has 87 teachers, who conduct SSE classes for more than 500 children.

Nepal has an ISSE and one Sathya Sai School. The 197 Sathya Sai Centres and Groups in Nepal support the activities of nearly 14,000 SSE students and more than 1,000 SSE teachers. The SSE students also engage in many special projects, cultural programmes, sports and games, and service activities.

In the reporting period, SSEHV training was given to 489 teachers of private and public schools. To date 9,805 teachers have been trained. SSEHV for parents is likewise well established in Nepal, with 2,219 total participants to date. The government of Nepal has included SSEHV as an optional subject in higher secondary school.

Sri Lanka has an ISSE and a well-established SSE programme. The Sathya Sai School at Manipay, Jaffna has 192 students. Sathya Sai Centres in the North Central Region organise SSEHV classes twice a month for 93 children of Bharathi Children's Home in Mulliyawalai. About 600 parents and teachers attended a "Love Week" competition in October 2012, where 1,200 students from 89 schools submitted thematic, human-values-based essays, poems and paintings.

The Sathya Sai Centre in Phnom Phen, Cambodia now offers free English classes for needy children.

The ISSE of Thailand trains a very large number of teachers and has a long history of delivering diploma courses to teachers from many overseas countries. An active community SSEHV programme continues, in which 67 students are taught by 10 teachers. During this reporting period, SSE classes were held for 85 children by 7 teachers in Bangkok, and 30 children in an orphanage received SSEHV lessons from 10 teachers. The Sathya Sai School in Thailand has 53 teachers and 349 children enrolled, from kindergarten to grade 12. All 22 recently graduating students entered universities for further studies. The Sathya Sai School in Thailand is considered one of the best schools in the country and has received many awards and recognitions from the Department of Buddhism, the Ministry of Education and other organisations. Teachers and students of the Sathya Sai School have also appeared on many television programmes and have been featured in national newspapers.

The Sathya Sai Organisation in Lao PDR conducts daily SSEHV classes for more than 350 children in two Sathya Sai Centres.



ZONE 5 COUNTRIES

Hong Kong has an ISSE that runs SSEHV programmes in the Queen Elizabeth group of schools. The youth help the Chinese-speaking students by making audio recordings of the novels assigned in the curriculum, so that they may develop fluency in English. SSEHV classes are conducted for forms 1 to 3 under the title “Life Education Programme at St. Margaret’s School.”

In China, the ISSE of Hong Kong supports an SSEHV programme in an adopted school, the Lu Hua Xi kindergarten, in Don Guan, which has 200 children and 20 teachers. The integration of SSEHV into mainstream schools continued to gain momentum in Gong Cheng County, Guangxi Province; more than 70 teachers and principals from 10 schools participated in a conference in November 2012, along with senior officials of the local education bureau, university professors and graduate students. In Qinghai Province, six model schools were in their third round of professional development in SSEHV. In December 2012, a one-day meeting was held in the Research Centre for Education in Human Values of South China Normal University.

Taiwan has a Sathya Sai kindergarten school, with 12 students and 5 teachers. SSE classes are held for 40 Chinese students, and SSEHV classes are held in two local elementary schools once a week for 150 children. An after-school SSEHV programme assists grades 6 to 9 students with their homework, twice a week.

In Japan, SSEHV classes are held in Osaka, Takayama and Nagoya.

ZONES 6, 7 AND 8 COUNTRIES

In Gmunden, Austria 32 people participated in two educational seminars organised by the European ISSE. In St. Petersburg, Russia, 174 people from eight Zone 8 countries attended seven seminars. About 250 teachers from the Bobek National Research, Education and Health-Improving Centre in Almaty, Kazakhstan attended a seminar

given by the ISSE. Since 2010, this course has become part of the curriculum for all kindergartens, schools and higher education institutions in Kazakhstan. In Spain, the ISSEs collaborated on a number of training projects, and a training course was delivered for a private preschool for 35 participants. Two seminars were held for 71 participants in Albacete, Spain. In Poland, the ISSE conferred certificates on 22 candidates in Poland and held seminars in the Netherlands for 36 participants. In Lithuania, trainers delivered an educational seminar for 83 participants, and a leadership and responsibility seminar for 45 participants.

ZONE 9A COUNTRIES

Currently, 1,125 children are taught by 222 SSE teachers at 37 Sathya Sai Centres in the United Kingdom (UK). The children participate in all programmes of the Sathya Sai International Organisation (SSIO) of the UK. Apart from attending lessons where they are taught silent sitting, storytelling, group devotional singing and prayers, they have extracurricular activities. Teacher training days and SSE awareness sessions have been held across most regions of the UK. Parents participate in study circles to raise awareness of the importance of SSE. An active programme in a Leicester school, titled “Good Values Club,” is gaining national recognition.

The African ISSE has its headquarters in Zambia, with branches in Ghana and Kenya, and several branches are being established in Uganda and Nigeria. During this reporting period, it offered seminars in Nigeria, Uganda and other African countries. The ISSE has been conducting Diploma and Advanced Diploma Courses for a number of years and offers a current syllabus of Introductory, Intermediate, and Standard Diploma Courses. The African ISSE is recognised by the Ministry of Education as a provider of educational qualifications for the Advanced Diploma level.

There are Sathya Sai Schools in Zambia, Ghana and Kenya. The two Zambian schools have 852 students and a staff of 35 teachers. These schools have had a 100 percent success rate in national examinations for grades 7, 9 and 12. The girl’s school was rated as the best in the state. The international organisation, Business Initiative Directions (BID), has given three awards – Gold, Platinum and Diamond – to the Zambian Sathya Sai Schools, in recognition of their outstanding commitment to quality in education.

South Africa has three Sathya Sai Schools with a total of 659 students. The ISSE in South Africa oversees these schools. There is close integration of the schools with the Sathya Sai Organisation. The youth are active in providing free tuition to other students during weekends. These schools are good examples of integration of the racial communities in South Africa.

Botswana has 89 children enrolled in an SSE programme delivered by 9 teachers.

In Mauritius, 1,217 children attended SSE classes with the assistance of 114 trained SSE teachers and 26 helpers. The Early Childhood Care and Education Authority of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources selected the pre-primary section

of the Sathya Sai School of Mauritius as one of seven preschools to participate in its International Book Fair 2013. The event was inaugurated by Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius, in the presence of the Ministers of Education, and Arts and Culture.

ZONE 9B COUNTRIES

Currently, SSE classes are conducted weekly by 182 teachers for 1,359 children in the Zone 9B countries. The children actively participate in special events and sing bhajans in the Sathya Sai Centres. Parents are active participants in the SSE activities.

In Bahrain, emphasis is placed on the unity of faiths, and love as the universal religion, in children's activities. In Kuwait, a programme in SSEHV, titled "Human Values: the Essence of Life", was initiated to bring increasing awareness of human values to the community at large.

In Oman, Sathya Sai children regularly participate in weekly activities for the benefit of autistic children, along with the adults of the Sathya Sai Centres. Sathya Sai devotees have been active in promoting SSEHV in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. A project titled "Integration of Human Values in Teaching: a SSEHV Model" was implemented in various schools in Muscat for 220 teachers. This was in compliance with the Ministry of Education requirements for bilingual and international schools in Oman, to commemorate the fortieth year of the renaissance of the country. An open essay-writing and poster-making competition on human values has been held every year in Oman since 2003.

In the United Arab Emirates, Sharjah, Abu Dhabi and Dubai have active SSE programmes.

SUMMARY

During the reporting period of April 2012 through March 2013, both consolidation and expansion of Sathya Sai educational activities have occurred all around the world. The ISSEs are playing increasingly influential roles in assessing and propagating the beneficial impact of the Sathya Sai model of education. Strong evidence is emerging from the ISSEs and the Sathya Sai Schools that integration of spirituality and mainstream education has a positive impact on the character, social and cultural achievements and academic attainments of students. At the same time, communities as a whole are being transformed. The recognition that education should result in the blossoming of human excellence is leading a number of educational institutions and educational systems to adopt SSEHV programmes as their mainstream model.



SATHYA SAI GLOBAL HEALTH MISSION

Sri Sathya Sai Health Centre, Nepal

“Sacrifice is the hallmark of a true doctor. So, doctors should have the spirit of sacrifice. They should be compassionate and considerate towards the poor. There are many poor people who are losing their lives, as they cannot afford costly treatments. Your love alone can sustain such lives.”

**–Sri Sathya Sai Baba
19th January 2001**

Efficiency of healthcare takes into account healthcare spending, patients’ costs and health-welfare factors such as life expectancy. Accordingly, Sathya Sai Ideal Healthcare is one of the most efficient healthcare delivery systems in the world.

The Sathya Sai International Medical Committee (SSIMC) attempts to enhance the quality of health care worldwide through Sathya Sai Baba’s global healthcare mission. In many countries SSIMC provides medical services free of cost to the patients, with state-of-the-art equipment and approach; with a comprehensive aim at healthcare for the body, mind and spirit; and with concerted efforts to both prevent illnesses and maintain good health. Most importantly, this care is delivered with utmost compassion and love reflecting Bhagawan’s love for all beings.

During the period April 2012 to March 2013, Sathya Sai medical professionals provided healthcare for approximately 48,000 patients in 148 medical and dental camps in 18 countries. Compassionate care was provided for more than 70 animals in veterinary camps. In addition, more than 155,000 patients were treated in 31 permanent medical clinics in 10 countries. Sathya Sai Mobile Clinics lovingly served more than 28,000 patients. The Sathya Sai International Medical Committee organised and delivered emergency medical services in countries affected by natural disasters, including the shipment of medical supplies to the needy. Healthcare professionals also taught at Bhagawan's hospitals.

Highlights of these medical services are detailed below.

MEDICAL AND DENTAL ROTATIONS

A total of 26 overseas doctors specialising in various fields of medicine and surgery served at the Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital (SSSGH) and Sri Sathya Sai Institutes of Higher Medical Sciences (SSSIHMS) in Prasanthigram (PG) and Whitefield (WFD). These specialists also taught post-graduate physicians in their respective fields and participated in departmental conferences.

In addition, two medical camps were held in Prasanthi Nilayam during this period, wherein more than 5000 patients were seen by a group of physicians from overseas. The facilities included a pharmacy, separate consultation rooms for men and women and an acute-care room. The camps were equipped with their own IV stands, electrocardiogram (ECG) unit, suction apparatus, nebulisers, Ambu bag, emergency airway maintenance equipment and wheelchairs. All medicines in the formulary were purchased in India, so that patients might easily refill prescriptions. Acute-care services included blood glucose testing, inhalation therapy for asthma patients, intravenous fluid and antibiotic administration, therapeutic injections, wound dressing, application of splints/Ace bandages, ECG recording and oxygen administration. Patients in need of hospital services were referred to SSSIHMS-PG, SSSIHMS-WFD and SSSGH-PG.

In addition, 28 dentists and dental surgeons from Australia, Austria, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, UK and USA provided services including periodontal treatment, fillings, orthodontics and root-canal treatments.

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL, DENTAL AND VETERINARY CAMPS AND CLINICS

Medical, dental and veterinary camps and clinics were conducted in several countries. More than 48,000 patients were seen in 148 medical and dental camps in 18 countries. In addition, more than 155,000 patients were seen and treated in 31 permanent medical clinics in 10 countries, and more than 70 animals were cared for in veterinary camps. In Indonesia, Sathya Sai Mobile Clinics, travelling to villages, lovingly served more than 28,000 patients. As in previous years, many of the medical camps and clinics have received commendations from their local governments.

The following examples illustrate activities in the medical and dental camps and permanent medical clinics.

South Africa: Medical and dental camps were conducted in six cities. An estimated 6,300 patients were seen. In an on-going wellness programme started in 2008, 150 patients were seen in March 2013. Through this programme,

patients were screened for hyperlipidaemia, hypertension, diabetes and vitamin B₁₂ deficiency. All patients were counselled about preventing disease by leading a healthy lifestyle, watching their diet and engaging in physical fitness. A Sathya Sai Short Stay Ward has been established at a hospital in South Africa. A dedicated team of veterinary surgeons and assistants conducted a veterinary camp, in which animals were given rabies vaccinations and treated for worms, dermatological diseases, gastrointestinal ailments and minor bites and lacerations.

Argentina: Permanent Sathya Sai medical clinics are located in nine cities, where 3,366 patients were served by specialists in general medicine, dermatology, paediatrics, dentistry, ophthalmology and psychiatry. Eight medical camps were conducted in Rio Negro, Santa Fe and Buenos Aires during the reporting period. About 1,200 patients were seen. In both the medical camps and the permanent clinics, pap smears, electrocardiograms, echocardiograms, and blood-pressure measurements were performed. Health education and counselling on disease prevention were provided.

Indonesia: In order to accommodate the increasing healthcare needs of people who live in remote villages and cannot travel, the Sathya Sai Organisation in Indonesia started the Sathya Sai Mobile Clinic (SSMC) to provide quality medical services in a loving and timely manner. The SSMC is a fully operational medical mobile unit equipped with modern diagnostic and laboratory facilities, which can be dispatched at a moment's notice. The first service was rendered on 1st April 2012. During the period April 2012 to March 2013, medical professionals and volunteers served over 23,000 patients for various illnesses. The SSMC completed 245 mobile clinic missions, including trips to very remote areas.

USA: Medical camps were held in 16 cities in the USA, where about 500 healthcare professionals, assisted by 1,500 support-staff volunteers, saw over 6,200 patients. In addition, medical services were provided in two medical clinics in California, where a total of about 3,300 patients were seen. A medical camp held in April 2012 in Mary-



Children receiving treatment at medical camp, Argentina



Annual international medical camp, Russia



Medical service after flooding, Indonesia

land, as part of the national observances of Bhagawan's *Mahasamadhi*, served 88 patients. All adult patients had medical screening for diabetes, obesity and hypertension. Paediatric patients were offered immunisations as well as hearing, vision and dental screenings. When necessary, patients were referred to local healthcare facilities for higher levels of care. At the end of the camp, a nutritious meal was served to all, and clothes were given to the children. In St. Louis, Missouri 194 patients were seen at a health fair conducted on 6th October 2012. Every patient was screened for diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidaemia and obesity, HbA1c, hearing and vision. In addition, elderly patients were screened for osteoporosis. A bone-marrow donor-registration drive was part of the medical camp.

Sri Lanka: The Sathya Sai Suva Sevana Hospice has 35 beds for terminal-ill patients and provides year-round compassionate hospice care. Adults and youth volunteers take turns visiting the hospice regularly and celebrating New Year's Day, Deepavali, Christmas and Valentine's Day with devotional singing. Residents of the hospice are also taken on a pilgrimage of their choice, once each year. In addition to three permanent medical clinics, the Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Sri Lanka held 16 medical camps, providing healthcare to 9,000 patients. Over 1,400 patients were screened in seven vision camps, where 70 patients were identified as needing cataract surgeries. The Sathya Sai Seva Organisation then arranged for free surgeries for these patients in the General Hospital in Vavuniya.

Russia: The Sathya Sai Service Organisation of Russia conducted its annual international medical camp in Baymak, Republic of Bashkortostan, in August 2012. A multinational group of more than 200 volunteers and healthcare professionals from Russia, Germany, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, UK and USA conducted two medical camps where over 4,400 patients were seen. Mobile healthcare teams were sent to 18 villages within a radius of 60 kms.



Nepal: The Sri Sathya Sai Health Centre, a permanent medical clinic, provided medical and diagnostic services to over 15,000 patients. This clinic provides diagnostic services such as X-ray, ECG, ultrasound and blood tests. Free physiotherapy, medicines and transportation for the disabled were also provided. In addition, 26 medical camps were conducted and about 10,000 patients were seen.

DISASTER RELIEF

Italy: The region of Emilia suffered an earthquake of magnitude 5.2 on the Richter scale in May 2012. The Sathya Sai Organisation of Italy helped 36 individuals who incurred disabling injuries due to the earthquake. They were given shelter, food and medical care in the Mother Sai House in Divignano.

Laos: In the Borikhan district of Borikhamxay province, 15 villages were destroyed by floods in July 2012. About 40 volunteers from the Sathya Sai Foundation of Laos responded to the emergency by distributing rice, cooking oil, soy sauce, boxes of noodles, salt, sugar, blankets and other needed items.

USA: In October 2012, Hurricane Sandy landed on the east coast of the USA and left a swath of destruction affecting 24 states, including New York, and causing over \$65 billion in damages. The Sathya Sai Organisation immediately planned and executed coordinated relief activities for the victims by providing clothing, food, transportation, shelter, and medical care. One of the largest relief efforts was in a shelter that housed 500 displaced residents. Along with other organisations, Sathya Sai volunteers took care of the immediate sustenance and medical needs of these residents.

Sri Lanka: Floods and landslides in December 2012 destroyed several parts of Sri Lanka and affected more than 300,000 people. The Sathya Sai Organisation of Sri Lanka immediately embarked on a large-scale distribution of food and medical supplies in the districts of Chilaw, Anuradhapura, Killinochchi and Batticolo.

Indonesia: In January 2013, heavy rains combined with poor drainage and water released from a nearby dam caused floods, resulting in widespread death and destruction near Jakarta and leaving over 18,000 people homeless. A day after the devastating floods in January, 50 volunteers from the Sathya Sai Organisation, including six doctors and two nurses, provided much-needed food and medical assistance to 760 people at Ancol Barat.

SATHYA SAI INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR MEDICAL SUPPLIES

The Sathya Sai International Centre for Medical Services (SSICMS) was established to procure certain requested medical supplies and to ship them to different countries. Under an Indo-US bilateral agreement, the total value of medical supplies shipped during 2012-2013 was US \$373,624.14. These included neurosurgical, cardiac, orthopaedic and anaesthesia supplies.



TEACHING AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES FOR PHYSICIANS

Routine telemedicine sessions in general radiology and various subspecialties of radiology were conducted weekly at the SSSIHMS in both Prasanthigram and Whitefield. In addition, visiting physicians also taught residents. This ongoing teaching programme helped the postgraduate medical residents prepare for their board examinations. It also helped the hospital staff physicians keep up with the recent advances in medicine. The teaching programme was conducted in paediatrics, family medicine, cardiology, cardio-thoracic and vascular surgery (CTVS), neurosurgery, orthopaedic surgery and radiology. In addition, medical residents and fellows have come from other countries such as USA to learn and observe the delivery of Sathya Sai Ideal Healthcare at Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital and Sri Sathya Sai Institutes of Higher Medical Sciences in Prasanthigram and Whitefield.

SUMMARY

The hallmark of Sathya Sai Ideal Healthcare is the delivery of free and compassionate healthcare that not only treats illnesses but also prevents diseases. The Sathya Sai International Medical Committee has continued to carry out Bhagawan's healthcare mission in many countries around the globe. These noble and exemplary activities have won several accolades and awards from many organisations. The Sathya Sai International Medical Committee will continue this selfless service to the needy and set an example for delivery of ideal healthcare with love and compassion.

“Dedicate one day in a week to render free medical service to people, irrespective of creed or nationality. Such service will give you spontaneous joy and enable you to experience the Divine.”

**–Sri Sathya Sai Baba
18th December 1995**



Mayor of Houston, Texas declares 24th April 2012 as “Universal Love and Unity Day”

Swami has stressed that service rendered with love and compassion is its own reward. Sathya Sai devotees have been faithfully following His teaching by serving all, without any expectations other than to relieve their misery and distress. Many nations around the world have taken note of this creed of selfless service and have recognised its value to society in general. Such awards and recognitions are listed here to inform and inspire others towards greater achievements and more service to mankind, which is near and dear to Swami.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Under the guidance of the ISSE of the Dominican Republic, the Las Marias School in Bani has adopted the SSEHV programme. The focus on integrated spiritual and academic education has been of great benefit, and the school has received an award as one of the best in the country, competing against more than 5,000 schools. The principal stated that this award is due to the application of SSEHV.

DUBAI

Sathya Sai devotees in Dubai are very active in community service including blood-donation drives. On 22nd June 2012, the Dubai Health Authority recognized the SSO of Dubai for organising blood donation drives with a certificate.



HAITI

Sathya Sai devotees have been serving the needy and the destitute people of Haiti with love and dedication for over three years. On 2nd February 2013, the Ministry of Social Affairs in Haiti awarded a Certificate of Excellence to Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation (the Foundation) for outstanding dedication to the children of Haiti since the devastating earthquake of 12th January 2010, which killed over a quarter million people. The Ministry also recognised the Foundation as one of the five best service organisations working in Haiti since the earthquake.



INDONESIA

In Indonesia, the Red Cross awarded certificates of appreciation to the SSIO of Indonesia for its blood-donation services. The Government of Indonesia gave several awards for the “Sai Socio-Care” and other emergency relief activities, including an award recognising the SSIO as a “Good Samaritan.”

MALAYSIA

In Malaysia, the Chairman of the Rotary Melawati Club commended the SSIO of Malaysia for developing one of the most effective human-values-based parenting programmes in the world.

On 11th August 2012, the Sathya Sai Educare Academy of Malaysia held a convocation for 65 children who attended education in human values classes. During the convocation, six teachers received the Exemplary Teachers Award for their dedication in teaching children for more than 20 years.

NEPAL

Medical services are a hallmark of Sathya Sai devotees of Nepal. The SSIO of Nepal received a National Award from the National Blood Bank as the highest donor of blood in the country.

“The core of spiritual discipline of selfless service is to see everyone as yourself and yourself in everyone.”

**–Sri Sathya Sai Baba
14th November 1975**

THAILAND

SSE has been widely acclaimed in Thailand as an outstanding programme in promoting children's growth. In Thailand, the Sathya Sai School in Lopburi won an award from Princess Somsawali that recognises it as an outstanding school that promotes environmental responsibility. The National Education Council of Thailand has bestowed the "One School, One Innovation" award to the Sathya Sai School for its "Leading the Youth along the Path of the King" project.

UNITED KINGDOM

Sathya Sai devotees in the United Kingdom (UK) have donated large amounts of "liquid love" for saving lives in the community. On 26th August 2012, Sathya Sai volunteers participated in a blood donation drive at the National Health Service (NHS) Blood Centre, in Central London. The NHS was so impressed by the efficient and selfless response of the volunteers that it provided a unique identifier to the SSO of the UK so that the volunteers can offer blood donation services anywhere in the country.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Sathya Sai devotees have been serving the needy in California, USA, for many years by holding medical camps in the community. On 8th December 2012, the Mayor of the City of Eastvale, California presented a special award to the SSIO of the USA, to "acknowledge their dedication and commitment and for their outstanding leadership" in holding a much-needed dental, vision, and medical camp in the community.

"God will not ask you when and where you did service; he will ask what your motives and intentions were."

**–Sri Sathya Sai Baba
19th November 1981**





ZONE 1

CANADA ■ USA ■ ISRAEL ■ ARUBA ■ BAHAMAS
BARBADOS ■ CURACAO (NETHERLANDS ANTILLES)
GUYANA ■ JAMAICA ■ ST. KITTS ■ ST. LUCIA
SURINAME ■ U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ■ WEST INDIES

Bryce Canyon, USA



Love on Wheels project, Canada

“You are not doing service to others, you are doing service to yourselves, to the God in you, the God who is equally present in others.”

**–Sri Sathya Sai Baba
21st November 1981**



CANADA

In Canada, there are 60 Sathya Sai Centres and Groups, with about 10,000 members, including Sai Spiritual Education (SSE) students. They actively participate in many devotional, educational, and service programmes based on Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's teachings.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

LOVE ON WHEELS

The first anniversary of Bhagawan's *Mahasamadhi* coincided with the anniversary of 25 years of community service at the Sathya Sai Centre of Scarborough, Ontario. To honour both these significant occasions, the Love on Wheels project was initiated, and 40 wheelchairs were purchased and distributed to two major hospitals in Toronto, the Scarborough Hospital Foundation and the Scarborough Rouge Valley Health System.

About 600 Sathya Sai devotees attended the wheelchair donation function at the Sai Centre in Scarborough on 24th April 2012. The evening commenced with programmes by the Sai Spiritual Education (SSE) students. Leaders from Buddhist, Christian, Zoroastrian, and Muslim faiths graced the occasion and offered their prayers. *Veda* chanting, speeches by past presidents, video presentations and scintillating *bhajans* followed well into the evening. The culmination of the event was the presentation of the wheelchairs, which were received by the hospital representatives in the presence of the member of Provincial Parliament representing Scarborough Rouge River Riding.

All the wheelchairs carried a plaque bearing the quote, "Love All, Serve All." The spirit of this successful project was illustrated by the shining example of a 12-year old SSE student who donated funds from savings generated by practising "Ceiling on Desires," to purchase two wheelchairs.

VISIT TO A WOMEN'S SHELTER

To celebrate Valentine's Day, children and young adults from the Sathya Sai Centre in Toronto hosted a joyful event on 9th February 2013 at a local women's shelter that is a temporary home for battered and abused women who are victims of domestic violence. The event commenced with games for the children, allowing the mothers to have free time to relax. The volunteers decorated the tables with tablecloths and lovely anthurium flower centrepieces and served a delicious, hot Italian meal consisting of lasagne, macaroni pie, salad, garlic bread, punch, ice cream sundaes and cake, lovingly prepared by the young adults and SSE girls. A red rose was presented to each mother, and the event concluded with lively entertainment and music.

In Ottawa, Sathya Sai devotees cooked and served food to about 400 needy people at the Shepherds of Good Hope premises on Saturday, 3rd November 2012. On Ladies' Day, 19th November, women devotees of the Sathya Sai Centre cooked and delivered food to a women's shelter. From 19th to 23rd November, Sathya Sai devotees cooked and served 200 homeless people daily, through the Ottawa Sathya Sai Centre's "We Care, We Share" service programme.

SERVICE ACTIVITY BY SSE STUDENTS

In November and December 2012, the Edmonton SSE students conducted a service project for The Mustard Seed Edmonton Organisation, by setting up a "Christmas Mitten" tree decorated with donated gloves, scarves, socks, etc. In addition, useful winter items and toiletries were placed into 21 backpacks for distribution to the needy.

SATHYA SAI EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES

About 6,500 people participated in the 10th Annual Walk for Values on Sunday, 27th May 2012, which began at Yonge-Dundas Square in downtown Toronto. The Mayor of Toronto, Hon. Rob Ford, welcomed everyone, stating that the annual event aims to eliminate violence, drugs, and crime. He emphasised that with a firm commitment to basic human values, we can transform ourselves and work together to create a wonderful city. The principal of the Sathya Sai School, Dr. Mrs. Revathi Chennabathni, stated that the theme for this year's walk was "Serve and Inspire." As a part of this event, three projects were undertaken:

1. Collection of 10 tons of nonperishable food items for the National Daily Bread Food Bank;
2. Collection of 216 pints of blood in partnership with the Canadian Blood Services; and
3. Donation of 108 children's beds to community partners.

An interfaith programme was also organised by Sathya Sai devotees in Toronto, as part of the annual Walk for Values. Representatives of five major world religions discussed the unity of faiths, through universal values embraced by all. Members of clergy representing Islam, Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Christianity, and Hinduism spoke eloquently about the five human values – Truth, Righteousness, Love, Peace and Nonviolence – and about the ideal of purity of thoughts, words, and deeds.

The parade was filled with floats, marching bands and music, as people walked carrying banners and signs that heralded the values of Truth, Right Conduct, Love, Peace, and Nonviolence. The spectators cheered and enjoyed the parade, which concluded upon return to Yonge-Dundas Square, where parade participants were welcomed by Chinese drums and a dragon dance.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

On 18th November 2012, about 1,000 people attended a programme presented by 250 SSE children from the Sathya Sai Centre of Toronto-York. The programme included *Veda* chanting, devotional and values-based songs, and a play on the unity of religions, titled “There Is Only One Religion, the Religion of Love.” The play revolved around a fictional courtroom scene, where a trial was underway to decide the fate of different religions and their practices. The prosecution argued to convince the jury that religion is the cause of numerous problems in the world and that religion should not have a place in society. On the other hand, the defence appealed to the jury by narrating stories from different religions showing that, although there are problems in the world, the common thread that binds all religions is LOVE. It was concluded that the solution to all problems is love and sacrifice. The play narrated the lives of saints from Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism and elaborated on the traditions followed by Judaism and Zoroastrianism. Dances and songs were interspersed in the instructional programme on religion.

On 23rd November, more than 800 people celebrated Bhagawan’s birthday with the devotional traditions of *Suprabhatam*, *Nagarsankeerthan*, and *Laksharchana* (chanting of the sacred divine name 100,000 times), followed by inspirational talks on Bhagawan’s message and group devotional singing.

As part of Bhagawan’s birthday celebrations, two service projects, “Ceiling on Desires” and “Feel the Pain, Fill the Plate,” were organised. Sathya Sai devotees skipped some meals, experiencing firsthand the pangs of hunger, and used the savings to purchase food for a food bank. Approximately 1,000 pounds of food was collected during the two weeks preceding Bhagawan’s birthday, and 87 packages of food were prepared and distributed to the needy in the greater Toronto area.



Tenth annual “Walk for Values”, Canada



Drama by SSE children, Canada

About 100 Sathya Sai devotees celebrated Swami's Birthday on 25th November 2012 at the Calgary Sathya Sai Centre, with a five-hour-long concert. SSE students chanted invocation prayers and presented a skit with a SAI (Service, Adoration and Illumination) theme, followed by devotional songs and a veena (a traditional Indian stringed instrument) recital.

Sathya Sai youth took full responsibility in organising Swami's Birthday celebrations at the Saint-Hubert Sathya Sai Centre in Montreal. They worked with the SSE children for many months to prepare a play based on the Nine-Point Code of Conduct, with music direction and props. In addition, a beautiful musical programme was also offered to our dear Lord.

ISRAEL

COMMUNITY SERVICES

In March 2013, before the Jewish Pesach holidays, Sathya Sai devotees along with family and friends packed more than 50 cartons with fruits, vegetables, and other non-perishable food items for distribution to the needy. This service is also rendered throughout the year.

SATHYA SAI EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES

English lessons were given to disadvantaged children in Haifa, Israel, starting in 2012, until February 2013. Four SSEHV courses were given in North Israel, where, for the first time, Arabic, Druze and Israeli teachers took the training course together. In an unprecedented move, the SSEHV course was accepted by the Ministry of Education. Henceforth, all teachers in Israel can follow Educational Improvement Training in SSEHV with the full support of the Ministry of Education. This will provide a great opportunity to the children in Israel to learn and practise human values as taught by Swami.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Over 12,000 Sathya Sai devotees and more than 3,000 SSE children continued to participate in various devotional, educational and spiritual activities throughout the year.

MEDICAL SERVICES

OVERVIEW OF MEDICAL SERVICES

During the reporting period of April 2012 through March 2013, 14 medical camps and two health fairs were held across the USA. A total of 6,262 patients were served by 472 health care professionals and 1,582 support staff, with love and professional care.

A medical, dental, and vision camp was held on 8th December 2012 for the first time in Eastvale, California, near Los Angeles. In recognition of loving services provided to 434 needy patients, the mayor of Eastvale presented a special award to the Sathya Sai Organisation (SSO) to acknowledge their dedication and commitment and for their outstanding leadership in providing a needed service in the community.

In addition, free medical services were provided weekly at two medical clinics in California.

ASHLAND FREE MEDICAL CLINIC

Inspired by Swami's hospitals in India, which provide the highest quality free medical care to the poorest of the poor, the Ashland Free Medical Clinic (AFMC) opened its doors on 8th January 2005, to provide free health care to the poor who lack medical insurance. The clinic is located in San Lorenzo, a small community near Oakland, in Northern California, and provided care to 2,484 patients during the reporting period. AFMC is staffed by board-certified doctors in the fields of internal medicine, family practice, hospital-based medicine, paediatrics, infectious disease, emergency medicine and dermatology. Patients are treated like family members and are welcomed warmly at the clinic. The clinic is open every Saturday morning for general medical and dermatology services. AFMC is also open on Wednesday evenings for paediatric care. If necessary, patients can be referred to a local county hospital for other specialised medical services.

About 50 volunteers serve at the AFMC. They express their love and compassion through dedicated service, without expecting any reward or recognition. One volunteer said, "I volunteer my services at the AFMC because the Lord guides me to help others. This world is a better place because of helping others." Another volunteer commented, "Whenever I come here, I am inspired by the selfless service rendered by the volunteers. I feel fortunate and blessed to be a part of the team."



Medical services in clinic, Northern California

AFMC has been the training ground for many young doctors and other health-care professionals, and those aspiring to work in health-care fields. The clinic space is provided free of charge by the San Lorenzo Unified School District. The atmosphere of the clinic is sanctified by the hard work, humility, love and dedication of the volunteers, which prompted one patient to remark, "When I come to this clinic, I can feel God's presence." Another patient said, "You are all messengers of God. May you all be blessed for all the good work you are doing."

Kaiser Permanente gave Dr. Joe Phaneuf, Medical Director of AFMC, the David Lawrence Community Service Award in 2009 and the Sidney Garfield Exceptional Contribution Award in 2007, in recognition of the work done at AFMC to provide free medical care to community members. When the clinic was started in 2005, AFMC also received an Ashland Community Service Award from the Ashland Community Association.

For the past three years, AFMC volunteers have also gone to the homes of patients who have diabetes in order to provide health education. This has helped the patients control their diabetes more effectively by inspiring them to make healthier food choices, exercise daily and take their medications as directed. The American Public Health Association gave AFMC an opportunity to share this model at the International Meeting of the American Public Health Association in San Francisco, California, on 30th October 2012.

SRI SATHYA SAI BABA FREE MEDICAL AND DENTAL CLINIC

On Saturday 1st May 2010, the Sri Sathya Sai Baba Free Medical and Dental Clinic was inaugurated at the Irma Colen Health Centre in Culver City, California, with the divine blessings of Bhagawan. Located immediately to the west of Los Angeles, this area is home to many low-income, immigrant families who cannot afford medical care. The equipment used at the clinic is provided by the Venice Family Clinic Foundation. The clinic fulfils a critical need in the local community by providing free Saturday healthcare services on a regular, uninterrupted, year-round basis. The clinic is open from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM every Saturday. Services provided include primary care, paediatrics and dental care. Once a month, services are provided in endocrinology, orthopaedics, neurology, dermatology, hypertension, asthma, obesity management and periodic health maintenance (annual physical examination, flu shot and preventive healthcare).

All medical and nonmedical volunteers are Sathya Sai devotees from Southern California. During this reporting period, healthcare services were lovingly provided to 851 patients by a team of 20 doctors specialising in internal medicine, paediatrics, orthopaedics, endocrinology, dermatology and neurology. Five dentists, three registered nurses, and 54 general volunteers also served in the medical clinic.



Medical services in clinic, Southern California

MEDICAL CAMPS

In commemoration of the *Mahasamadhi* of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Sathya Sai Centres of the greater Baltimore-Washington area, on the East Coast, jointly organised a medical camp on 28th April 2012 at the Nazareno Latino American Church in Owings Mills, Maryland, which serves the Hispanic population in the Baltimore area. A team of 16 medical professionals, 10 translators and 50 nonmedical volunteers from Sathya Sai Centres came together to run the medical camp. Eighty-eight patients were screened for obesity, hypertension and diabetes mellitus. Consultations were provided in internal medicine, dental, ophthalmological and nutritional specialties. A number of patients also took advantage of a mental-health screening. The paediatric patients were offered immunisation, hearing, vision, dental and developmental screenings. A nutritious meal was served after the patients' medical consultations, and the children were presented with clothes. Some of the patients had tears of joy upon experiencing Swami's love in action, through His volunteers. Summing up the feeling of gratitude of many patients, one patient said, "May God bless you for the great service."

The Sathya Sai Centre of South Bethesda, Maryland, joined Bethesda Cares (a not-for-profit organisation caring for the homeless in Montgomery County, Maryland) and the Bethesda Presbyterian Church to conduct a medical camp for the homeless and the needy in Bethesda, Maryland, on 13th October 2012. A total of 11 medical professionals, including 9 doctors along with 22 nonmedical volunteers, served 33 patients at the Bethesda Presbyterian Church. Blood-glucose screening, medical consultation, dental services, ophthalmological screening, stress-reduction counselling and life-skills counselling were provided. Experiencing the love and care given at this event, someone commented, "The event was amazing. I saw our clients being cared for and treated with so much dignity and respect. I saw people smiling for the first time in years! It was truly amazing. I'm still a little emotional about the experience."

The Sathya Sai Sai Centre in Wappingers Falls, New York, conducted two health fairs at the Beulah Baptist Church in Poughkeepsie, New York, on 28th April and 27th October 2012. A team of 17 volunteers lovingly served 47 needy patients in April, and a team of 13 volunteers returned in October to serve 28 needy patients at this location. Services offered included blood-pressure measurements and blood-glucose testing, cardiology consultations, pain management, psychiatry evaluations, dental services and diet counselling.

The Sathya Sai Group of Toledo, Ohio, organised a free medical screening camp for needy patients in Monroe County, Michigan, on 25th August 2012, at St. Joseph Parrish Hall in Monroe, Michigan, from 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM. A total of 48 medical providers and 65 nonmedical volunteers met with 173 patients. Many types of med-

ical services were offered, including dental, dermatology, ENT, gastroenterology, gynaecology, internal medicine, ophthalmology, paediatrics, podiatry, psychiatry and urology. The camp was organised by young adults and local high school students, including children belonging to different faiths and ethnicities. Volunteers included Muslims, Hindus, Christians and Jews. Various ethnicities included Arabs, Chinese, Spaniards, Indians, Pakistanis, Hispanics, African-Americans and Europeans. All worked together in harmony. A 21-year-old young man who came with his two children to the camp was found to have such high levels of blood sugar that he was transported immediately

to the emergency room at the local Mercy Memorial Hospital. The hospital informed the camp organisers that he would have died if his high blood sugar had not been detected in time at the camp. This was also the case for a 26-year-old female, who was found to have high blood-sugar levels and was rushed to the local hospital for immediate treatment.

An annual event at the retreat of Sathya Sai devotees of Region 5 (North Central US) is a medical camp where health screening and health education services are offered. This year the camp was conducted at the Jewish Council for Youth Services' (JCYS) Camp Henry Horner, in Ingleside, Illinois, from 31st August through 3rd September 2012. A total of 63 patients were served by five medical and five nonmedical volunteers. Over the years, this medical camp has had an impact on people with hypertension, diabetes and elevated lipid levels. The same patients have returned to the camp year after year and have enjoyed improved health because of the preventive health care and health education provided at the camp.



Medical camp in Michigan



Eye examination at medical camp

The Sathya Sai Centre of Columbus, Ohio, organised a medical camp in the downtown area of Columbus, Ohio, at the Refuge Baptist Church on 22nd September 2012, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The church helped in reaching out to needy people in the area. A total of 15 medical providers and 40 nonmedical volunteers assisted 135 patients by offering services in internal medicine, paediatrics, physical therapy, psychiatry, gynaecology, dentistry and optometry. A blood-donation drive was also organised by the American Red Cross.

The Sathya Sai Centre of Des Moines, Iowa, conducted a medical camp at Epworth Methodist Church on 29th September 2012, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, in collaboration with the church. A total of 10 medical providers and 43 nonmedical volunteers provided healthcare services to 80 patients in the fields of internal medicine, orthopaedics, paediatrics, dentistry and optometry. Flu shots were administered, in addition to the basic medical checkups. The local Polk County Health Department provided nurses, as well as all the supplies required for administering flu shots, blood-glucose screening and lipid profiles. The County Health Department also assisted with blood pressure and body weight measurements. In addition, a total of 600 pairs of reading glasses were distributed to those in need, as well as 300 pairs of sun glasses, obtained through the programme, "Vision for Sight." The optician who volunteered at the camp did not know about Sathya Sai Baba and was volunteering for the first time in her life.



She was in tears and had a blissful experience when a needy patient, upon receiving appropriate reading glasses, exclaimed joyfully that she never imagined that she could see so clearly!

The Detroit Metro Sathya Sai Centre celebrated Swami's birthday by serving a hot meal to about 150 residents at the Cass Community Shelter in Detroit, Michigan, which provides food, healthcare, housing and jobs in areas plagued by extreme poverty. A medical camp was also held on 15th December 2012, with the help of six medical professionals and 12 nonmedical volunteers. A total of 36 patients were screened for blood pressure, blood glucose and elevated lipids/cholesterol. They were also given general health information.

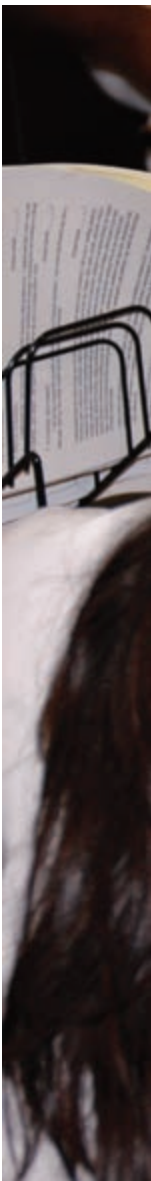
The SSIO of USA, Mid-Central Region, conducted the ninth annual, free, comprehensive health check, blood tests, and a bone-marrow-donor registration drive at the Holy Trinity Parish Centre, St. Ann, Missouri on 6th October 2012. The health fair shifted to a new spacious venue this year, based on the needs of the surrounding area, which is inhabited by refugees and new immigrants. The camp started at 9:00 AM with a prayer, followed by a welcome address by Dr. Jack Feely, Vice President, Sathya Sai Central Council, USA. Healthcare services were rendered to 194 people with utmost love, humility and unity by more than 100 volunteers, including 23 doctors and representatives from numerous community organisations. Fifteen attendees registered for the National Marrow Donor Registry Programme. The comprehensive health check-up included blood-sugar test, HbA1c, blood-lipid panel, blood-pressure check, dental check, eye check for refraction and glaucoma, asthma check; height, weight and BMI check; women's health, children's health, bone health/osteoporosis screening, hearing test, general health information, mind-body health, children's behavioural health, nutrition/diet advice, diabetic education and poison control. Health education was given on an individual basis, with flip charts, video, posters and handouts. Free reading glasses were distributed as needed. A Bone Marrow Donor Registration Drive was included in the medical camp with a goal to increase the number of minorities in the National Marrow Donor Registry. All the children were given a "goody bag" containing books, pencils and crayons. Fifty-nine children were fitted with bicycle helmets, and 25 defective infant car seats were replaced. All participants received a brown bag containing nutritional food products.

On 13th May 2012, Sathya Sai devotees from Region 8 (Pacific South) joined with the California Lions Friends in Sight group to conduct a vision camp for the needy at St. Martha's Parish Catholic Church in Huntington Park, with the help of 19 medical and 40 nonmedical volunteers. A total of 372 patients received eye

examinations, and 352 of them received recycled eyeglasses, while nine patients had custom eyeglasses made after the camp. Six patients were referred for eye surgery, for conditions such as cataract or removal of a growth on the eye. Thirteen patients needed follow-up assessment/treatment for possible glaucoma, two patients received advice for treatment of macular degeneration and one patient needed treatment for proliferative diabetic retinopathy.

On 28th October 2012, Sathya Sai devotees from Region 8 conducted a medical, dental and vision screening camp at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Oxnard, California, which is home to many low-income migrant farm workers. The effort was supported by St. John's Regional Medical Centre and St. John's Pleasant Valley Hospital, which provided medical tests at no cost. Forty-two medical and 316 non-medical volunteers provided medical, dental and vision screening services to 661 patients. Paediatricians saw 61 children. Dentists conducted over 360 dental examinations with fluoride treatments, and optometrists and ophthalmologists tested 397 patients for acuity, glaucoma and related conditions. Volunteers from the Lions Club provided referrals to their own clinic, as needed, and dispensed 369 refurbished prescription eye-glasses to the patients. Several community service organisations worked together to offer Medi-Cal (free medical insurance provided by the State of California for people with low income) and food stamps to 140 people. Sathya Sai volunteers prepared and distributed 858 grocery sacks. Each family was given two sacks containing over 30 pounds of non-perishable food items, including rice, beans, sugar, flour, cooking oil and cereal.

Sathya Sai volunteers have been conducting a medical camp in Corona, California, for more than 10 years, and in 2012, a new camp was inaugurated on 8th December 2012 in Eastvale, about 10 miles away, to provide easy access for local, needy residents. New and unique to this camp was an extensive dental treatment section, including teeth-cleaning services. Thirty-five doctors and dentists and 108 student medical professionals, supported by 80 nonmedical Sathya Sai volunteers, provided services to 434 patients. Three individuals needing cataract surgery were referred to the local Tri-County Eye Institution for further evaluation and possibly free surgery, custom eye-glasses were made and delivered to 35 patients, free of cost, and 265 pairs of refurbished prescription eye-glasses were handed out. Patients needing tooth extractions were referred to the Riverwalk Oral & Facial Surgery Centre for free tooth extractions. Other services were also rendered, including specialist referrals.



An annual medical camp in Corona was held on 16th March 2013. Ninety medical professionals covering 28 specialties, assisted by 585 nonmedical volunteers, saw 513 patients. The group of doctors included primary care physicians and specialists in gynaecology, cardiology, pulmonary medicine, orthopaedics, dermatology and paediatrics. Nutritional counselling and referrals to free or low-cost clinics were also provided. Blood tests performed included 354 cholesterol and lipid panels, 354 blood sugar tests (including HbA1c), 23 haemoglobin screenings, and 17 Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) tests. In addition, 30 electrocardiograms, 5 TB skin tests, 38 urinalysis tests, 70 mammogram exams, and 65 pap-smear tests were performed. A total of 455 pairs of recycled prescription eyeglasses were given free of charge to the patients by the Lions Club. Over 130 patients with abnormal cholesterol (lipid) tests and high blood-sugar were referred to low-cost clinics for follow up treatment. Diet counselling was provided to more than 125 individuals.



Dental check-up, California

Local physicians belonging to the Sathya Sai Centre in Colorado Springs, Colorado, have developed a partnership with Colorado Asian Health Education and Promotion (CAHEP), to address the health care needs of the local indigent population, including seniors. On 16th December 2012, in collaboration with Penrose Hospital, 100 patients were served at the Senior Health Centre in Colorado Springs, Colorado. These patients, who have little or no financial resources, were screened for chronic diseases and received follow-up care in physicians' offices and at three local hospitals. The services included primary care, mammograms, regular diabetic testing, in-patient hospital follow-ups, exercise testing to screen for heart disease and women's health evaluations.

DISASTER RELIEF: HURRICANE SANDY

In October 2012, Hurricane Sandy landed on the East Coast of the USA and left a swath of destruction along the East Coast affecting 24 states, including New York. Its storm surge hit New York City on 29th October, flooding streets, tunnels, and subway lines, and cutting off power in and around the city. Damage in the USA amounted to 65 billion dollars, second only to Hurricane Katrina. Within 24 hours, thousands of homes were damaged, and several hundred people lost their lives and belongings. With Bhagawan's blessings and grace, the SSIO of USA immediately sprang into action to provide food, clothing, transportation and loving care to residents affected by the natural disaster. In spite of severe personal hardships, depleting supplies, power outages and fuel shortages, Sathya Sai volunteers lost no time in starting relief operations in the severely impacted areas of New York and New Jersey.

A three-pronged approach was initially adopted: evaluate needs, organise resources and serve the needy. In the hours leading up to and following the storm, Sathya Sai volunteers on the ground started preparing for disaster relief and evaluating immediate needs, and informed the SSIO of USA, which organised and mobilised resources across the country for the shipment of urgently needed supplies. All branches of the Sathya Sai Organisation worked closely to coordinate relief efforts. The Prasanthi Council and the Sathya Sai Society of America were instrumental in setting up a Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund. Local Sathya Sai devotees immediately engaged in receiving and distributing supplies, serving hot meals, clearing debris, renovating and rebuilding homes and supporting schools.

In the immediate aftermath of the storm, food, clothing, supplies and shelter were the primary needs. As soon as the storm's devastating impact became clear, Sathya Sai volunteers fanned across impacted neighbourhoods, even walking or bicycling long distances, to serve food and distribute clothing and supplies, in coordination with local government officials and community organisations. Thousands of blankets, toiletries, hygiene supplies, baby products and school supplies were delivered to homeless shelters, relief centres, churches, food banks and pantries serving areas along the coastline of New Jersey, from Atlantic City to Staten Island. Distribution



Volunteers helping to clean up after Hurricane Sandy

centres were selected based on their ability to reach the most affected victims in a timely manner.

Sathya Sai volunteers on location constantly provided feedback to the SSIO of USA, with regard to urgently needed goods and supplies. These were in turn communicated to the 10 regions across the country, so that supplies could be procured and expeditiously delivered to the storm-ravaged areas. To receive and organise the supplies shipped from across the country, three hubs were set up in the homes of local devotees in New York and New Jersey.

Several storm shelters were set up by the City of New York to temporarily house displaced residents. One of the biggest shelters housed 500 displaced residents, at Queens College in Flushing, New York. In the initial days after the storm, Sathya Sai volunteers, working alongside other organisations, took turns serving around the clock in this homeless shelter to care for residents' immediate needs. There were many touching incidents of love and compassion. An elderly lady who spoke only Farsi (Persian) became separated from her family during the storm. She was anxious to know about their welfare and wanted to reassure them of her own safety. A Sathya Sai devotee who spoke Farsi was immediately located and put in contact with her. As a result, she was successfully reunited with her family.

After the storm came the task of cleaning up and rebuilding the community. In addition to providing food, shelter, and care to disaster victims, Sathya Sai volunteers also worked in parallel with local home owners and government offi-

cials to assist with cleanup and restoration work. Severe flooding had damaged many homes and public properties. Sathya Sai volunteers helped retrieve belongings wherever possible and helped clean homes and basements filled with water. Some of the activities included: clearing debris, removing water from homes, mould treatment, garbage disposal, and gutting of waterlogged floors and walls of homes. The CEO of a non-profit organisation, Habitat for Humanity of Westchester, New York, Mr. Jim Killoran, said, "During the months of Sandy's relief efforts, I have been blessed to meet volunteers, hundreds of them from the Sathya Sai Organisation, who practise "Love All, Serve All." What an amazing group of people, from Virginia, Boston, New York, Rhode Island and New Jersey! With smiles and lots of sweat, they have helped us to get families back to their homes. Just as a hurricane swept away homes, a tornado of Sathya Sai volunteers has helped the affected to build back their homes."

Sathya Sai devotees came from far and wide across the USA to assist with construction activities, such as demolition of damaged wall and flooring, removal of construction debris, moving sand, cleaning up yards, supporting schools; and helping with drywall, flooring, electrical work, painting, insulation, tiling and so on. Sathya Sai volunteers not only provided food but also assisted with transportation, accommodations, and other supporting activities.

In another instance, the SSIO of USA reached out to the Fund for Public Schools (Department of Education, City of New York) in support of its initiative to help New York City public schools/students/families recover from the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. As part of this effort, school supplies, back packs, school uniforms and footwear donated by Sathya Sai devotees were delivered to the Knowledge and Power Preparatory Academy VI, a middle school in Far Rockaway, New York. The CEO of The



Volunteers rebuilding homes



Fund for Public Schools, Julia Bator, noted “Thank you very much for reaching out to The Fund for Public Schools to assist in the recovery efforts following Hurricane Sandy. Your generosity and encouragement were invaluable as we worked to help and serve students whose lives were disrupted by the storm. With your help, children are back in their classrooms, feeling cared for and ready to learn.” Sathya Sai volunteers also helped to transport 5,000 schoolbooks.

Relief efforts continued in 2013. In February and March, Sathya Sai Centres from New Jersey, New York, and other nearby areas continued to distribute relief materials in the hardest-hit areas. Food and supplies distributed included rice, pasta, vegetables, fruits, cereal, salt, sugar, oil, peanut butter, jelly, and canned food; clothing items such as winter clothes, coats, gloves, socks, and hats; and baby food, milk, diapers, and toiletry kits. Hot meals were provided in some areas.

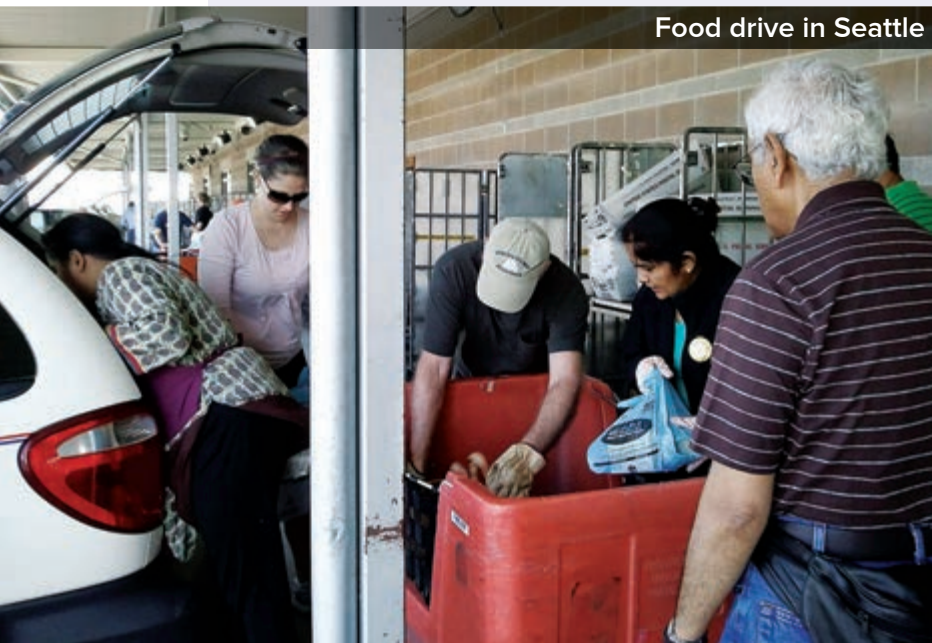
COMMUNITY SERVICES

Over the past two-and-a-half years, Sathya Sai volunteers from the Northern Colorado Sathya Sai Centre have been rendering loving service by donating food items and funds to the Weld Food Bank in Greeley, Colorado, with 10 Sathya Sai volunteers consistently working at the food bank.

“The Bridge” is a facility that provides shelter for about 1,200 homeless people in Dallas, Texas. Sathya Sai volunteers from the Sathya Sai Centre of Dallas participate in a Sunday morning service activity called Story Circle. During this time, they meet



Serving senior citizens in Mississippi



Food drive in Seattle

with guests at The Bridge. About 25 people of different religious backgrounds attend the Story Circle. Inspirational and motivational stories, such as the “Get Inspired” stories from Radio Sai, along with conversations, are conducted with the guests on topics such as “All Is Love” and “We Are All One.”

At the Johnnie Champion Senior Citizen Multi-Purpose Centre in Jackson, Mississippi, the elderly come and spend the day and participate in recreational activities. Every Thursday, Sathya Sai volunteers from the Jackson Sathya Sai Centre deliver a weekly newspaper called “The Jackson Advocate,” which has been in publication since 1938, to about 20 seniors at this Centre, free of charge. Sathya Sai volunteers also serve food to more than 40 guests at the Billy Brumfeld

House homeless shelter in Jackson, on the fourth Saturday of every month. The Madison County “Alliance Against Poverty” group provides non-perishable foods to more than 700 families in Madison County, Mississippi. Sathya Sai volunteers donate non-perishable food items, school supplies and school uniforms to this organisation. In December, Christmas gifts are given to children adopted by the Sathya Sai Centre through the Angel Tree Programme in Mississippi.

In May 2012, Sathya Sai volunteers in many areas assisted with the “Stamp Out Hunger” food drive by the National Association of Letter Carriers. The annual food drive, which began in 1993, is the largest one-day food drive in the USA. People are informed well ahead of time about the food drive, and non-perishable food items are picked up from the donors and brought to the local post offices for further distribution to the needy.

BHAGAWAN'S MAHASAMADHI OBSERVANCES

Many service activities and devotional programmes were organised by numerous Sathya Sai Centres in the USA. On the occasion of the first anniversary of Bhagawan's *Mahasamadhi* in April 2012, Bhagawan's infinite love and compassion were reflected through the actions of hundreds of Sathya Sai devotees, benefitting several thousand people all over the USA. On 18th April 2012, Sathya Sai youth from the Manhattan Sai Centre, New York, presented an exhibition on Bhagawan's teachings and screened a video of various service projects. On 24th April, devotees from Buffalo and Niagara Falls, New York, organised a devotional programme with group devotional singing and a short audio/visual presentation. Sai Spiritual Education (SSE) students offered flowers at Bhagawan's Lotus Feet while chanting the 108 sacred names of Bhagawan. A delicious meal was served at an emergency shelter for women and families, and 90 sandwiches were distributed at a local homeless shelter.

Devotees from all Sathya Sai Centres in New York City offered a bouquet of *bhajans* to Bhagawan on 27th April. At the Sathya Sai Centre of Flushing, New York, Dr. Paul Erhard, Mrs. Ellen Erhard and their children, Jeffrey and Robert, of Denver, Colorado, offered a musical tribute to Bhagawan, titled "Sands Around Infinity."

On 19th April, the Jersey City Sathya Sai Centre, in New Jersey, organised a musical tribute, "Sathya Sai *Samarpan*," with participation by Sathya Sai students, Sathya Sai youth and devotees. From 21st to 24th April, prayers and satsangs were conducted at three places, and food was served to 100 needy people on the first day. On 24th April, about 100 Sathya Sai volunteers from the Sathya Sai Centres of East Brunswick, Edison, Bridgewater, Scotch Plains and Holmdel, New Jersey, prepared 775 food packets and served the needy at various locations.

In Pennsylvania, 108 bags of breakfast items, including cereal, juice, fruit cups, peanut butter, crackers and cookies, were prepared amidst chanting of *Sai Gayatri*. The bags were distributed to the needy. On 21st April, devotees from the Pittsburgh Sathya Sai Centre cleaned a large flower bed in front of the Sathya Sai Centre and planted azalea shrubs, amidst chanting of *Sai Gayatri*. Between 21st and 28th April, devotees from the Centre worshipped Bhagawan by chanting *Sai Gayatri* and singing *bhajans* in 21 homes.

On 8th April, volunteers from the West Palm Beach Sathya Sai Centre, Florida, prepared and served food to about 120 people in Ft. Lauderdale, followed by *bhajans*. The last weekend in April, Sathya Sai volunteers,



Volunteers serving food in New York



along with SSE children, served breakfast to children at a foster home. At the Orlando Sathya Sai Centre in Florida, special study circles were organised to study the topics of the omnipresence of Bhagawan and the importance of living in the Divine Presence with faith and gratitude. On 24th April, a special devotional programme attended by about 90 people included multi-faith prayers by SSE children, devotional singing, and a talk by Sri Vijay Sangram Singh, the USA National Devotional Coordinator. Devotees from the Sathya Sai Centres in Miami, Florida, served food to the needy and spent time with the residents of a nursing home. Elsewhere in Florida, Sathya Sai devotees from Pace, Ft. Walton Beach and Pensacola, donated clothes, food and supplies to the needy, and devotees from Tallahassee donated medicines, including pain relievers, to a local homeless shelter. Volunteers including SSE children from the Sathya Sai Centre in Jacksonville planted trees at a local elementary school.

About 50 devotees including Sathya Sai youth and SSE children from the Walpole Sathya Sai Centre, Massachusetts, took part in a devotional programme on 24th April that included multi-faith prayers and *bhajans*. Food was served to 100 people at a homeless shelter. Also on 24th April, devotees from the Boston Sathya Sai Centre organised a programme that included sharing of their experiences with Bhagawan and a presentation by SSE children.

Special *bhajans*, study circles and service activities were also organised by a large number of Sathya Sai devotees in Maryland, Washington DC, Delaware, North Carolina and St. Thomas.

In St. Louis, Missouri, SSE children donated 39 activity packs to children at a homeless shelter. These activity packs included crayons, markers, pencils, a scratch pad and two giant colouring books with activities, all packed in a nice tote bag. Other service activities included collection and donation of non-perishable items, along with 108 lunch boxes. In Columbia, Missouri, *Mahasamadhi* Day was observed with a special *bhajan* session. Fifty personal sanitary care kits were also donated.



Making sandwiches in Missouri



Distributing groceries to the needy in California

In Memphis, Tennessee, Sathya Sai volunteers served food at a homeless shelter, donated bed sheets and blankets to refugees, and donated non-perishable food items and other resources to the Memphis Food Bank, where food supplies were at an all-time low. In Nashville, Tennessee, service activities included volunteering at a walkathon, preparing and serving food for about 190 women and children, and distribution of care packages containing nine essential items. At a local community kitchen in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Sathya Sai volunteers helped to serve food to more than 100 people. In addition, 25 large cans of fruits and vegetables were donated to this kitchen on 24th April.

In Columbus, Ohio, Sathya Sai volunteers donated school supplies to about 300 needy children from a few selected communities in the Central American country of Honduras. In River Forest, Illinois, Sathya Sai volunteers took part in a Des Plaines River cleanup project by picking up recyclable trash, which was greatly appreciated by the local residents. In San Jose, California, Sathya Sai youth planted 18 trees at a park in San Jose. The Sathya Sai Centre of Tustin, California, provided more than 2,000 kilograms of non-perishable food items and 100 fast-food restaurant gift cards to 108 low-income families. The Sathya Sai Centre of Mesa, Arizona, coordinated the distribution of approximately 423 insecticide-treated mosquito nets (Sainets) to the people of a small village (Iganga) in Uganda, East Africa, to help prevent malaria. The Sathya Sai Centre of Albuquerque, New Mexico, donated a large supply of diapers, gloves and “wet wipes” for a day-care centre.

The Mayor of Houston, Texas, released a formal proclamation declaring 24th April as Universal Love and Unity Day, to commemorate the anniversary of Bhagawan leaving His physical body. The Sathya Sai Centre of Austin, Texas, expanded its ongoing tutoring service project to two additional elementary schools, to help third-grade to fifth-grade students prepare for their final exam-

inations. They also planted 50 rose bushes at the Austin State Hospital and landscaped the front yard of the East Austin Hospice unit. On 28th April, more than 900 people attended a public concert at the Unity of Houston Church titled “Love the Love” featuring Ms. Dana Gillespie, and organised as a loving tribute to Bhagawan.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

Bhagawan’s Birthday was celebrated throughout the USA with a variety of devotional programmes and service projects in November 2012. Sathya Sai Young Adults, children and devotees from all segments and different faiths, in many regions of the Sathya Sai community, worked in unity to create a memorable experience and to put into practice the teachings of Bhagawan. Service activities included feeding the hungry and homeless; donating and packing blankets, hygiene kits, non-perishable food and supplies for the victims of Hurricane Sandy; conducting health fairs and medical, vision and dental camps; and providing several weeks’ supply of food and toiletry kits to families living in extreme poverty.

The Sathya Sai Centre of Flushing, New York, in the Mid-Atlantic Region, celebrated Bhagawan’s Birthday on Sunday 18th November. Dr. Mrs. Sarojini and Dr. Rupak Changkakoti, alumni of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Prasanthi Nilayam, shared Swami’s message of love with devotees. Later, Dr. Rupak offered a memorable musical tribute, comprised of “Sai Katha” and other beautiful songs rendered during his college days in the Divine presence of Bhagawan. Supplies were also collected for families affected by Hurricane Sandy, and an orientation was conducted for Hurricane Sandy storm relief volunteers.

Bhagawan’s Birthday was celebrated by Region 8 (Southern California, Las Vegas, and Hawaii) on 17th November 2012 at Woodrow Wilson High School auditorium in Long Beach, California. Young Adults (YAs), children and devotees from all segments and different faiths of the Sathya Sai community worked in unity to create a memorable devotional experience for about 450 people in attendance. The YAs presented a stimulating multimedia show on the transformative effect of love and other human values. A music and dance programme, “The Religion of Love,” was presented, featuring songs in many languages and dances in colourful costumes, performed by SSE children from the Southern California region.





The Sathya Sai Centre of Glendale, California, also in Region 8, celebrated Bhagawan's 87th Birthday on 23rd November with an all-day programme beginning at 6:00 AM with *Om*karam, *Suprabhatam* and *Gayatri Mantra*, followed by *bhajans*. A service project to help victims of Hurricane Sandy was undertaken by packing 150 kits of blankets and toiletry items. The ladies' wing sewed quilt blankets for the needy.

SURINAME

COMMUNITY SERVICES

On 14th October 2012, the SSIO of Suriname celebrated Avatar Declaration Day with a service project for a needy family consisting of a father with two young children, whose mother had passed away. The family did not have access to clean water and other basic necessities. Sathya Sai devotees provided them with food and clothing, arranged for the children to go to school and gave the children school supplies, toys, and gifts.

Children's Day was celebrated on 5th December 2012 with the distribution of food and gift boxes containing toys and sweets to 35 disadvantaged children in Commewijne, Weg naar Peperpot. The children were delighted and grateful to receive the gifts.

On 18th December 2012, the SSIO of Suriname, distributed Christmas presents containing toiletries, biscuits, clothing and sweets to 20 people with physical and



Serving the needy, Suriname



Service to the residents of remote plantation, Suriname

visual disabilities at a Christmas luncheon organised by the Hubertstichting, an institution for the disabled. The disabled people were happy to receive the gifts, and one of them sang a song in appreciation.

Many disadvantaged families with elderly or disabled people, and families with young children live on remote plantations in Commewijne, Suriname. On Sunday, 13th January 2013, 13 Sathya Sai devotees visited four plantations by boat and distributed 22 packages containing rice, tea, flour, biscuits, onions, cakes and sweets, as well as detergent. Children's clothing and toys were also given to needy families with children. The recipients were happy and touched by the kindness of the Sathya Sai devotees.

On 14th January 2013, Sathya Sai devotees visited about 150 needy people by boat, at five different locations, and distributed food hampers and clothes.

On 20th January 2013, the SSIO of Suriname distributed 15 food packages in the Nickerie District and five food packages in the area near the Bhavan Sathya Sai Centre. Sathya Sai devotees from both Suriname and the Netherlands helped with this service activity.

In February 2013, medical bandages were donated by Sathya Sai devotees from the Netherlands for the needy residents of Suriname. Two boxes of bandages were given to a medical clinic at Jarikaba, whereas Esther Stichting, an institution for the disabled, and Saint Vincentius Hospital each received one box of bandages.

In April 2013, a group of eight Sathya Sai devotees served a delicious meal in lunch boxes to the needy, including many elderly and disabled people, who lived near the Bhavan Sathya Sai Centre.

On 27th April 2013, seven Sathya Sai devotees served a tasty lunch to the needy at a centre for the homeless in Paramaribo. Toiletries and clothes were also distributed.

SATHYA SAI EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES

Many SSE children come to the Bhavan Sathya Sai Centre to attend EHV classes, sing *bhajans*, take lessons in Hindi and participate in other activities. Their parents are also offered training in sewing and hair-cutting, so that they can earn an income. On Mother's Day and Father's Day, SSE children made flower bouquets for their parents under the supervision of the SSE teachers and the young adults.

U. S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

BHAGAWAN'S MAHASAMADHI OBSERVANCES

Sathya Sai volunteers celebrated Bhagawan's *Mahasamadhi* Day on a weekend in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, by offering homemade meals at several group homes: the Elder Shelter Home, the Yellow Cedar Home to the Physically Challenged, the Bethlehem Home for the Homeless and the Nana Baby Home for Orphans. Individual white towels and hand towels were distributed to signify Bhagawan's pure love for all.

REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

COMMUNITY SERVICES

More than 100 Sathya Sai volunteers, including 60 youth, from the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, constructed and donated 43 pre-fabricated homes for the needy between January 2012 and 31st March 2013. A typical 20-foot by 20-foot, two-bedroom home is made of steel frames and has French windows, steel doors at all external entrances and flush wooden interior doors. The homes were fully furnished and donated to needy families who own small plots of land to accommodate the houses. Each family was also given household items, including furniture, beds, wardrobes, a dining table, chairs, a kitchen sink, kitchen utensils, curtains, cosmetics, clothes, and groceries for one month.



ZONE 2A

COSTA RICA ■ CUBA ■ DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
EL SALVADOR ■ FRENCH GUIANA ■ GUADELOUPE
GUATEMALA ■ HAITI ■ HONDURAS ■ MEXICO
NICARAGUA ■ PANAMA ■ PUERTO RICO ■ ST. MAARTEN



Basilica de Guadalupe, Mexico



Service to the needy, Costa Rica

COSTA RICA

The Sathya Sai Centres and Groups of Costa Rica hold weekly devotional meetings, study circles and service projects to help the needy. Every Friday morning, Sathya Sai volunteers serve food to about 80 hungry people at the Los Mercaditos Park in downtown San Jose. Once a month, volunteers visit an AIDS shelter to serve the residents. Four workshops were held during 2012 in Costa Rica on Sathya Sai Education in Human Values (SSEHV).

DEVOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Throughout 2012-2013, guest meetings and public meetings were held in various locations in Costa Rica. In San Jose, a guest meeting in March 2013 included a talk and visit with Mr. John Behner, Chairman of Zone 2A. In October 2012, a guest meeting included a talk and visit with Priyah Shanmuga, a Sathya Sai youth from Sri Lanka. Also in San Jose, a guest meeting was held in November 2012 that included a talk and visit with Mr. Marcos Arize from Argentina and Ms. Livia Guedes from Brazil. All the speakers shared their experiences of Bhagawan and His teachings.

In Cartago, Sathya Sai devotees participated in a national meeting held in July 2012.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

SATHYA SAI EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES (SSEHV)

In November 2012, the Sathya Sai Orphanage of Barahona was established in the city of Barahona, Dominican Republic. After the devastating earthquake in Haiti in January 2010, many orphaned children were on the streets; some of them crossed the border into the Dominican Republic. Upon reaching Barahona in the Dominican Republic, they received food and shelter from the residents. A Catholic nun, Sister Cristina, took in several of these orphaned children. Around that same time, Sister Cristina was introduced to the SSEHV programme. She understood the significance of the programme and its potential benefit to the orphans under her care. In 2012, she registered and attended the SSEHV diploma course in Ecuador. Upon returning to Barahona, Sister Cristina worked with the Sathya Sai Organisation to establish the Sathya Sai Orphanage of Barahona in November 2012. This orphanage gives the orphans a home, food and, most important, education in human values.

Two houses were rented, one for the boys and one for the girls, in adjoining areas. Although the children had attended public school, they were illiterate, and Sathya Sai volunteers started living with the children for extended periods to give them an education in academics and human values. All eight girls and seven boys in the orphanage were observed making good progress. The SSIO of Dominican Republic supports two homes for the orphans and provides food and clothing. The SSEHV programme trains the volunteers who provide human values education to the children.

Sathya Sai volunteers started a values programme for teenagers, who meet once a week. The youth attend human values classes and then participate in community service activities. Some weekends the teenagers take nature walks. The classes have become very popular, and the size of the classes has grown from 10 students to 40.

With the help of the ISSE, the Las Marias School in Bani has adopted the SSEHV programme. The school has received an award as one of the best in the country, competing against 5,000 schools. The principal stated that this award is due to the application of SSEHV.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The SSIO of the Dominican Republic carries out many other service activities, including distribution of food and clothing and provision of free healthcare to the needy by conducting medical camps. During Christmas 2012, Sathya Sai youth of Dominican Republic met with more than 125 children in a poor area in the city of La Vega, sang songs on Human Values and distributed toys, candies and juices.

The SSIO of the Dominican Republic continues to participate in an annual book fair, at which many people purchase Sathya Sai literature. The public also gets an opportunity to learn about Bhagawan's life and message through the screening of videos such as the well-known film, *His Work*. The fair is held for two weeks every year, and each year the participation has increased.

In 2012 and 2013, four public meetings on the works and teachings of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba were held in the Dominican Republic. Over 1,300 people, including 100 Sathya Sai devotees, attended the public meetings. Two national retreats were also held in the Dominican Republic, attended by more than 200 Sathya Sai devotees.

“Sai Spiritual Education is the primary basis for the great movement to restore righteousness (dharma) in the world ... The ideal is to raise a generation of boys and girls who have a clean and clear conscience.”

**–Sri Sathya Sai Baba
6th June 1979**



**Youth Program Drama on Truth
Boys of the Sathya Sai Orphanage in Barahona**



Volunteers serving food to the homeless, El Salvador



EL SALVADOR

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The SSIO of El Salvador continues to serve food to the needy at the cobalt treatment centre for cancer patients and at the children's hospital. Sathya Sai volunteers visit two homes for the elderly every month and serve the residents with a delicious meal. In the city of San Salvador, Sathya Sai volunteers serve food to about 150 homeless people in the downtown area every Saturday and Sunday. The menu consists of cooked beans, rice, spaghetti, vegetables and seasonal fresh fruits, with coffee and sweet bread to conclude the meal. This service has continued for more than 25 years.

The SSIO of El Salvador also maintains its regular service activities at two Sathya Sai Medical Clinics, one of which offers consultations in 12 different medical specialties. Medical services were provided to more than 600 people during the year, and free medicines were also given to the patients.

BHAGAWAN'S MAHASAMADHI OBSERVANCES

On 24th April 2012 about 100 Sathya Sai devotees attended a meeting to offer homage to Bhagawan in observance of the *Mahasamadhi* Day in El Salvador. The meeting included a film featuring Bhagawan's childhood and His life up to the early 1970s, as well as an invitation for devotees to reflect on how to improve their spiritual practice and to experience more of Bhagawan's divine love. Two of the most-watched television channels in El Salvador covered the event and broadcast the video, *His Work*.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

On 25th November 2012, Sathya Sai devotees in El Salvador celebrated Bhagawan's Birthday in the auditorium of the David J. Guzman National Museum of Anthropology in San Salvador. The programme began with *Veda* chanting, prayers and devotional singing. Mr. Eduardo Umaña welcomed the audience, gave a briefing, and introduced the keynote speaker, Dr. Hector Castaneda, whose talk was titled "Practical Spirituality". Following the talk, a play titled "Boldness" was performed and a Sathya Sai video by Atilio Spinello was presented. Bookmarks with Swami's picture, audio CDs titled "Embodiments of Love" with songs sung by Bhagawan, and *prasadam* were distributed to all families who attended. In a special exhibit outside the auditorium, stand-up



Volunteers preparing food, Haiti



About 3,000 meals are served daily in various camps, Haiti

panels displayed, Bhagawan's life, messages, teachings and the humanitarian projects established by Him. The event was attended by 250 Sathya Sai devotees and the general public.

GUATEMALA

During 2012, the SSIO of Guatemala held two public meetings attended by about 200 Sathya Sai devotees and an equal number from the public at each event. Before one of the meetings started, it rained so hard that streets were flooded, and yet the auditorium was filled.

The Sathya Sai Centres in Guatemala have an active schedule of devotional meetings, study circles, guest meetings, and SSE classes for the children. The Sathya Sai School has 108 students from first through sixth grades and is in its 13th year of existence.

HAITI

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The SSIO continues to provide the people of Haiti with food and assistance as the country slowly recovers from the massive earthquake of January 2010 that took the lives of over 250,000 people and left 1.5 million people homeless. Since January 2010, the Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation, one of the few NGOs still serving in Haiti, has continued to support and finance the service activities undertaken by the SSIO of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Every day except Sunday during this reporting period, Sathya Sai volunteers in Port-au-Prince prepared and deliv-



Child receiving medical care, Haiti



Boy blessed with *darshan* of Swami

ered about 3,000 meals to children who live in very difficult conditions. At an operations and service centre used for cooking the meals, Sathya Sai volunteers started preparing food at 6:00 AM. By noon the cooking was completed, and the volunteers distributed the freshly cooked meal to different tent camps and locations where they feed the children. By Bhagawan's Divine Grace, Sathya Sai volunteers were able to cook and serve in spite of shortages of gasoline, propane and water, electrical blackouts and the continuing challenge of finding food and supplies for their cooking.

BHAGAWAN'S DIVINE PRESENCE

In the Sathya Sai Centre in Port-au-Prince, a group of children come every Thursday for devotional singing. The children sing beautifully and know many Sai *bhajans*. One of these children, Ransford, a five-year-old, cried to his mother one day to allow him to go to the Sathya Sai Centre. His mother told him it was not Thursday and he could not go. But Ransford insisted so much that his mother finally called a Sathya Sai volunteer, who came to pick up Ransford and take him to the Sathya Sai Centre. After reaching the Sathya Sai Centre, Ransford sat in front of Swami's picture at the altar, chanted the *Gayatri Mantra* and then tried to play the *tabla* (Indian drums) and sing *bhajans*. Sometime later, Ransford called everyone with excitement and volunteers came running. The boy said that Bhagawan smiled at him from the picture, then walked out from His picture, sat on the chair and raised His Divine Hands in blessing. Bhagawan then said goodbye and went back into the picture. It was concluded that Bhagawan had invited the child Ransford to the Centre to bless him with His Divine appearance.

Another miracle happened in that same Sathya Sai Centre in Port-au-Prince in the early morning on Bhagawan's Birthday. A volunteer was cutting mango for the distribution of *prasadam* and found the symbol of *OM* on the mango.

AWARD TO THE SRI SATHYA SAI WORLD FOUNDATION

On 2nd February 2013, the Ministry of Social Affairs in Haiti awarded a Certificate of Excellence to the Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation for outstanding dedication to the children of Haiti since the events of 12th January 2010, and recognised the Foundation as one of the five best service organisations working in Haiti since the earthquake.



Clinic in San Luis Potosí, Mexico

MEXICO

MEDICAL SERVICES

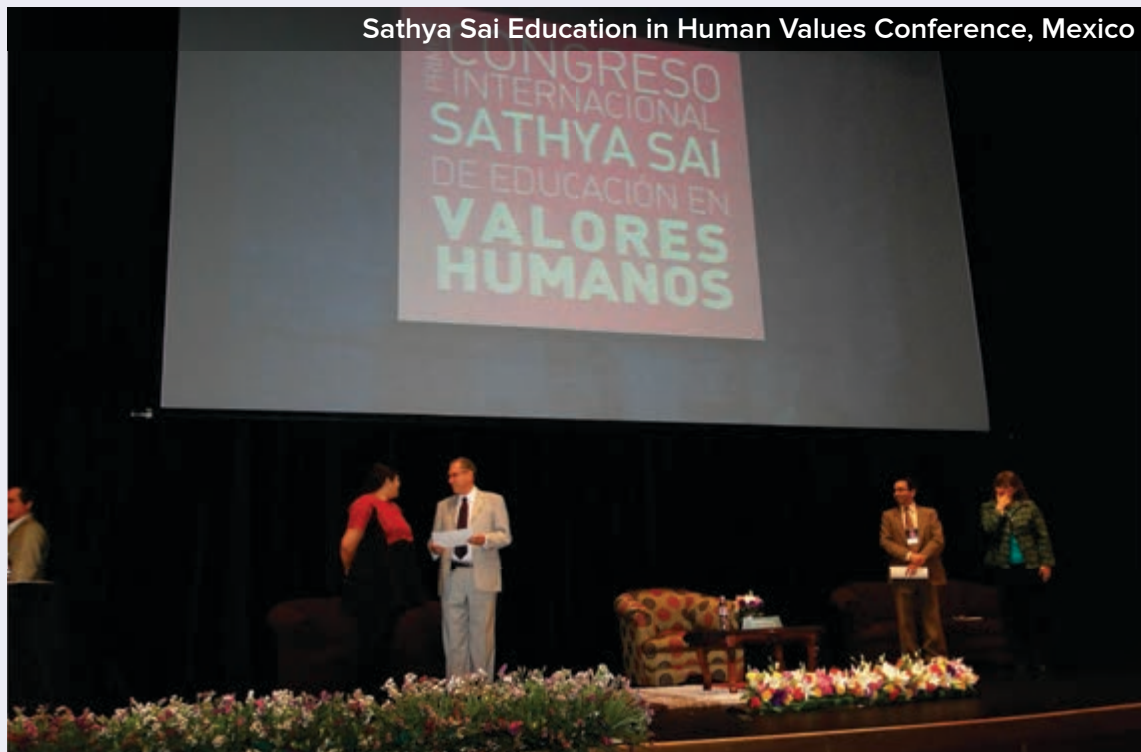
SAI Med was inaugurated in 2006 to offer medical assistance to needy communities living in rural areas of Mexico. As part of this programme, doctors, nurses and volunteers not only organise medical camps but also provide humanitarian aid in disaster zones, such as Tabasco, Veracruz, and Haiti. In addition, two medical clinics are operated in Mexico on an ongoing basis. One of the medical clinics is located in Iztapalapa, Mexico City, where some of the poorest people live, and the other clinic is in Las Flores, San Luis Potosí. By divine grace, the Iztapalapa Clinic in Mexico City was inaugurated on 1st April 2001. One physician and one nurse provide loving medical care to about 160 patients at this clinic every month. In addition, about 100 children attend SSEHV classes at the same location, every Saturday. With Bhagawan's blessings, the Las Flores clinic in San Luis Potosí was inaugurated on 9th April 2009 and serves

about 150 needy patients every month. Both medical clinics also provide free medicine and much-needed food and clothing for the community members.

SATHYA SAI EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES

An SSEHV conference was held at the San Luis Potosí University auditorium in San Luis Potosí, from 26th to 28th October 2012. About 1,200 teachers from 14 different countries, including Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia, Cuba, Peru, El Salvador and Guatemala, participated in the conference. Many attendees had no prior experience of Swami and had not been exposed to His teachings.

The conference was inaugurated on 26th October by Mr. Isidoro del Camino Ramos, Vice Secretary of Education for Mexico. Dr. Narendranath Reddy, Chairman, Prasanthi Council, addressed the gathering, setting the framework for the conference by describing Bhagawan's universal teaching of love. His speech was followed by talks on the subject of SSEHV programme conducted around the world. A cultural programme was presented after the day's proceedings. On October 27th, workshops were conducted on various facets of SSEHV. A dramatic presentation showing how the programme works was offered by Dr. Art-ong Jumsai, member, Prasanthi Council, and in the afternoon Dr. Pal Dhall, Chair of the International Sathya Sai Education Committee, spoke about SSEHV and the role of parents. An evening cultural presentation included dances from several different states of Mexico. Books, manuals, magazines, and audio CDs on SSEHV were made available to the participants. About 200 Sathya Sai volunteers provided loving service to the attendees during the conference.



In Mexico, teachers have formed an Academy of Sathya Sai Human Values under the leadership of the ISSE. The Academy holds monthly or bi-monthly meetings, during which teachers exchange experiences and plan training sessions for teachers who are new to the programme. The ISSE also hosts a weekly radio programme on human values, during which many listeners call in for more information. In addition, the ISSE conducts classes in human values for youth of ages 11 to 17, in a juvenile detention centre in Monterrey.

On 13th April 2013, 25 teachers attended the third meeting of the Academy in Monterrey. One teacher spoke about being a guest on a radio programme, during which she related human values stories from the Sathya Sai Manuals, and two other teachers spoke about their SSEHV classes for children that are held every Saturday afternoon in a public library.

NICARAGUA

The Sathya Sai Centres of Nicaragua hold weekly meetings with devotional singing and study circles. During 2012, three guest meetings and two public meetings were conducted in Nicaragua to share Bhagawan's message with the public.

Food is served to the homeless people on a regular basis. Many of these homeless people, in times of dire need, pick up food from trash bins to appease their hunger. They are very happy to receive the food served with love by Sathya Sai volunteers. Baskets containing supplies needed for newborn babies are prepared and distributed in children's hospitals.

"The members of our Organisation must be ready and eager to help students, the sick, and the poor. Feel that this is work that pleases Me ... Spend your days and years in activities that help those in dire need, and thus make this human existence of yours worthwhile and fruitful."

**–Sri Sathya Sai Baba
23rd November 1974**



Serving the poor, Nicaragua





PANAMA

The SSIO of Panama distributes food, clothes and shoes to migrant workers. Baskets containing supplies needed for newborn babies are distributed to parents and, once a week, food is distributed at a hospital. The SSIO continues to provide healthcare services to the needy by conducting medical camps that include an eye clinic and a mobile clinic. In the area of Chiriquí, a van was acquired to serve as mobile clinic, which helped the healthcare providers to travel to different locations to provide free medical care and medicines to the migrant workers. In the Bugaba Sathya Sai Centre, a room was built for shoe repair and distribution of shoes and clothing to migrant workers. Food is also provided for migrant workers, as many of the workers are unemployed due to the closing of banana plantations because of blight.

The Sathya Sai Centres of Panama keep an active schedule that includes devotional singing, study circles and guest meetings as well as SSEHV programmes for children. During 2012, three public meetings, a national conference and two medical conferences were held.



Youth service to orphans, Panama

PUERTO RICO

The SSIO of Puerto Rico serves food to the homeless once a month and soup to cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy in a hospital and provides food to abandoned animals. Clothing is given to the poor who live in a hostel and once a month, Sathya Sai volunteers visit the sick in their homes.

In 2012, five public meetings and one interfaith meeting were conducted. The ISSE of Puerto Rico held five educational conferences attended by over 150 educators. The ISSE also conducted an annual essay contest with the theme “Values for Life” in which students from 28 schools participated. On 8th June, awards were given to the contest winners in a ceremony attended by parents, teachers and representatives of the Ministry of Education. A book containing the winning essays from prior years was published and presented during the event.



ISSE meeting, Puerto Rico



ST. MAARTEN, FRENCH GUIANA AND GUADELOUPE

The Sathya Sai Centre of St. Maarten maintains an active schedule of devotional singing, study circles and guest meetings. SSE classes are conducted weekly for children. Sathya Sai volunteers serve the elderly during monthly visits to a home for the elderly, and they also visit patients at a local hospital.

The Sathya Sai Centre of French Guiana holds weekly meetings of devotional singing and study circles.

The Sathya Sai Centre of Guadeloupe holds regular meetings, with devotional singing, study circle and weekly SSE classes for the children.



ZONE 2B

ARGENTINA ■ BOLIVIA ■ BRAZIL ■ CHILE
COLOMBIA ■ ECUADOR ■ PARAGUAY
PERU ■ URUGUAY ■ VENEZUELA

Machu Picchu, Peru

ARGENTINA

The Sathya Sai Organisation of Argentina is very active, with about 50 Sathya Sai Centres and Groups.

MEDICAL SERVICES

The SSIO of Argentina provides medical services to the needy through medical clinics and medical camps. Medical clinics are held on a monthly or bimonthly basis at nine locations in Argentina. The clinics operated for a total of 68 days in 2012, serving over 3,000 patients. Six medical camps were held in Argentina in 2012, including one in Bariloche, four in Gonzalez Catan and one in Candiotti. About 850 patients were served at the medical camps in 2012.

On 8th November 2012, over 70 patients were served and more than 50 prescription eyeglasses were provided to the needy at an eye camp in Santa Fe City. Medical services included paediatrics, dental care, ENT, obstetrics and gynaecology, dermatology, ophthalmology, ultrasound and blood pressure check-ups.

Veterinary medicine for 108 animals was provided at two veterinary camps. The first camp was held on 3rd May 2012 in Noccan Kani, serving 55 animals, and the second camp was held on 26th January 2013 in Gonzalez Catan, serving 53 animals.

The city of Gonzalez Catan, a suburban area of Buenos Aires, suffered from severe flooding in 2012. The SSIO of Argentina organised a medical camp to attend to the needs of those affected by the floods.

SATHYA SAI EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES

A diploma course in SSEHV was held in Buenos Aires in the Mahatma Gandhi Sathya Sai School. Twenty-seven people attended from many countries of Latin America including Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador,





Medical clinics are held regularly at nine locations in Argentina

El Salvador, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela. The Mahatma Gandhi Sathya Sai School provides values-based education to about 400 students in a new building owned by the ISSE of Argentina. The school covers the entire primary school and the recently inaugurated secondary level. ISSE is recognised by the Ministry of Education in Argentina as well as by the educational authorities in several states and has had a positive impact on education in Argentina.

In January 2012, a national youth conference was held in Cordoba, Argentina. Participants included over 85 youth from Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay,

and Brazil. The theme of the conference was “Walking towards the Meeting...You Are My Destiny”. Many youth activities were held in a spiritual atmosphere.

RADIO SAI ARGENTINA

The online Radio Sai Argentina was launched, with continuous broadcast between 7:00 AM and 11:00 PM every day. Programme includes music, stories, readings of Sathya Sai literature, and other selected spiritual topics. There are two other Radio Sai programmes in Argentina, with weekly segments presenting the messages of Sri Sathya Sai Baba in Spanish.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

In March and April 2013, devotees travelled to the northern, forested area of Jujuy, Argentina, to provide service to very poor and needy people. Food and supplies were given to the residents, along with words of hope and love.

BOLIVIA

The five Sathya Sai Centres and Groups of Bolivia in the cities of La Paz, Cochabamba, Sucre, and Santa Cruz hold weekly meetings with devotional singing, as well as study circles and guest meetings. Regular service projects, educational programmes, and devotional activities are also organised. The topography is very difficult in this beautiful country, with difficult roads and complicated communications between cities and regions. But Sathya Sai devotees show amazing enthusiasm by travelling long distances to attend national meetings in various cities. They are active in expanding the human values message of Bhagawan Sathya Sai Baba in Bolivia, and offer educational courses in all the major cities.



Veterinary camp, Argentina

Devotional meeting, Bolivia





BRAZIL

The 69 Sathya Sai Centres and Groups in Brazil have active programmes of devotional singing, study circles, and SSE classes. The ISSE oversees the five Sathya Sai Schools in Brazil and organises projects that offer the SSEHV programme to thousands of teachers of public and private schools.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Service activities include teaching illiterate adults to read and write, donating layette sets to new mothers in need, distributing toys to schools and nurseries, donating milk bi-weekly to a nursery, caring for abandoned animals, and visiting the underprivileged or the sick, to bring them joy. Such visits are made to homes for the elderly, a cancer clinic, a home for drug addicts, a children's hospital ward, a home for the mentally handicapped, orphanages, and an institution that supports children with HIV.

In the second part of 2012, the Central Council of Brazil implemented a programme to support the five Sathya Sai Schools in Brazil. About 35 Sathya Sai Centres around the country participated in this programme with the support of about 180 Sathya Sai devotees. A proposal was developed to begin a "Ceiling on Desires Programme" in which the funds saved by the participants in controlling their desires would be donated to the five Sathya Sai Schools in the country. Boxes in the shape of a Sathya Sai School were placed in Centres, to collect savings generated by the ceiling on desires programme, which could be further channelled to the five Sathya Sai schools.

MEDICAL SERVICES

In Brazil, nine medical camps were held, serving over 1,800 people. At the camps, 38 professionals from 12 medical specialties and 5 nurses offered medical services in the fields of paediatrics, general medicine, cardiology, gynaecology, geriatrics, dentistry, dermatology, endocrinology, cardiovascular surgery, ophthalmology and veterinary services. Lab tests, medicines, vaccines and massage therapy were also given.



Sathya Sai school, Brazil





Education in Human Values conference, Chile

CHILE

COMMUNITY SERVICE

In 2005, the SSIO of Chile began a project to feed the homeless in Santiago. At first, volunteers from the Sathya Sai Centre, Seminario sought out homeless people on the streets of Santiago, and served them food at the site itself. Later, the Sathya Sai Centre building was repaired and remodelled so that the homeless could be invited every Sunday for lunch in the Centre. Every Sunday the homeless receive a delicious meal, as well as loving attention and education in human values from Sathya Sai volunteers.

SATHYA SAI EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES

The SSIO of Chile and Argentina joined together to hold the first international-regional activity in Educare for adults.

In September 2012, a group of three Sathya Sai devotees from Mendoza, Argentina, crossed the Andes by bus to reach Santiago, Chile, where they shared their experiences in a course titled "Teachings of Sathya Sai Baba and Education in Human Values." Their dedication and love was inspiring and 23 Sathya Sai devotees from Chile took part in the activities and workshops. As a result, Educare study groups were formed in Santiago and Puerto Montt.

COLOMBIA

The SSIO of Colombia held 15 public meetings in 2012, with over 1,000 Sathya Sai devotees and over 1,400 members of the public attending. The two medical conferences held by the organisation were attended by 80 Sathya Sai devotees and 12 others. Sathya Sai Centres in Colombia hold weekly devotional meetings, SSE classes, study circles, guest meetings, and youth activities.

SATHYA SAI EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES

Sathya Sai youth in the city of Bucaramanga, Northeast Colombia, meet every Saturday morning in a Complementary School to teach SSEHV to 35 children from low-income farming families in the region. The children, 6 to 17 years in age, are organised into three age groups, and classes are held from 8:00 to 11:00 AM. Despite the classes being on a weekend, the children eagerly look forward to the classes, a warm welcome and fun-filled educational activities. Human values are taught with stories, songs, silent sitting, cooperative activities, and quotes. Parents meet to discuss the relevance of SSEHV in their lives.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The SSIO of Colombia maintains a small house called “Sai Ama”, close to one of Colombia’s largest hospitals, which has a specialised Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit. This hospital mostly receives children of very needy families from all over Colombia, who are burn victims. Often a parent or relative accompanies the child,

Children at “Sai Ama” house, Colombia





Education in human values, Colombia



arriving in Bogotá with no money and no place to stay. “Sai Ama”, managed by a Sathya Sai devotee, was inaugurated four years ago to offer free accommodation and food to the needy burn victims and their relatives. During the day, the shelter is also open to children from the surrounding community. Sathya Sai devotees currently assist 20 local children with regular academic curricula as well as SSEHV activities. Sathya Sai devotees also help the household mothers in the area by giving cooking lessons in preparing nutritious vegetarian meals and showing them how to generate income from their cooked food products. Additional classes are offered on various subjects of interest, such as embroidery, computing, sewing, and operating sewing machines.

ECUADOR

Sathya Sai devotees of Ecuador visit the elderly and infirm residents of the nursing home operated by the Father Damian Foundation every month. They distribute toothpaste, soap, body lotion, clothes and food to the residents and entertain them with songs, stories, and conversation. Also, short dramas are performed by Sathya Sai devotees, who sometimes dress up as clowns, bringing joy and solace and thus breaking the monotony of the lives of the residents.

In 2012, five educational conferences and four public meetings were held in Ecuador, with over 190 Sathya Sai devotees and 390 general public members in attendance. The Sathya Sai Centres of Ecuador host weekly devotional meetings, study circles, youth activities and Sai Spiritual Education classes.



Service at nursing home, Ecuador



Sathya Sai School, Paraguay

PARAGUAY

The SSIO of Paraguay has a Sathya Sai Centre and a regular Sathya Sai Group in Asunción, both of which hold weekly devotional meetings and study circles, guest meetings, and youth activities. Regular service activities are conducted in orphanages or homes for the elderly. The Sathya Sai Group is particularly known for recording native devotional songs in the Guarani language. At a meeting held in Paraguay, Dr. Sara Pavan was a guest speaker at the military academy. The military authorities subsequently asked the SSIO of Paraguay to hold a course in human values for the administrative and nursing staff of the military hospital. Biannual leadership meetings of the SSIO, Region 23 are held in Paraguay, with office bearers and active members from all six countries of the region participating.

SATHYA SAI EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES

For many years SSEHV activities were held in a high school that prepared students to become professionals in different trades, such as plumbing and electrical work. These students, who came from impoverished families, had low self-esteem. After a few years, the impact of the SSEHV programme resulted in a significant increase in their self-confidence, self-esteem and self-awareness. Level 1 SSEHV courses were also offered to teachers of the school.

There is a Sathya Sai School in Asunción, with many inspiring stories on the transformation of children and families.

PERU

The SSIO of Peru held six educational conferences in 2012, with over 185 people attending. A public meeting was also held, with over 250 people in attendance. The eight Sathya Sai Centres in Peru hold weekly devotional meetings as well as study circles, guest meetings, and youth activities. There is one Sathya Sai School in Peru.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Four medical camps were held in the settlements of San Francisco de la Cruz, Villa Sol, Japan and Bolivar, located on the outskirts of Lima, where more than 350 patients were served. Consultations and treatment in specialties of dentistry, general medicine, obstetrics and psychology were offered. Medicines were delivered monthly to the Trujillo Teaching Hospital and bimonthly to the San Jose Nursing Home located in Trujillo. Medicines were also donated to five medical centres located in the mountains at an elevation above 2,700 metres.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

During winter, the higher mountainous regions of Peru, where people live in abject poverty, are impacted by extremely cold weather, resulting in many deaths and the destruction of livestock and crops. Since 2011, the SSIO of Peru has regularly organised service activities to help and support these needy villagers.

On 11th August 2012, after a gruelling 18-hour bus ride, several Sathya Sai devotees arrived at the town of Cullcuy, Huanuco situated more than 3,500 metres above sea level, to distribute blankets, warm clothing, food, medicines, and toys to the needy villagers. The goods and supplies, weighing nearly half a tonne, were donated by Sathya Sai devotees from all over Peru, and personally transported across adverse terrain. One Sathya Sai devotee was touched by the gratitude of the simple villagers and remarked, "They gave us much more than what they received".

About seven Sathya Sai devotees went back to the village of Cullcuy during Christmas 2012 to distribute more than 300 toys to needy children, as well as food and clothing. This service was made possible by the selfless, untiring work of many Sathya Sai devotees from Peru, whose dedication and compassion reflected Swami's love for the destitute villagers living in the high mountains.





Distribution of supplies in Cullcuy, Peru

Young mother receives blankets and supplies in Cullcuy





Birthday celebration, Uruguay

URUGUAY

SATHYA SAI EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES

The SSIO of Uruguay, a participant in the SSEHV programme since 1987, offers a free 18-week course in SSEHV for teachers and educators. After attending the Sathya Sai World Education Conference on human values in Prasanthi Nilayam in 2000, 12 Uruguayan women got together and prepared a course suitable to train educators in human values. The first course was delivered in 2005. Today the course consists of 18 two-hour lessons. Since the beginning of the programme in 2005, more than 500 people, including school teachers, school directors, professors, psychologists, parents, and grandparents, have experienced profound transformations based on understandings gained from this course. In 2012, the Cervantes School, a private educational institution whose director had previously attended the course, offered the use of its school facilities for hosting this course, so that it could be offered to teachers from all over the country.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

On 23rd November 2012, about 70 people from the Sathya Sai Centre of Montevideo celebrated Bhagawan's Birthday. The programme included chanting of the *Sai Gayatri* and a guided, "Light Meditation" for world peace. The celebrations conclud-



Cataract surgery patients, Venezuela

ed with the screening of two videos on Bhagawan, followed by devotional songs. As part of the celebrations, food was served to about 40 homeless people.

VENEZUELA

The Sathya Sai Centres of Venezuela hold regular devotional meetings and study circles, guest meetings, youth activities, and SSE classes. Over 90 people attended three educational conferences in Venezuela during this reporting period.

MEDICAL SERVICES

The SSIO of Venezuela has been providing free medical services to poor communities in the country for more than 15 years. This includes medical camps held every six months and more complex cataract surgeries that are performed.

During these medical camps, 350 or more patients are treated by specialists in the fields of general medicine, paediatrics, psychology, gynaecology, dentistry and ophthalmology. Parallel to the medical camps, recreation is provided for children who are waiting or for children whose parents are being seen, as well as for children in the community. Songs, stories, and quotes – the direct method of teaching education in human values – are the backbone of all games and activities. Children are also given a basket with school supplies, toys, and an oral hygiene kit. Bags of dry vege-

tarian food are distributed at the camps. The neediest families are identified before the camp. After the consultations, patients receive free medicines prescribed by the specialists. This service is performed every year at the same location, for continuity of care. The medical team consists of a nurse, a pharmacist, and eight volunteers. On Sunday, 18th November 2012, a medical camp was held in Ocumare del Tuy, La Guayavita Sector.

Medical camps for cataract surgeries complement the general medical camp. The Cataract surgery Camp took place on 31st May 2012, in which 39 poor, elderly persons received free operations. For 15 consecutive years, the Sathya Sai Organisation in Venezuela has thus returned vision to the most disadvantaged elderly people.

In 2013, three pterygia surgeries (removal of noncancerous eye growths) were performed. Pre-operative and post-operative medical care was necessary, as well as assistance for transfer, medicine, and subsequent consultation, in addition to the provision of intraocular lenses and valves. Food was provided to the patients and medical and administrative staff. Over 40 health care professionals and other volunteers participated in this project.

ZONE 3

AUSTRALIA ■ FIJI ■ NEW ZEALAND
PAPUA NEW GUINEA ■ PHILIPPINES

Great Barrier Reef, Australia

AUSTRALIA

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Over 1,500 Sathya Sai volunteers from all parts of the nation actively participate every week by offering various services to the needy in Australia.

Service activities by Sathya Sai volunteers include knitting cuddly trauma bears for local and overseas charities; making patchwork quilts to comfort the needy; helping elderly neighbours with gardening, shopping, and household chores; palliative cancer care; blood donations; hospital and nursing-home visits; and “Telecross”, a free Red Cross phone-chat service for those seeking assistance.

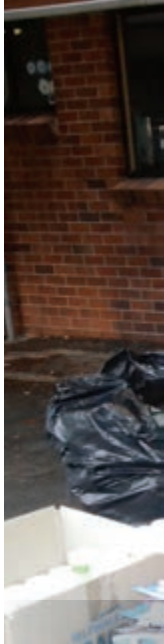
Group service activities by Sathya Sai volunteers include helping in soup kitchens and centres of the Salvation Army and the Smith Family Foundation. In addition, 10 Sai Soup Kitchens around Australia prepare and serve over 500 meals each week to the hungry. Another vital group service activity is the collection of food, clothing, and blankets for distribution to the needy through established major charitable organisations.

In the Sathya Sai U-Turn Project, qualified Sathya Sai volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring and training in self-development and in medical- or health-related issues to at-risk young boys and girls in the secondary school system. The resultant increase in the self-confidence levels of immigrant and aboriginal children helps them secure jobs and to develop a sense of belonging. Many lives are positively impacted and turned around and hence the name “U-Turn”! A similar project in Melbourne is helping youth on drugs towards rehabilitation.

Sathya Sai volunteers regularly visit nursing homes and bring sunshine into the lives of these lonely residents through songs and entertainment. Similar visits to child detention centres bring a ray of hope to the children through values-based plays.

A national blood drive titled “Liquid Love 2012” was organised across Australia from 23rd October to 9th December 2012. Over 500 devotees participated in the blood-donation drive, which resulted in 300 whole blood donations and a number of plasma donations.

About 40 Sathya Sai devotees organised a special service programme with the theme “Love Is Our Message”, to serve the disabled. This message of love was beautifully conveyed to participants by guest speaker Mr. Bob Molloy, past principal of the Sathya Sai School, Murwillumbah, New South Wales.





Survival packs for homeless youth, Australia



“Liquid Love” national blood drive

Sathya Sai devotees visited the Plenty Valley Centre for the Disabled, which houses a number of disabled people with various physical and mental disabilities. The residents were served a freshly cooked meal of vegetarian burgers, tea, coffee, and fruit juices, with favourite oldies music playing in the background. Sathya Sai youth played games with the residents while the rest of the group discussed with the caretaker of the facility the challenges experienced by the residents, so that as volunteers they might gain a better understanding and address those challenges in future visits.

Every year, as an offering to Bhagawan for His Birthday, Sathya Sai devotees assemble survival packs for distribution to homeless youth. In November 2012, about 35 Sathya Sai devotees gathered to pack and deliver 48 survival kits to the Youth Outreach Service. Each kit was packed with non-perishable food items, medical/hygiene items, *yoga* mats and pillows for sleeping. The Youth Outreach Service was very appreciative of the lovingly prepared donation, because they expected an overwhelming influx of homeless youth during the Christmas season. The survival kits are provided to those who cannot be accommodated and are forced to live on the streets during the Christmas holiday session.

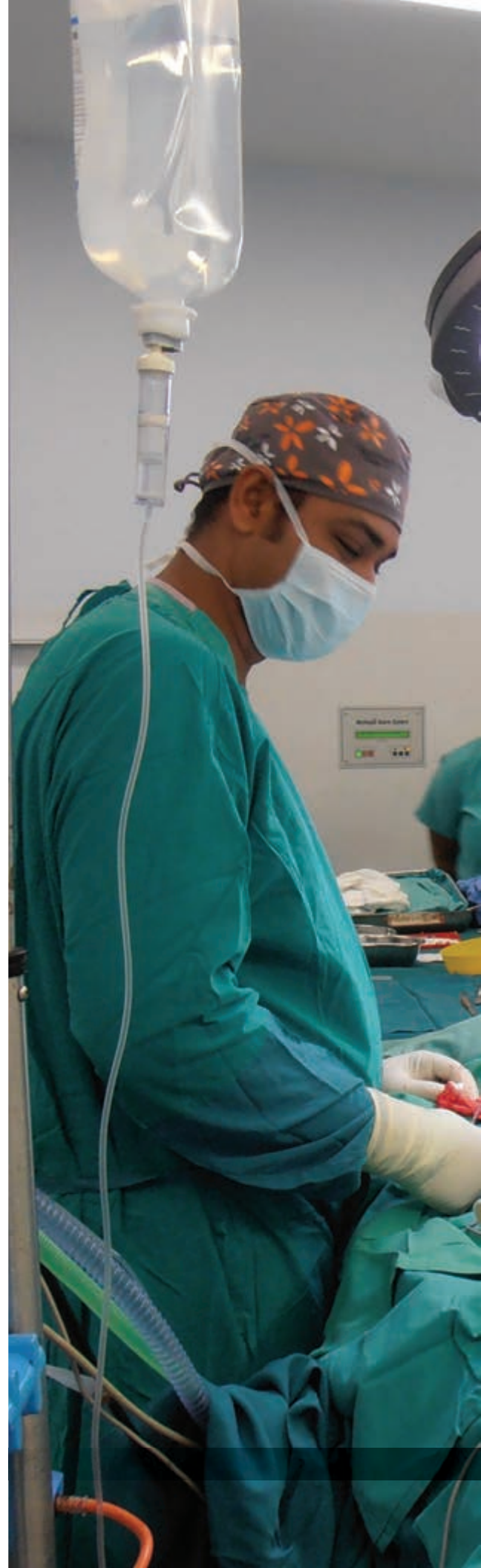
The goal of the Bushcare Programme is to care for planet Earth with gratitude by planting trees and shrubs in the local reserves and parks. About 12 Sathya Sai devotees participated in this programme and planted more than 300 trees in one day. The Hampers for Needy Families Programme provided Christmas hampers to families belonging to the Tregear Public School community. Sixty-three devotees participated in the project and prepared forty hampers. Each hamper consisted of non-perishable food items that would feed a family of four for one day. In addition, devotees also served a freshly cooked hot meal to about 200 people at the Ashfield Soup Kitchen.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

Bhagawan's 87th Birthday was celebrated by Sathya Sai devotees across the nation on 23rd November 2012. Over 3,200 devotees undertook many devotional programmes and service activities as an offering of love to Bhagawan.

In Canberra, the Sathya Sai Education (SSE) children performed a play called "Our Story." The theme of this play was "One Land, One People." More than 20 SSE children from Canberra, Wagga Wagga and Griffith took part in the play, which was held at the Bicentennial Hall in Queanbeyan. The celebration was held on Saturday, 17th November, with approximately 130 people in attendance. Pachelbel's music (with permission), was selected as the background for a performance called "Dance of the Planets". Children dressed in white, silver and gold, carrying circular metallic balls symbolising the drifting universe, moved slowly around the stage. Then Tony O'Connor's music was played (with permission), as accompaniment to a slide show and narration showcasing the uniqueness of Australia. The images included a red heart, an aboriginal child and a *didgeridoo*. Children dressed as kangaroos jumped around, and an emu drank from a pond. The presentation emphasised the concept that "all living things are brothers and sisters; we belong to them, and they belong to us". To end their segment, the children, dressed in attire representing the many countries that have come to Australia, sang the nostalgic song that reminds one that Australians come from many lands.

In the Victoria region of the country, the Birthday celebrations took place on 23rd November 2012 with participation from over 1,000 Sathya Sai devotees. The Queensland region also celebrated Bhagawan's Birthday on 23rd November 2012, with 300 devotees in attendance. The New South Wales Region East celebrations were held on Sunday, 25th November 2012, with the participation of more than 700 Sathya Sai devotees. Birthday celebrations in the New South Wales Region West took place on the evening of 23rd November. This programme, with the theme "From the Form to the Formless" was attended by about 600 devotees.





Neurosurgery, Fiji

FIJI

COMMUNITY AND MEDICAL SERVICES

Fiji has a population of less than one million. Availability of quality healthcare services is limited and is dependent on large-scale assistance from neighbouring countries. Two medical camps were conducted in Fiji by Sathya Sai devotees from Australia and New Zealand.

An annual neurological medical camp was conducted in Suva, Fiji from 22nd October to 2nd November 2012 by a team of medical specialists led by Dr. Nadanachandran, National Medical Coordinator of the Sai Medical Unit in Australia. More than 105 people, including 29 children, were provided free neurological consultations at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital. During the camp, 21 major surgeries were performed, including major procedures to remove brain and spinal-cord tumours. Local doctors and nurses were given hands-on training in medical practices. Meetings were also held with the Fijian Minister of Health, who expressed gratitude for the ongoing selfless service provided by the visiting physicians and Sathya Sai volunteers.

For the seventh consecutive year, the SSIO of New Zealand conducted six Sai Medical Camps at various locations on the main island of Fiji. These camps took place from 29th April to 4th May 2012. Fifty-five medical professionals and Sathya Sai volunteers from New Zealand, along with Fijian Sathya Sai devotees, were involved in providing medical services. About 3,500 people were served during the six-day period, at six different locations in the most remote areas of Viti Levu, including Suva, the nation's capital, on the largest island in the Republic of Fiji.

Both general and specialised medical services were provided. Specialised services were provided in the following areas of common pathologies: endoscopy, minor surgical procedures, women's care, dental, vision and basic pathology; peptic ulcers, *Helicobacter* gastritis, amoebic colitis and gastric as well as bowel cancers. Fifty gastroscopies and 18 colonoscopies were completed at a major hospital and the local medical camp sites.

An on-site pharmacy dispensed free medications to patients. One hundred eighty-five eye examinations and 561 dental examinations were conducted. Free prescription glasses were



Birthday celebrations, Fiji



Service at an orphanage, Fiji

provided to those in need. The project was carried out in loving harmony, with all healthcare professionals displaying the principle of “Service to Man Is Service to God”. The pure joy of the patients receiving the medical care was by itself a divine experience for all volunteers who participated. The local groups who joined the project and all the patients expressed their sincere gratitude and the desire to continue to receive similar loving service from Sathya Sai volunteers at future medical camps.

The Fijian Ministry of Health worked hand-in-hand with the local Sathya Sai Organisation to provide whole-hearted support for this project. All the volunteers offered heartfelt thanks to Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba for giving them the inspiration, and for the infrastructure of the Sathya Sai Organisation, which provided the opportunity to render this service.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

More than 1,800 devotees from 14 Sathya Sai Centres in Fiji joyfully celebrated the birthday of their Loving Lord Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, from 22nd to 24th November 2012. Their love and devotion to Bhagawan were expressed through special celebrations, which included many service activities undertaken from the beginning of November, continuing through Ladies’ Day, and culminating on Swami’s Birthday. Service activities included the distribution of food parcels to the needy, blood-donation

drives at several locations, and a variety of services to orphanages, homes for the disabled, hospitals and homes for the elderly. A special supplement was placed in a prominent local newspaper to raise awareness among the Fijian people of our beloved Bhagawan’s mission and “His Works.”



On 23rd November, each Centre started the day at dawn with *Suprabhatam*, followed by *Veda* chanting and service activities to the needy throughout the day, ending with a three-hour evening celebration of Bhagawan's 87th birthday. Many eminent local guest speakers highlighted different aspects of Swami's life and teachings. Video presentations showing Swami's mission and His humanitarian work were screened. Swami's message and interfaith teachings were presented in dramas enacted by SSE students, and certificates were awarded to outstanding students. Sathya Sai devotees shared personal, life-transforming experiences inspired by Bhagawan. The celebrations came to a close with a Birthday song to Swami, cake-cutting, and *prasadam*.

NEW ZEALAND

COMMUNITY AND MEDICAL SERVICES

To celebrate Bhagawan's Birthday, all 34 Sathya Sai Centres and Groups in New Zealand, with a membership in excess of 1,040, engaged in various service projects.

In the Northern Region, service activities included a blood-donation drive that collected 100 units; a food-bank project that provides 40 food parcels every month; sandwiches, winter clothes and blankets for students and families of the Rongomai Primary School; tree planting for the PEACE Project; visits to senior-citizen pensioners; assistance to the Bhutanese refugee project and participation in the Fiji Medical Camps.

A week of service activities was organised in the Central Region. These activities included a school sandwich programme, provision of food for Buddhist monks residing in a monastery, blood donations, refugee support, fruit-buns for schools, serving food at a home for the elderly, donations for tuition in mathematics provided through the Hope Project, and supporting the Meals on Wheels programme.



Blood donation, New Zealand



Entertaining senior citizens, New Zealand

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

Devotees from many parts of the country, including the Sathya Sai Organisation's Northern and Central Regions and the Hamilton City Sathya Sai Centre, celebrated Bhagawan's birthday by presenting various devotional programmes that included dramas and interfaith fusion dances depicting Swami's teachings; exhibitions on *Educare*; talks on Bhagawan's love and His works; melodious devotional singing and various service activities to help the needy.

More than 100 units of blood were donated by Sathya Sai devotees in honour of Swami's Birthday.

In the Northern Region of New Zealand, a programme titled "Aroha: Live in Love" was organised in celebration of Bhagawan's Birthday. About 900 people attended this programme, and an exhibition at this event showcased Sathya Sai *Educare*. The programme comprised of an orchestra performance and parade, a drama, an interfaith fusion dance, devotional singing, a guest speaker and the offering of a birthday cake to Bhagawan.

In the Central Region, the theme of the Birthday celebrations was "Celebrating the Birth and Life of Sai Baba." The programme consisted of a video presentation, narration of Sri Sathya Sai Baba's life and a speech by an Anglican Minister sharing his personal experience with Sathya Sai Baba and his thoughts on practical spirituality. The programme ended with a short drama. The congregation joined in by singing universal devotional songs in English, Maori, and Hebrew.



Prayer by nun to bless the “Self-Help Initiative”, Philippines

In the Waikato/Bay of Plenty Region, the Hamilton City Sathya Sai Centre held a programme to celebrate Swami’s Birthday. The programme started with 20 minutes of devotional singing, followed by a video presentation by the Sathya Sai Women’s Wing. The ladies of the Sathya Sai youth wing presented a well-choreographed dance on Lord Shiva. A video of Swami giving a discourse on the importance of love was screened. Young men presented a drama based on one of Swami’s well-known stories of a thief who had broken into the king’s palace but had vowed to speak the truth.

PHILIPPINES

COMMUNITY AND MEDICAL SERVICES

In the Philippines, Bhagawan’s Birthday was celebrated over a period of three weeks in November 2012. On 4th November, a national project called the “Sai Self-Help Initiative” was inaugurated. The project included a livelihood programme, in which 720 kg of remnant fabrics were distributed to 36 needy individuals living on the outskirts of Manila. These fabrics would be used to produce goods such as doormats, potholders and other household items, to generate an income for the families. On 11th November, Sathya Sai volunteers distributed a month’s supply of milk products and served a freshly cooked lunch to 45 abandoned and malnourished children, at the Missionaries of Charity Centre near Manila. On 18th November, hot meals were served to 108 elderly people and 45 children. A similar number of bath towels were distributed to the elders. On Bhagawan’s Birthday, grocery bags containing rice, beans, sugar, noodles, milk-powder, and laundry soap were distributed to 108 needy families on the outskirts of Manila.



Distribution of fabrics to families, Philippines

On 24th November, Sathya Sai devotees distributed 108 grocery bags and bath towels to needy families at the Sathya Sai School in Pililla. The three-week-long celebrations concluded with a medical and dental camp at the ISSE campus in San Pedro Laguna, near Manila. Paediatric and dental services, along with free medicines, were provided to more than 300 adults and children.

ZONE 4

AFGHANISTAN ■ BANGLADESH ■ BHUTAN ■ BRUNEI
CAMBODIA ■ INDONESIA ■ LAOS (LAO PDR)
MALAYSIA ■ MYANMAR ■ NEPAL ■ PAKISTAN
SINGAPORE ■ THAILAND ■ VIETNAM

BHUTAN

Two Sathya Sai Centres are located in Bhutan. The Centres participate in devotional singing and study circles. They offer a SSE programme for about 30 children.

BRUNEI

There is a Sathya Sai Centre in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei's capital city. Its members pack food parcels, typically 108 of them, to give to workers for lunch. They provide assistance to stranded foreign workers for medical needs or expatriation. They also provide for funeral expenses for foreign workers who die in the country. Sathya Sai devotees donate blood at the blood bank of the local hospital.

Weekly *bhajans* are held every Thursday, from 7:00 PM till about 8:30 PM. *Bhajans* are also held in conjunction with the major religious Hindu festivals, and at Christmas and on New Year's Eve. Bhajan practices are held to encourage new singers to participate. *Suprabhatham* is held on the first Sunday of the month, starting at 5:20 AM. On Fridays, prayer sessions are held and *Gayatri Mantra* is chanted 108 times. On 20th August, a group of devotees gathered at the Sathya Sai Centre to chant the *Gayatri Mantra* 1,008 times for world peace.

CAMBODIA

The Sathya Sai Centre of Cambodia was established on 1st May 2007 in Phnom Penh, in a building that was provided free of rent. Weekly *bhajans* are held at the Centre, and special *bhajans* are held on Bhagawan's Birthday, Christmas Day, Khmer New Year's Day and Buddha's Birthday.

The Centre engages in regular service activities. English classes for children are held every Sunday from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM, before the weekly Sunday *bhajans*. *Narayana seva* (giving of food to the hungry) takes place regularly to celebrate important days. Food parcels are also distributed to 108 poor families.



Volunteers packing food, Cambodia

INDONESIA

In Indonesia, 42 Sathya Sai Centres and Groups, with more than 3,700 members and 600 SSE students, continue to exemplify Swami's message through their participation in devotional, service and educational activities.

MEDICAL SERVICES

MEDICAL CAMPS

The SSIO of Indonesia conducted 48 medical camps during this reporting period, in which over 6,700 patients received care. In addition, medical care was offered at four disaster-relief camps, serving more than 1,000 people.

The Taman Sai Ganesha Sathya Sai Centre, Sathya Sai Study Group Bandung, Sathya Sai Study Group Yogyakarta, Sathya Sai Study Group Surabaya, Sathya Sai Study Group Denpasar, and Sathya Sai Study Groups of Regions 9 and 5 organised medical/dental camps in their respective areas. Since the inception of these camps, over 16,500 people have been served in total. Many of the camps held during the current reporting period also had blood-donation stations which collected more than 200 units of blood.

On 19th August 2012, the Sathya Sai Centres of Bangli joined with the Sathya Sai Centre of Denpasar to provide medical services to 250 patients at Dusun Beluhu. On 23rd September, more than 370 patients received medical care at Kusambi, Desa Bunutan. On 30th September, at the Taman Sathya Sai Ganesha Centre, free medical services included cholesterol and uric-acid tests, diabetic consultations and free dental check-ups for children up to 12 years old. On 8th October, in Surabaya, the Sathya Sai Study Group held a medical camp in the village of Tembokrejo, where 200 patients received medical care. On 28th October, a medical camp was held for the benefit of the students and parents at Brigien Katamso -Adopted National School. On 4th November, the Sathya Sai Study Group of Bandung held a Medical Camp at Ciwidey Bandung, where 70 patients received medical consultation and treatment. On 4th and 18th November, the Sathya Sai Centre of Palu held medical camps, serving more than 250 patients. In Yogyakarta, the Sathya Sai Study Group held a medical camp on 25th November, benefitting 800 patients. On 25th November, a medical camp was also conducted by the Sathya Sai Centre of Blitar, at Dusun Tegalorejo, in the District of Talun Blitar, providing medical assistance to 76 patients.

A blood donation drive, conducted jointly by the Sathya Sai Centres of Tambarana, Kilo and Padalembara, generated 33 units of blood. An additional blood drive by the Centre of Tolai, collected 11 units of blood.

MEDICAL CLINICS

Six Sathya Sai clinics in Indonesia have served over 16,850 patients since they first began to serve the community. Clinics include the Sathya Sai Clinic Mendut in Medan, which was established in 1992 and operates every Wednesday and Saturday; the Sathya Sai Clinic Sai Widhayaka in Palembang, which was established in 1995 and operates every Tuesday; the Sathya Sai Clinic in Northern Jakarta at Cilincing, which was established in 2009 and operates every Wednesday and Sunday; the Sathya Sai Clinic in the Centre at Denpasar, which operates every Sunday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon; and the Cahaya Cinta Kasih Sai Clinic in Lampung, established in 2006, which operates every Sunday.

On 28th March 2012 the vision of Sathya Sai devotees from the Sathya Sai Study Group in Jakarta was realised. On that day the “Sathya Sai Mobile Clinic” was launched with a prayer ceremony. It is a fully operational medical mobile unit,





Sathya Sai Mobile Clinic, Indonesia

equipped with modern diagnostics and other facilities, and ready to roll at a moment's notice. From the inception of the project through the first half of 2013, more than 23,000 patients were served by medical professionals and volunteers, who travelled on 245 mobile-clinic trips to remote areas.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Sai Action for Family Relief of the Needy (SAFFRON) project, led by the Sathya Sai Centre of Jakarta's women's wing, is designed to teach unemployed women how to cook healthy and affordable food. SAFFRON also provides vocational training that would enable the participants to become self-employed. Venues for the training were often recommended by the local government, and major equipment such as ovens, mixers, steamers and gas cylinders were provided by local authorities. The SAFFRON team provided additional equipment and all ingredients for cooking.

The Serving Mankind Inspires Love Everywhere (SMILE) programme was created over a decade ago. English is taught to students from an underprivileged area. The programme is infused with SSEHV and is a part of the Sathya Sai Centre of Jakarta's activities.



87th Birthday programme by youth, Indonesia

The SSIO of Indonesia supports the Sathya Sai Orphanage, “Sai Prema,” in Medan, North Sumatra. The orphanage currently houses and cares for 30 children.

DISASTER RELIEF

From 16th to 18th January 2013, heavy rains combined with poor drainage and water released from a nearby dam caused widespread death and destruction near Jakarta, Indonesia, leaving over 18,000 people homeless. Local Sathya Sai volunteers resolved to offer medical care and food supplies to ease the suffering. On 19th, 20th, and 22nd January 2013, over 50 members of the Sathya Sai Centres near Jakarta, along with six doctors and two nurses, provided general medical help to more than 760 displaced people at Ancol Barat. Essential food supplies including 100 kilograms of rice, seven cartons of biscuits, five cartons of milk-powder packets, six cartons of instant noodles and 180 children’s garments, were also distributed.

SATHYA SAI EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES

The ISSE of Indonesia is active, with one Sathya Sai School and with SSEHV programmes in place in several other schools. The Sathya Sai School is located in Denpasar, Bali, and offers kindergarten and primary level education. The SSEHV programme has been adopted by the Insan Teledan School in Bogor, West Java. Other independent schools that have adopted the SSEHV programme include the Brigjen Katamso-1 and Brigjen Katamso-2 schools in Medan, North Sumatra; the Nanyang Tzi International School in Medan, North Sumatra; and the Tunas Teladan School in Palembang, South Sumatra.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

Bhagawan's 87th Birthday was celebrated throughout Indonesia in cities including Jakarta, Medan, Bandung, Yogyakarta, Surabaya, and Denpasar. As part of Bhagawan's Birthday celebrations, the Sathya Sai Organisation conducted a number of service projects in late 2012.

DEVOTIONAL MEETINGS

On 23rd November 2012, more than 800 people attended Bhagawan's Birthday celebrations at the Sai Study Group in Jakarta. On 9th December, another Birthday celebration arranged by the Sathya Sai Centre of Jakarta, was attended by over 800 people at Graha Sindhu of Jakarta. Over 200 people attended Bhagawan's Birthday celebrations in the Medan (North Sumatra, Region 1) area of Indonesia. Celebrations were held at all three Sathya Sai Centres in Medan, with a total of about 340 devotees participating. The Sathya Sai Centre of Denpasar celebrated Bhagawan's Birthday on 20th, 22nd, 23rd and 24th November 2012. On 23rd November, over 250 people attended Bhagawan's Birthday celebrations organised by the Sathya Sai Study Group, Bandung, in West Java. The programme included *bhajans* interspersed with art and cultural shows.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

As part of the Birthday celebrations, the Sathya Sai Centres and Groups in Indonesia also performed *Narayana seva* by distributing more than 15,000 packages of groceries and serving more than 1,000 cooked meals.

In the Medan area, the Taman Sathya Sai Ganesha Centre provided packages of groceries to 160 under-privileged people staying near the Centre. The packages included 10 kilograms of rice, a box of instant noodles, a tin of biscuits, two litres of cooking oil, and two bottles of syrup. The Sathya Sai Centre Bandung gave 50 packages of food, toiletries and school supplies to the children of the Orphanage of Al-Fatah at Bandung. Devotees from the Centre also conducted SSEHV sessions for the children. The Sathya Sai Centre of Bandung also carried out a school rehabilitation/development project at a junior high school in Sindangkerta. In Yogyakarta, the Sathya Sai Study Group celebrated Bhagawan's Birthday by distributing more than 882 food packages to the needy. In Surabaya, the Sathya Sai Study Group provided over 375 packages of food to patients at the medical camp held on 8th October. On 18th November, *Narayana seva* was conducted by the Sathya Sai Centre of Nginden, where 1,073 packages of cooked food were distributed. The Sathya Sai Study Group of Makassar in the South Sulawesi area distributed rice



Supplies for school children, Indonesia

and instant noodles to underprivileged families around the main city of Makassar on 18th November. Also in the Surabaya area, on 18th and 21st November, more than 100 packages of basic groceries were distributed to the underprivileged in the city of Jember by the Sathya Sai Centres of Jember and Banyuwangi. The Sathya Sai Centre of Malang distributed 51 packages containing 5 kilograms of rice at a medical camp on 25th November.

Service projects were undertaken by the Sathya Sai Study Group of Denpasar, Bali from August 2012 until the Birthday celebrations in November 2012. On 17th August, Sathya Sai Youth served breakfast to the homeless who live around the Suwung landfill, South Denpasar. SSE classes were provided for the children. The volunteers also rendered assistance in providing artesian wells for the local community, which has long suffered from lack of clean drinking water. On 11th and 14th October, home reconstruction for the poor community in Banjar Geriana Kangin and the District of Karangasem was undertaken by Sathya Sai volunteers. On 18th November, a Sathya Sai volunteer blood-donation drive resulted in the collection of 108 units of blood.

LAOS

Two Sathya Sai Centres in Laos hold weekly meetings. *bhajans* are conducted at Home Sai every Thursday and at Sai Mandir every Sunday. The Centres have a very active children's program, with more than 250 children attending SSEHV classes offered Monday through Friday evenings at Home Sai and Pho Sai Pagoda. Children and youth are divided into eight classes. A typical day's activities include meditation, prayers, values-based classes, songs paying homage to parents and prayers for universal peace.

In 2012, the SSIO of Laos held a national conference attended by about 200 people and a public meeting attended by 60 Sathya Sai devotees and 200 people from the general public.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

On the 23rd of every month, Sathya Sai volunteers visit children at a school for the blind. They sing songs and provide other recreational activities to entertain the children. They also distribute food. Volunteers sometimes wash the children's hair and provide haircuts. The Sathya Sai Foundation is planning to start a comprehensive medical care programme for blind children.





In the Borikhan district of Borikhamxay Province of Laos, 15 villages were severely affected by flooding in July. About 40 volunteers from the Sathya Sai Foundation of Laos responded to the emergency by distributing rice, cooking oil, soy sauce, bottles, noodle boxes, salt, sugar, blankets, and other needed items.

HUMAN VALUES FESTIVAL

On 21st March 2013, the Sathya Sai Foundation in Laos conducted a Human Values festival. About 300 people, including over 50 Buddhist monks, cabinet ministers, and senior government officials, attended this event. Mr. Phongsavath Boupha, Minister to the Presidential Office, and Dr. Narendranath Reddy, Chairman, Prasanthi Council, inaugurated the event with the lighting of candles, symbolising the five human values. A colourful programme consisting of traditional dance, drama and songs of Laos was presented by the children who attend evening classes in SSEHV. Dr. Reddy spoke to the assembled guests about the significance of human values and expressed appreciation at the broad array of cultural performances presented by the children.



Service at leprosarium, Malaysia



Medical Camp, Malaysia

MALAYSIA

The SSIO of Malaysia is very active, with 83 Sathya Sai Centres and about 4,500 members.

COMMUNITY AND MEDICAL SERVICES

Sathya Sai Centres in Malaysia conducted twenty-three medical camps during 2012, and served about 4,000 people. Sathya Sai devotees in Malaysia visited homes for the elderly, the blind, and disabled on a regular basis. They conducted weekly English and motivational classes at the Elijah Home, an orphanage at Taman Indahpura in Kulai, and as part of Bhagawan's 87th Birthday celebration, they helped to paint the Elijah Home. Every month, Sathya Sai volunteers supply provisions to the needy and disabled and also provide breakfast to handicapped children. In addition, they provide bread to the homeless at the Kechara Soup Kitchen on a weekly basis.

On 27th May 2012, 30 Sathya Sai volunteers visited the Sungai Buloh Leprosarium, located about 45 kilometres north of Kuala Lumpur. The leprosarium is home to about 115 people who have been cured of the disease but rejected by their families due to physical deformities. Sathya Sai volunteers visit this leprosarium on a quarterly basis. Home-cooked food, fruits and cakes are served. Face towels and ointment for relief from insect bites are distributed.

The Grand Finals of the Inter-School Human Values Competitions were held on 14th July at Rumah Puspanita, Kampung Attap and Kuala Lumpur. Over 700 people attended the finals. These finals marked the completion of the first phase of the HOPE (Honour Our Parents Everyday) initiative, a programme for the elevation of human values that was launched in early 2012 by the Sathya Sai Baba Central Council of Malaysia.

The initiative is also supported by the Ministry of Education and various other non-governmental organisations. The primary objective is to create awareness of “Filial Piety” among the youth and children in Malaysia. Over the four months preceding the finals, more than 5,000 children from 200 kindergarten, primary and secondary schools participated in the five inter-school competitions in drama, choral, essay writing, mural creation, and making greeting cards.

CONFERENCES

In 2012 over 150 workshops were given for teachers and parents. Four national conferences, attended by over 1,600 people, and three educational conferences, attended by over 250 people, were held. In addition, 49 public meetings took place, attended by more than 1,400 people. Symposia organised on the topic of human values and talks on science and spirituality were given at universities in Malaysia.

From 10th to 12th August, over 1,200 people gathered at Glory Beach in Port Dickson to participate in the National Sai Convention 2012. In Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, a three-day Sai Convention was held from 15th through 17th September, with over 100 people attending. The “Turning Point National Workshop” was held at the Sathya Sai School in Kuala Lumpur on 19th January. The objective was to clearly define ways to strengthen the wings of the Organisation at the Centre, state, and national levels. More than 300 key leaders at all levels from across the nation participated. A “National Disaster Management and Relief, Train-the-Trainer” workshop was held on 29th and 30th September 2012. The programme, organised by the Sathya Sai Central Council of Malaysia, was held at the HELP University in Kuala Lumpur and supported by the National Security Council and HELP University. Trainers included representatives from the National Security Council, Ministry of Health; Social Welfare Department of Malaysia; MERCY Malaysia; International Federation of Red Cross; United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot and the World Food Programme. The 85 attendees included participants from 35 different organisations. Twelve Sathya Sai devotees also attended. The workshop was well received, and participants were looking forward to follow-up workshops.

SATHYA SAI EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES

In 2012, over 4,400 SSE students attended 1,650 SSE classes offered through the Centres and organised by more than 350 SSE teachers. In 2012 over 150 workshops were conducted for teachers and parents.

On 11th August 2012, the Sathya Sai Educare Academy held convocation for 65 children who attended education in human values classes. They were presented with a certificate by the Director General of the National Unity and Integrity De-

partment. During the convocation, six teachers received the Exemplary Teachers Award for their dedication in teaching children for more than 20 years.

The SSIO of Malaysia organised its first Education Retreat on 26th October 2012. The objective of the retreat was to brainstorm and formulate guidelines on the formalisation of the Sathya Sai Educare Academy.

The Sathya Sai Primary School Board, along with the Parents Teachers Association, celebrated the 10th year of the school by hosting an anniversary dinner on 28th October 2012. Eight-hundred guests attended the dinner at the Sungei Way Chinese School Hall.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

On 23rd November 2012, five Sathya Sai Centres in the State of Johor Barucelebrated Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's Birthday under the theme, "Honour Our Parents Everyday (HOPE)." The programme was attended by over 500 members, along with their families and friends. In a display of interracial harmony and unity, the celebration started with devotional songs in Tamil, Mandarin and English.

The HOPE programme was initiated by the Sathya Sai Centres of the Southeast Asian countries to address the problem of teenage delinquency and concern about the loss of traditional and age-old wisdom handed down through generations. As part of the programme, symposiums on human values were organised for students, along with talks on science and spirituality.

MYANMAR

The SSIO of Myanmar organises bhajans every Thursday for the benefit of 80 to 100 Sathya Sai devotees. About 500 Sathya Sai devotees celebrated Swami's Birthday on 23rd November 2012 with a devotional programme, followed by a delicious meal. The SSIO also supported a cancer foundation, a school for the blind, a school for the deaf and mute, an orphanage, and a home for the aged and poor.

NEPAL

The Sathya Sai International Organisation of Nepal continues to expand, currently providing services in 56 out of 75 districts in the country through its 197 Sathya Sai Centres and the country's more than one million Sathya Sai devotees. "Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba" is a household name in Nepal and organisation activities are geared towards spreading His message. In Nepal, more than 100 public meetings were held during 2012–2013, with about 5,500 Sathya Sai devotees and over 3,100 people from the public in attendance. Thirty interfaith meetings were attended by over 1,800 Sathya Sai devotees and 530 members of the public. The SSIO of Nepal has been organising national conferences at seven regional levels, with more than 4,900 Sathya Sai devotees attending 26 regional conferences.

MEDICAL SERVICES

More than 15,000 patients received medical services rendered by 21 doctors and 6 paramedics at the Sri Sathya Sai Health Centre, which was established as an offering to Bhagawan on His 75th Birthday. In addition to free clinical services, patients also received diagnostic services such as X-Rays, ECGs, ultrasounds, pathological tests, physiotherapy, ambulance services and medicines, all free of cost. Between April 2012 and March 2013, 26 medical camps were held to provide free medical services to over 10,000 patients. The SSIO of Nepal received a National Award from the National Blood Bank as the highest donor of blood in the country.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Sri Sathya Sai Bal Ashram in Bharatpur, established in 2010 by the SSIO of Nepal, continues to provide food, clothing, shelter and education to orphaned children, in a spiritual atmosphere with a view to rehabilitate them into society. At present, 12 girls live in the Ashram under the loving care of two matrons, who provide housing, clothing, food, and recreation.

The Sri Sathya Sai Old Age Home, situated in western Nepal, provides a free home to 12 elderly people in a spiritual environment. Plans are underway to accommodate additional residents.

Sathya Sai devotees provided food, clothing, and other needed items to more than 250 families who were victims of a fire disaster. In addition, 300 households of socially and economically disadvantaged villagers who live in remote locations received drinking water supplied by two Sathya Sai Community Drinking Water Projects. Over 1,100 thick blankets were distributed during a cold wave to those in need, living in the snowy Himalayan mountain ranges.



Sathya Sai Education, Nepal



Medical Services, Nepal

The SSIO has constructed eight “Sri Sathya Sai Public Toilets” in Devghat, Prayag, which is a place of pilgrimage where thousands come to take a holy bath, even from neighbouring India. A residence has also been built above the toilet facility for the caretaker who ensures the cleanliness of the premises.

Training for skill development in the areas of cooking, knitting, sewing, pickle-making, and flower-garland weaving was conducted in different parts of the country. During the reporting period, about 500 ladies were trained in 20 different skills. Two sewing machines were distributed to economically disadvantaged women, for their self-employment and livelihood.

SATHYA SAI EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES

A construction project in progress will provide a new building for the ISSE, Nepal. The Higher Secondary Board of the Government of Nepal has requested the ISSE to develop educational materials for a course in human values education for Classes XI and XII and to provide training for its teachers. More than 2,600 teachers have been trained during the reporting period, which brings the grand total of trained teachers to more than 14,000. Eleven SSEHV training courses were organised for public and private school teachers throughout the country.

In Nepal, more than 13,900 SSE students are taught by over 1,000 teachers. Over 400 SSE teachers were trained in four training programmes, between April 2012 and March 2013.





Youth Conference, Nepal

BHAGAWAN'S MAHASAMADHI OBSERVANCES

Bhagawan's Mahasamadhi Day was observed with devotional programmes and various service activities. Service projects were undertaken at the Sri Sathya Sai Orphanage, Sri Sathya Sai Water Project, and Sri Sathya Sai Health Centre. A Colour Doppler Ultrasound Machine was initiated at the Sri Sathya Sai Health Centre. On 24th April, about 300 people attended a Mahasamadhi observance in Kathmandu. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court presided over the function and in his keynote address, referred to Bhagawan as "Master of the Universe" and advised everyone to practise His teaching, "Love All, Serve All." He stated that at a time when the world was torn apart by religious and cultural conflicts, Bhagawan's injunction of "Help Ever, Hurt Never" was a clarion call for all humanity. Another guest speaker, from World Hindu Mahasangh, expressed the need and importance of Bhagawan's gift of values-based education.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

All of the 197 Sri Sathya Sai Centres in Nepal celebrated Bhagawan's Birthday for five days, displaying their love and gratitude to Bhagawan by undertaking devotional and service activities. On 19th November, Ladies' Day, Sathya Sai volunteers visited the elderly at their homes and also cleaned several community tem-

ples. On 20th November, Sathya Sai Youth undertook service programmes of blood donation, tree planting and the sweeping and cleaning of roads and public places. On 22nd November, Education Day, Sathya Sai volunteers distributed clothes and stationery to needy school children, offered scholarships to provide for educational expenses and undertook service activities at local schools. On Service Day, Sathya Sai volunteers visited orphanages, served food to the needy and distributed clothes, food baskets and blankets. On the eve of 23rd November, 150 Sathya Sai youth from all parts of the country distributed 300 blankets to the homeless. Sathya Sai devotees from Centres throughout Nepal undertook street processions led by *Veda chanting*, *bhajan*-singing groups and a beautifully decorated palanquin bearing a large picture of Bhagawan.

DEVOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

The SSIO of Nepal held a National Youth Conference on 28th and 29th December 2012. The conference opened with a procession of more than 800 youth marching in unison while chanting the *Vedas*, holding flags and singing *bhajans*. At the organisational level, Sai Youth resolved to conduct a National Youth Conference once every two years, to conduct a yearly Youth Conference in each region and to launch training programmes to help the youth of the country develop vocational skills. At the individual level, the groups resolved to perform *Namasmarana* (to repeat and remember God's name) continuously, to smile always, to speak softly and politely, to bow at the feet of parents every day, to never get angry with anyone, to help others always and to live lives that exemplify Swami's message. A documentary film produced by the Sathya Sai Youth, titled "Sai Youth of Nepal" was screened.

During April 2012 and March 2013, over 750 Sathya Sai devotees participated in spiritual *sadhana* camps in three regions of Nepal.

In addition to regular devotional activities at the Sathya Sai Centres, the SSIO of Nepal has focused on holding community *bhajans* conducted outside the premises of the Centres. Since devotees outside the organisation may hesitate to come to the Centre for *bhajans* and other activities, the SSIO of Nepal conducted *bhajans* and educational programmes in public places. This strategy has been fruitful, since more than 14,000 people have participated in over 375 public *bhajan* sessions during this reporting period.

The ladies of SSIO, Nepal, were very active. On the 19th of each month, Ladies' Day is celebrated with special *bhajans*, study circle and other seva activities in every Centre. The Ladies' Wing has conducted spiritual retreat camps and held exhibitions at which fine handicrafts made by stay-at-home wives were exhibited.

Dr. Narendranath Reddy, Chairman, Prasanthi Council, accompanied by Dr. Ravindran, Chairman, Zone 4, and other senior officials of the SSIO, visited Nepal from 12th to 17th March 2013. Dr. Reddy visited many Sathya Sai Centres, Sathya Sai Schools in Kathmandu and Pokhara, the construction site of the new building of the ISSE of Nepal, the Sathya Sai Community Drinking Water Project, the Sathya Sai Old Age Home, and the Sathya Sai Bal Ashram. He gave a talk on Sathya Sai Ideal Healthcare to about 150 medical professionals who lovingly provide free healthcare to the needy. At each venue, more than 1,000 people attended the three inspirational talks given by Dr. Reddy in Kathmandu and Pokhara. He also released three books about Bhagawan that have been translated into Nepali. While several national newspapers covered his visit, the largest national television station broadcast his interview. During the visit, Dr. Reddy inaugurated the newly-constructed Sadhana Bhavans of two Sathya Sai Centres and gave uplifting talks to volunteers and officials of the local Sathya Sai Organisation.

On 13th March 2013, Dr. Reddy and other senior officials of the Sri Sathya Sai Organisation called on His Excellency the President of Nepal, Dr. Ram B. Yadav. Dr. Reddy provided the President with an overview of the service activities of the SSIO, and Sri Amar Karki briefed the President on the various humanitarian works undertaken by the SSIO of Nepal. The President assured his cooperation and urged the SSIO to provide additional healthcare services to the Nepalese people. A set of 19 books on Bhagawan and His message, translated and published in the Nepalese language, was presented to the President on this occasion.



SINGAPORE

All 17 Sathya Sai Centres in Singapore continue to focus on activities such as *bhajans* and spiritual, educational and service activities. SSE classes, held by the five main Centres and serving more than 500 children, are taught by 87 teachers. Two public meetings were attended by over 1,000 people. Eleven interfaith meetings were attended by over 200 people, and over 60 people participated in two educational conferences.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Every weekend, Sathya Sai devotees meet with inmates of the Changi Reformatory Centre and Changi prisons to provide counselling and information on human values. Prison counselling by members of the Sathya Sai Centre is carried out under the care and support of the Sri Muneeswaran Temple.

Through SAFFRON (Sai Action for Family Relief of the Needy), Sathya Sai devotees work with a needy family to understand their challenges and offer practical solutions through government agencies and welfare organisations. The Sathya Sai devotees serve those in need by listening to and inspiring them.

A service project titled Sai Protein for Jobless Workers benefits foreign workers who have lost their jobs due to an accident at work. About 200 of these transient workers are given freshly prepared “Sai Protein” drink and fruits every week.

A service project at the Sunlove Home is conducted monthly by a group of devotees who sing songs and *bhajans* to entertain the residents and serve them food. On Christmas, a volunteer dresses up like Santa Claus and distributes goodie bags to the residents, and other volunteers sing Christmas carols. On some occasions, the youth groups present a short drama. In the Tembusu Home, Sathya Sai youth entertain the residents with dance, games and puzzles and serve food.

Every month Sathya Sai devotees participate in the packing of staple foods that are distributed to about 200 needy families. At the Woodlands Ave 4 Dormitory, Sathya Sai devotees participate in a project every month that includes cooking and serving a vegetarian lunch to about 500 migrant workers. The lunch is followed by songs, *bhajans* and other special activities.

Medical camps are organised by Sathya Sai youth on a weekly basis for jobless migrant workers who have no health coverage, and blood-donation drives are held periodically. Medical teams regularly visit orphanages, homes for the elderly and leprosy homes to provide medical check-ups.

In addition to the above service activities, Sathya Sai Social Service is a registered Voluntary Welfare Organization (VWO) in Singapore, which currently runs four welfare homes for over 800 destitute persons. It also manages a rehabilitation centre for patients recovering from a stroke, a home-help scheme for elders with impaired mobility, a non-emergency ambulance service, and a senior’s activity centre. Sunlove Home



and Swami Home are also registered VWOs who operate nursing homes and other programmes for the elderly.

SATHYA SAI EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES

The finals of a human values drama competition were held in July 2012 at the Republic Cultural Centre, Republic Polytechnic, in Singapore. More than 500 students represented 24 secondary schools in the preliminary rounds, held over three days in March 2012. Hon. Ainal Spapri, Member of Parliament, Pasir Ris-Punggol GRC, was the guest of honour at the finals and awarded the prizes to the winners.

The Sri Sathya Sai Kindergarten celebrated Singapore's 47th National Day and 11th Sports Day on 5th August 2012. The joyous occasion was attended by students, parents and teachers of the Kindergarten, as well as 200 elderly guests from the Sunlove Home and Chai Chee Centre. The Sri Sathya Sai Kindergarten is licensed by the Ministry of Education and serves over 85 children.

SSE classes run by five Sathya Sai Centres serve over 500 children. These children take the lead in Eswaramma Day and Guru Purnima celebrations, and the children's programmes at Bhagawan's Birthday celebrations. The children lead bhajans at several national and centre events. They are also involved in service projects.



Performance by Sathya Sai children, Singapore



Akhanda Bhajan, Singapore

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

Bhagawan's 87th Birthday was celebrated on 23rd November at the Toa Payoh Sports Hall. The guest of honour was the former president of Singapore, Mr. S. R. Nathan. The SSE students gave a performance and participated in an art competition during the programme. An exhibition of Bhagawan's life and His works was arranged outside the *bhajan* hall. *Vibhuti*, a 2013 pocket calendar with Bhagawan's picture and food were distributed to attendees. The programme concluded with cake cutting. A blood donation campaign was also arranged. An estimated 4,000 Sathya Sai devotees attended the event throughout the day, including a number of newcomers. A blood donation campaign was also arranged. An annual journal, *Sai Vahini*, has been published by the SSIO of Singapore for the last 30 years, and the latest issue was released on Bhagawan's Birthday.

DEVOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Twenty youth from across Singapore participated in the Zonal Youth Conference held in Prasanthi Nilayam in July 2012. The youth, who actively participate in all wings in their individual Centres, took part in several key events organised by the Singapore Sathya Sai Centres, including *akhanda bhajans* and Bhagawan's Birthday celebrations. They especially provide assistance in the areas of multimedia, exhibits and sound systems.

Sri Krishna *Janmashtami* was celebrated on 10th August. *Ganesh Chaturthi* celebrations were held on 19th September at Sathya Sai Centres. Mrs. Geetha Ram was the guest speaker at a meeting held on 14th and 15th August at the RELC Auditorium and Swami Home, respectively. The topic of her talk was "Lessons Learnt at His Lotus Feet." Ladies' Day was celebrated on 19th November at the Sathya Sai Centre. The celebration began at 5:30 PM, and the programme highlights included demonstrations of special skills such as jewellery-making, dances and games; a cultural program; videos of Bhagawan; and *Veda* chanting and *bhajans* followed by dinner.

Global *akhanda bhajans* were organised at the Swami Home and took place from 10th November at 6:00 PM to 11th November at 6:00 PM. The *bhajans* were inspiring and the atmosphere filled with devotion. On 11th March, *Mahashivarathri* was celebrated at the Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centre. The hall was decorated on the theme of Mount Kailash. *Bhajans* were led beautifully by all Centres from across Singapore, and *prasadam* was served throughout the event.

Swami's Mahasamadhi programme, titled "Sai Aradhana," was held from 21st April to 24th April 2012. The activities included two service projects, a programme titled "Prema Bandham" presented by 40 former students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, and a full-day programme on 24th April. Throughout the Mahasamsadhi day, about 800 Sathya Sai devotees placed candles and roses at a specially built altar for the purpose, and over 1,000 Sathya Sai devotees attended the solemn event. The "Prema Bandham" programme included a procession by the former students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, several popular songs rendered in Prasanthi Nilayam and talks by several students.

Devotees from Kerala celebrated Onam in August 2012. Dasara Navarathri was celebrated for nine days in October 2012, as per annual practice.



Serving the children, Sri Lanka



Children's home, Sri Lanka



SRI LANKA

The Sathya Sai International Organisation of Sri Lanka has 83 Centres serving over 4,900 members, and 262 SSE teachers provide instructions to more than 1,000 SSE students. Eighty-five public meetings were held during this reporting period, with approximately 3,800 Sathya Sai devotees and 1,400 general public in attendance. A national conference was held with about 800 attendees, and a youth conference was held with about 300 attendees.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Sri Sathya Sai Village Integrated Program was launched in Nehrupuram, a remote village near Thamibiluvil, to assist over 100 needy villagers living in 29 houses. The inhabitants of Nehrupuram had been forced to use unhygienic, polluted water, since there was no access to safe drinking water. In addition, there were no sanitary facilities. So, human waste accumulated in the backyards had contaminated the only two wells supplying fresh water to the village. To make matters worse, there was no electricity, and people were afraid that elephants living in the jungle could enter the village at night and destroy life and property. Sathya Sai devotees worked hard to provide the villagers with safe drinking water transported by pipelines, electricity for their homes and sanitary toilets for each house. The villagers, in turn, became aware of Bhagawan and started their journey on the spiritual path. Bhajans were initiated regularly on every other Friday, and, in October 2012, a board displaying “Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Village Integrated Programme” was erected in this remote village. Short- and long-term crops were planted to supply food, and Sathya Sai devotees held a medical, dental, and eye camp for the benefit of the needy villagers. Two patients were diagnosed as candidates for cataract surgeries, which were subse-



Blood donation, Sri Lanka

quently performed, and 26 patients were given eyeglasses on Bhagawan's Birthday, 23rd November 2012. Devotees from the Thambiluvil Sathya Sai Centre also provided assistance and training for conducting *bhajans* and devotional programmes, SSEHV classes and setting up a library.

Devastating floods impacted Sri Lanka in December 2012, damaging and destroying many homes occupied by poor families. Sathya Sai devotees built two new houses and renovated another house, with assistance from the SSIO of the UK. One of the new homes was given to a grandmother who lives with five grandchildren. Their previous makeshift home was always affected by floods because of its location; while their newly constructed house was situated on higher grounds for safety. Another new house was given to a disabled man and his wife who had been living with their small child in a temporary shelter near a pond, which was prone to flooding.

In another project aimed at helping those affected by war, poverty, and disability, 23 men, women and youth at the Sathya Sai Training Centre in Kopay were trained to produce rice flour, rice, chilli powder, and Kurakkan flour, and to pack these goods for export. This is a cooperative project between Sathya Sai devotees from Sri Lanka and the UK, and in December 2012, 10,000 kilograms of rice and flour were exported to the UK to generate much-needed income for the poor and disabled residents.

A drinking water project was previously inaugurated in July 2010 to provide safe drinking water to 500 families in Santhai village, with the donation of two water pumps, water pipes, and eight plastic water tanks. In September 2012, Sathya Sai devotees from the Kondavil Centre worked to extend this project to the village school, Sittampalam Vidyalayam, for the benefit of 165 students.

Sathya Sai devotees undertook a project at the Government Peripheral Hospital in Kandana, which is a suburb of Colombo, to improve the quality of life for more than 100 mental patients. This involved visiting them regularly and assisting them with occupational therapy in several enriching domains, including music, horticulture, arts, and crafts. With Swami's grace, the project started in March 2012 with a singing session, where 120 patients joined in the singing joyfully. Thereafter, the ladies of the Sathya Sai Organisation started visiting them weekly and assisting them with making coir ropes, mats, and envelopes. Music therapy was started in May 2012 with about 20 selected patients. Once a month, the lady devotees cooked a sumptuous meal and lovingly served about 240 patients





Serving people with physical and mental challenges



Service to the elderly, Sri Lanka

and hospital staff. In June 2012, a volunteer lady psychotherapist visited the hospital to work with patients who could be further helped with therapy.

The Sathya Sai Children's Home in Vavuniya was established on 19th January 2003 in the village of Koomankulam, Vavuniya District, Northern Province. It was built to accommodate about 50 orphaned children who had lost their parents over the last 20 years of conflict. Currently 32 destitute boys reside in this home. The Sathya Sai Children's Home not only provides food and shelter but also takes care of all their physical, mental, and spiritual needs, including schooling and education. Sathya Sai devotees have lovingly introduced them to the concepts of SSEHV, *bhajans* and selfless service.

About 200 Sathya Sai devotees participated in a spiritual *Sadhana* Camp on 23rd and 24th February 2013, at Kataragama, and distributed dry ration packs containing rice, dal, soybean, tea, sugar, spices, biscuits, and milk powder to 500 needy families in that area. More than 300 Sathya Sai devotees attended a spiritual *Sadhana* Camp on 6th and 7th April 2013, at Kokkadicholai, Batticaloa.

The Sathya Sai School in Manipay became operational in January 2003. Presently, 192 children are studying in Grade 1 through 9. On 12th October 2012, Sathya Sai youth from Jaffna and Singapore came together to meet the Sathya Sai school children and share their experiences.

The children performed a cultural programme that included dance, drama and singing.

DEVOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

In July 2012, Dr. Narendranath Reddy, Chairman of the Prasanthi Council, visited Sri Lanka. Dr. Reddy's itinerary included visiting the National Sai Projects of Sri Lanka: the hospice located in the town of Hanwella; the Sai Children's Home, Vavuniya; and Sri Sathya Sai School in Manipay, Jaffna. He also addressed a public meeting in Colombo attended by over 400 Sathya Sai devotees and the public. He delivered eight other talks in various parts of the country, including a 20-minute interview televised by one of the leading broadcasting organisations in Sri Lanka. The theme of his address was "The Relevance of Sathya Sai Teachings to the Contemporary World." He stressed the need to spread love and spoke of the miracles that are still taking place, even after Bhagawan left His mortal form.

On 7th July, the National Youth Conference was held in the Sai Seva Centre in Jaffna. Over 300 youth and 74 elders attended the conference. Dr. Reddy was the special guest speaker. After the invocation of Bhagawan's blessing, Dr. Reddy inaugurated the conference and spoke on the topic, "You Do My Work; I Will Do Your Work." At the conclusion of his talk, he released a book containing articles by the youth.

On 9th July 2012, the 10th anniversary of the Sri Sathya Sai Cancer Hospice in the city of Hanwella was celebrated, with Dr. Narendranath Reddy in attendance as the chief guest. The hospice facility was filled with devotees, office bearers, donors, doctors from the Ministry of Health and members of the Colombo branch of the Lions Club. A welcome address and presentation on the history and growth of the hospice was offered by Dr. Jeganathan, Chairman, Hospice Committee. Dr. Narendranath Reddy then addressed the audience, narrating an instance in which he asked Bhagawan what we could do for Him. Bhagawan replied, "Be Happy. Be Happy. Be Happy." Dr. Reddy stressed that we must love one another and serve one another, just as we love our dear Bhagawan. After Dr. Reddy's talk, the Lions Club took the opportunity to donate a hospital bed, which was kindly accepted by Dr. Reddy. The Region Chairman of the Lions Club who addressed the gathering astounded the audience by suddenly declaring that he would become a Sathya Sai devotee from that moment on! The audience responded with spontaneous applause.



Sarva Dharma Sai Shanthi Walk



Children's band



Hospice

The hospice provides accommodation, comfort, and loving palliative care to terminally-ill cancer patients who cannot be looked after in their homes. The hospice houses 40 patients in separate male and female wards and has provided care for over 330 terminally-ill cancer patients since its inception. Four doctors, eight nurses, nine attendants, and two cooks lovingly care for the patients. Sathya Sai volunteers render loving service by conducting *bhajans*, visiting with the patients and organising celebrations of festivals from each of the four major religions in Sri Lanka. SSE children and teachers visit the hospice periodically and offer cultural programmes.

In the Jaffna region of Sri Lanka, a large service project has been undertaken by the SSIO of Sri Lanka. Villages in this area that have endured decades of conflict, with destruction of villages and displacement of people, were adopted during the National Sai Youth Conference in July 2012. Most recently, in October 2012, 13 Sathya Sai volunteers from Singapore, along with volunteers from the Jaffna Centres, performed service projects in several of the villages. In Kadduwan West, about 125 families have been rehabilitated with basic facilities. "Sai Packs of Love", containing mosquito nets, cooking pots, rice, *dal*, sugar and clothes were packed by Singapore Sathya Sai volunteers with the help of Jaffna Sathya Sai youth and distributed on 11th October 2012. A common water well, which had been destroyed and filled with garbage, was restored, and about 10 to 15 families are now able to use the water for drinking and domestic purposes. In the village of Pommaiveli, which was destroyed during the conflict, a multipurpose community hall was built. The community hall was handed over to the village leaders on 11th October 2012. In the village of Poombugar, all houses and personal property had been completely destroyed during the conflict in 1985. Villagers were using water from polluted wells and suffering from water-borne illnesses as a result. Twenty-two open wells were repaired and handed over to the villagers by the Singapore volunteers. As a result, about 40 percent of the families have gained access to safe drinking water. Since electricity was not available in Poombugar and Munang, a 1.5 kilowatt generator was given to the village community centre to enable the students to study at night. At the Chettytheru Methodist Government Mixed School (an adopted Sai School), school supplies were distributed. In the village of Ponnamma, because of conflict and repeated displacement, most children could not attend school and failed to complete their education. Therefore education and tuition were arranged for them to improve their basic competency. Seven Sathya Sai youth are actively involved in this programme.

DISASTER RELIEF

In December 2012, the Northern Province, North Central Province, and Central Provinces of Sri Lanka were badly affected by heavy flooding that displaced many people. Service projects to assist the affected were implemented by the Colombo *Samithi*, with the assistance of the Central Council and the Central Trust, during the last two weeks of December. In the Chilaw district, Sathya Sai volunteers distributed 1,100 bread and Seeni Sambol parcels and 480 water bottles at five camps where temporary housing was provided in temples. In the Annuradhapura District, Sathya Sai volunteers distributed relief packs to more than 120 families in temporary camps. In the Kilinochchi district, relief packs and water were given to over 220 families.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Medical services were provided to more than 2,250 patients at nine medical camps held in various locations in Sri Lanka. Seven eye camps were held throughout the country. Over 1,400 patients were screened and over 650 prescription eye-glasses were distributed. More than 70 patients were identified as needing cataract surgery, and the SSIO of Sri Lanka arranged for the surgeries to be performed at the General Hospital, Vavuniya. Lenses for the cataract surgeries were provided free of charge by the SSIO. Sathya Sai volunteers provided transportation to the patients from their villages to the medical camp and back, after consultation.

Three medical clinics provide free services to patients on a regular basis. Two medical clinics, one in Poompugar and the other in Eswaripuram, in the Vavuniya District, are held twice a month, serving over 80 people at Poompugar and over 150 people at Eswaripuram.. At Mattakuliya in the Colombo District, a clinic is held once a month serving more than 125 people.

Supplies for school children



OBSERVANCE OF BHAGAWAN'S MAHASAMADHI

Devotional, service and other activities, including the Sarva Dharma Sai Shanthi Walks and the Sri Sathya Sai Village Integrated Programme, were organised by each of the regions of Sri Lanka as part of Bhagawan's *Mahasamadhi* Day observances. In the Western and Southern Regions, over 400 people participated in a six-kilometre *Shanthi* (Peace) Walk on the streets of Colombo. In the Northern Region, devotees including SSE children, SSE teachers and trainees from the vocational institute in Nvalay took part in a seven-kilometre *Shanthi* Walk. The North Central Region organised a *Shanthi* Walk in the Mullaitivu district. In the Eastern Region, about 1,000 devotees participated in a three-kilometre *Shanthi* Walk, organised in the districts of Batticaloa, Kalmunai and Akkaraipattu. Participants in all regions carried placards depicting Bhagawan's teachings on love and peace and sang *bhajans* throughout the walk.

As part of the *Mahasamadhi* observances, each region identified a village in which to implement the Sri Sathya Sai Village Integrated Program. A "needs assessment" was carried out to identify and address individual, family and village needs.

THAILAND

The nine Sathya Sai Centres of Thailand, with over 500 members, have an active calendar of devotional meetings, study circles and youth activities. More than 400 SSE students participate in SSE meetings, and at least 50 SSE workshops were held for teachers and parents. In commemoration of Bhagawan's *Mahasamadhi*, a medical camp was held in which more than 200 people were served.

DEVOTIONAL ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

The annual Lumpini Camp and a Walk for Values were organised by the SSIO of Thailand on Sunday, 6th January 2013. The camp began at 8:45 AM with a prayer, *Gayatri*





Service to the elderly, Thailand



Distribution of blankets to children, Thailand

Mantra, and a walk in which the participants sang human-values songs and *bhajans*. During the walk, children distributed roses and cards with Swami's quotations to bystanders. After marching to the camp, the camp attendees were divided into five groups, named *Sathya*, *Dharma*, *Shanti*, *Prema*, and *Ahimsa*. The participants then played games, competed in races and enjoyed breakfast, ice cream, and lunch. Prizes were distributed to all the groups.

The SSIO of Thailand held a devotional programme to celebrate Easwaramma Day on 9th June 2012, with about 425 people attending. The Indian Ambassador to Thailand was the chief guest. The programme began with the national anthem and Veda chanting, followed by dances and a drama titled "The Story of I," performed by SSE, SSEHV, and Sathya Sai School children. About 65 children participated in this programme.

On 26th August, over 25 Sathya Sai devotees joined a tree-planting event sponsored by the Thai Chamber of Commerce. In Rachaburi, about 100 kilometres from Bangkok, Sathya Sai devotees joined the Indian Embassy staff and volunteers from many other Indian organisations to plant trees.

The SSIO of Thailand held its Annual *Sadhana* Camp at the Sathya Sai School on 22nd and 23rd December 2012. The theme of the camp was "Let's Ask Swami." The Central Coordinator, Mr. Sorendar Pal Sachdev, gave the welcome speech, followed by a talk on meditation by Dr. Art-ong Jumsai, member, Prasanthi Council. The National Chairman of Thailand, Mr. Subachai Pongpakatien, spoke about his experiences. The programme concluded with a talk by Mr. Manoj Kumar Singh, on the theme, "Let's Ask Swami." At the conclusion of the camp, Sathya Sai devotees planted 100 trees at the Sathya Sai School.



The SSIO of Thailand was blessed with the visit of Dr. Narendranath Reddy, Chairman, Prasanthi Council, and Dr. Ravindran, Chairman, Zone 4, on 17th March 2013. On 18th March, they visited the Sathya Sai School at Lopburi, 200 kilometres from Bangkok. They were welcomed by Dr. Art-ong Jumsai, along with teachers and children of the school, and were treated to dance performances by the children. In the evening after the *bhajan* session, Dr. Reddy spoke to the teachers. On 19th March, after a morning meditation-and-prayer session at the school, Dr. Reddy spoke to children, and in the evening he talked with the devotees at the house of the Central Coordinator, Mr. Sorendar Pal Sachdev. A formal public talk attended by about 120 people was also held at the India Thai Chamber of Commerce on 22nd March. After Mr. Manoj Kumar Singh's welcome speech, Dr. Ravindran spoke about activities in Zone 4 countries. Dr. Reddy gave an inspiring talk about Swami's teachings, followed by a question-and-answer session that kept the audience spellbound. Dr. Jumsai concluded the programme with a thank-you note, and *prasadam* was served. A German who came for the first time to listen to the talk, commented, "As I came in for the talk, I saw two big photos of Swami. For some reason I felt that He was physically there."

DISASTER RELIEF

A devastating flood impacted Thailand in late 2011, and the humanitarian relief efforts by Sathya Sai devotees of Thailand included collecting and distributing food, water and supplies. Once the floodwaters receded, houses for the poor who did not receive government help were rebuilt as part of the relief effort. By Swami's grace, the building of houses to rehabilitate the flood victims has continued. A total of 68 houses were built and distributed by the SSIO, Thailand. The Non-thaburi Sathya Sai Centre worked with local village heads to distribute galvanised tin sheets to 68 needy families.



Buddhist monks at Birthday celebration, Thailand

HUMAN VALUES DRAMA FESTIVAL

The SSIO of Thailand successfully organised an Inter-School Drama Festival on 9th February 2013 at the auditorium of the New International School of Thailand. The Chief Guest for the event was Dr. Tinsiri Siribodhi, Deputy Director of South East Asia Ministers Education Organisation (SEAMEO). The theme of the drama festival, “Filial Piety and Family Unity,” was broadly depicted in brilliant performances by the four participating schools. The Deputy Director of SEAMEO, who was very pleased with the festival, thoughtfully presented all the schools with an educational gift of selected stories, which were developed as a teaching device to inspire children and to bring out their inherent human values. The programme began with a welcome speech by the Deputy Central Coordinator, Mr. Manoj Kumar Singh, and ended with a ‘thank you’ note by Mr. Sorendar Pal Sachdev, Central Coordinator.

It was amazing to see the enthusiasm of the participants from Sarakham Pittayakhom School, who had travelled all the way from Maha Sarakam in North East Thailand. Their play, “The Choice,” won the award for best script and best play. It depicted how an enduring commitment to the core human values can guide an individual safely through life’s complex trials.

The Anglo Singapore International School’s play, “Lucky Anna,” won the runner-up award. It showed how love transcends physical proximity and is the bond that brings people together. “The Golden Apple,” by Keerapat International School, showed how Providence comes to the aid of kind-hearted and honest people in unexpected and subtle ways. “The Way Home,” performed by Rasami British International School, concluded the festival of plays. This play was a true representation of the misunderstanding and hurt that adolescents experience towards their elders, and how this metamorphoses into love and understanding in later years.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

On 3rd November 2012, Sathya Sai devotees celebrated Bhagawan's 87th Birthday by singing 87 *bhajans* at the Sai Prasanthi Centre of Bangkok. On 23rd November 2012, Sathya Sai devotees celebrated Bhagawan's Birthday at the Sathya Sai Centres of Rajdamneon, Sai Prasanthi, Maesai and Chiangmai. Various service activities, including the distribution of blankets and food to the needy, as well as devotional programmes were undertaken.

The SSE wing of the SSIO of Thailand celebrated Swami's 87th Birthday on Sunday, 28th October 2012. The celebration was attended by approximately 40 children, 45 parents, and 4 teachers. The programme began with the chanting of the *Gayatri Mantra* and *bhajans* by the children at 5:00 PM, followed by the screening of a video about Swami and the singing of 'Happy Birthday' to Swami.

As part of Bhagawan's Birthday celebrations, several service projects were conducted. On 14th October, Sathya Sai devotees visited a home for the elderly, Baan Bang Khae Social Welfare, providing 280 residents with food and necessities, including cookies and milk. The residents of the home, some with tears in their eyes, were touched by the kindness and compassion shown by the volunteers. On 4th November 2012, Sathya Sai volunteers sang *bhajans*, served a vegetarian meal, and distributed washing powder, toiletries and shorts to 500 residents at a home for destitute women in Thanyaburi.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

On Saturday, 15th December 2012, Sathya Sai devotees celebrated Christmas at Sai Prasanthi Centre. Christmas carols were sung and gifts were given to children by Santa Claus. On Sunday, 16th December, Christmas was celebrated at Rajdamneon Sathya Sai Centre. Children from poor families in the nearby neighbourhoods were invited to attend the celebrations. On Sunday, 16th December, Christmas was also celebrated at Good Shepherd Sisters' Home, which houses about 100 children. Sathya Sai devotees served homemade food for all and provided daily provisions, such as rice, sugar, oil, cookies, coffee, detergent, and soap after entertaining the children with games, magic show and music.



ZONE 5

CHINA ■ HONG KONG ■ JAPAN
KOREA ■ TAIWAN

Mt. Fuji, Japan



SSEHV conference, China



Student sharing experience, China

CHINA

SATHYA SAI EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES

In April 2012, a second conference of SSEHV leaders was held in mainland China, attended by university professors, education bureau personnel, graduate students, principals and teachers representing the three provinces where SSEHV is now established. Attendees included Dr. Narendranath Reddy, Chairman, Prasanthi Council, and Dr. Pal Dhall and Mrs. Tehseen Dhall from the ISSE of Australia. Also in April 2012, a three-day seminar for Guangxi Province was held. Dr. Pal Dhall and Mrs. Tehseen Dhall attended this seminar and conducted SSEHV sessions with the teachers, followed by a “Dynamic Parenting” session.

In June 2012, Phase 3 of the SSEHV project in Qinghai Province was launched. In this phase, the most outstanding teachers were identified to become trainers of other teachers in five districts of Qinghai. Study packages consisting of six modules were developed by the ISSE of Hong Kong. The focus of this phase was to teach the selected teachers how to use these materials so that they could become trainer facilitators. This phase is the final phase of the SSEHV project in Qinghai Province. The model used in this project will become the model for professional development projects for the other provinces.



Dance by SSE students, Hong Kong

HONG KONG

The two Sathya Sai Centres and six *bhajan* groups of Hong Kong, with over 400 members and 250 SSE students, keep an active schedule of devotional singing, SSE classes, study circles, Sathya Sai youth meetings and other events.

SATHYA SAI EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES

In a primary school that serves underprivileged children, senior SSE students and youth continued a monthly service project employing an SSEHV focus while providing the children with assistance in learning English. The activities are designed by the ISSE of Hong Kong. The SSE youth work with two or three children each to encourage them to speak with confidence in English and to reflect on values in their lives. A group of about 12 translation diploma students from the Chinese University of Hong Kong has started a similar service project with a different age group in the same school, and this group is receiving training and mentoring from the ISSE of Hong Kong.

Sathya Sai youth have conducted ongoing mentoring and study-skills tutoring for students in the Queen Elizabeth (QE) secondary-school cluster in Tin Shui Wai, another underprivileged area of Hong Kong that has a large number of disadvantaged immigrants from mainland China.

Regular SSEHV classes at St. Margaret's Girls' Secondary School are now in their fifth year of implementation and have been expanded to include Forms 1, 2, and 3.



'Bharatnatyam' dance, Hong Kong

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

On 19th November 2012 the Ladies Wing of the Sathya Sai Centre of Hong Kong began celebrations of Bhagawan's 87th Birthday with a *Paduka Puja* followed by a talk. Celebrations continued on 23rd November when devotees gathered in the morning for *Om karam*, *Suprabhatam* followed by *bhajans*. The morning celebration ended with cake cutting and closing prayers. In the afternoon, the programme included an hour of devotional singing led by the SSE children and an hour of general group *bhajans*. In the evening, *bhajans* were followed by a *darshan* video of Bhagawan, a recording of Bhagawan singing the concluding *bhajan*, cake cutting, prayers and the distribution of *vibhuthi* (holy ash).

An annual cultural programme held as part of Bhagawan's Birthday celebrations took place on 24th November. The theme of the programme was "Educare: A Legacy of Divine Love." The programme began with a video presentation showing how Bhagawan has touched the hearts of millions of people from all over the world. SSE students and youth members then performed an opening dance dressed in traditional and colourful Indian attire. A group of Christian singers, invited to perform at the event, presented three lively songs, including "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." This was followed by a beautiful dance performance by Oxana Banshikova, a *Bharatnatyam* teacher and choreographer from Kazakhstan, and one of her students. The programme continued with a short skit and two musical numbers by SSE children and a talk by Sister Naina Shamasani, the National Education Convener, representing the SSIO of Hong Kong. A video on Bhagawan's work in education was screened, showing some of the schools that Bhagawan inspired and the impact that His teachings have had on educators and students all over the world. Sathya Sai youth then enacted a play titled "Life Is a Game, Play It" followed by a *Qawali* (Sufi devotional music) rendition by the Nepali Youth of the Tsuen Wan Centre. The programme concluded with a dance led by about 85 SSE children, a birthday song and cake cutting, and the distribution of *prasadam*.



Serving the needy, Hong Kong



Serving people with mental challenges, Hong Kong

COMMUNITY SERVICES

In commemoration of Bhagawan's Birthday, nine consecutive days of service projects were carried out from 1st through 9th December 2012. Sathya Sai volunteers served the people who sleep on the streets in Hong Kong and Kowloon. Breakfast was served on 2nd and 9th December, with 37 Sathya Sai volunteers distributing instant cup noodles, three-in-one tea packs with disposable cups, water bottles, fruits, sandwiches, homemade cookie packs and 130 bedding sets to more than 200 people. On 3rd, 4th, 7th and 8th December, over 530 boxes of hot meals, 950 Sai service packets containing packaged drinks, face towels, toilet rolls, biscuits and instant cup noodles, along with 455 bedding sets were distributed by 81 Sathya Sai volunteers. Other service projects undertaken during this nine-day period included service to the elderly, and visits to a homeless shelter and a home for adults and children with mental challenges under the care of the Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children.

DEVOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

A *sadhana* (spiritual practice) camp titled "Learning to Live with the Sai Within" was held on 20th January, 2013. From 24th January to 7th February, seven talks were given by senior Sathya Sai devotees.

On 27th January a public programme was held in the Nepalese language at a local community centre on the theme "Omniscient, Omnipresent and Omnipotent." The programme, attended by more than 100 people, included talks, devotional singing, an SSE dance presentation, and the screening of a *darshan* video of Swami.

JAPAN

The SSIO of Japan has 27 centres and more than 425 members. An active SSE programme serves 30 students. In 2012, the organisation held two public meetings with 450 devotees and 50 people from the public in attendance, and two educational conferences attended by 20 educators and 15 devotees.

OBSERVANCE OF BHAGAWAN'S MAHASAMADHI

On 24th April 2012, the first anniversary of Bhagawan's *Mahasamadhi* was observed in the Kobe Sathya Sai Centre. The programme consisted of *Veda* chanting, group devotional singing and closing prayers. Two devotees described how Bhagawan has enlightened our lives and the world. They talked about Prasanthi Nilayam, a place of pilgrimage where devotees can recharge spiritually, and about how it is and always will be filled with Bhagawan's vibrations and presence.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

In celebration of Bhagawan's Birthday in November 2012, about 150 Sathya Sai devotees from Osaka, Kyoto, Kobe and Nara jointly organised programmes of service and devotion over several days. On 18th November, Sathya Sai volunteers served food to about 200 homeless people in Kobe. Sathya Sai devotees in Osaka and Kyoto also carried out service projects to feed the poor and the homeless in those areas. On 23rd November, Sathya Sai devotees gathered for a devotional programme that began in the morning with the chanting of *Omkaram*, *Suprabhatam*, and the 108 names of Bhagawan, followed by an oath ceremony for the new president and committee members of the Ladies and Youth Wings. Finally, a special session of devotional singing and the offering of heartfelt prayers to Bhagawan for His blessings for world peace concluded the morning devotional programme. An evening cultural programme, titled "The Source of Happiness," consisted of two plays on the attainment of happiness in life. The programme concluded with the reading of a message that a group of Japanese devotees received from Bhagawan during a conference in Prasanthi Nilayam.

DEVOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Ninety devotees from Japan joined other Zone 5 and Buddhist countries to present a programme on 7th May at Prasanthi Nilayam. The programme included Japan's first presentation by their Sai Choir, whose members had been practicing for over a year and a half. Japanese Sathya Sai devotees also chanted Vedas and performed a drama about the great 2011 Tohoku earthquake.

On 9th June 2012, office bearers of the SSIO of Japan met in Tokyo for an officers' orientation meeting. On 4th and 5th August, about 100 Sathya Sai devotees attended a *Veda* chanting and devotional singing seminar in Kobe.

From 15th to 17th September 2012, a Sathya Sai *Sadhana* Camp was held for the twelfth time near Mt. Fuji in Hakone, Japan. More than 200 Sathya Sai devotees from the northernmost to the southernmost parts of Japan participated in this retreat.

The main theme for the first part of the retreat, on 15th and 16th September, was learning about and deepening their understanding of the spiritual epic, *Ramayana*. Sessions were led by three instructors who were alumni of the Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSIHL). The programme had the theme "Summer Showers of Brindavan," based on Bhagawan's discourses in Brindavan in 1996 and the *Rama Katha Rasa Vahini* (Story of Rama written by Bhagawan Baba). By Bhagawan's grace, devotees were blessed with a welcome summer rain and a cool breeze, while dry days with heat continued in all other local areas.

The *Sadhana* Camp was blessed to have distinguished speakers. Smt. Vijaya Lakshmi, a graduate of SSIHL, Anantapur, was one of the featured speakers. Sri Ryuko Hira, a senior devotee who has dedicated his life to Bhagawan, was another featured speaker. A campfire programme on the evening of the first day, followed by a night session, began with *Veda* chanting, a drama and narration relating to the five elements. The programme concluded with beautiful *bhajans*. On the last day, over 100 Sathya Sai devotees chanted the *Ekadasa Rudram* for world peace.



Birthday celebrations, Japan

TAIWAN

SATHYA SAI EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES

On 29th June 2012, the eleventh graduation ceremony of Sri Sathya Sai Kindergarten students took place. The school was initiated 14 years ago, and most of the students in the programme

come from a background in which either the family or the student has experienced psychological problems. The Sathya Sai Kindergarten programme transforms these students to bring out their excellence from within. At the Sathya Sai Kindergarten, the SSEHV programme offers weekly classes for children in grades one through six. Book study groups for parents are conducted on a weekly basis, and book study groups for teachers are offered bimonthly. The SSEHV programme provides weekly meditation classes at three local elementary schools—Heti Elementary School, Chunghe Elementary School and Yung-Ping Elementary School.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

In Taipei, Bhagawan's Birthday celebration and the sixteenth anniversary celebration of the SSEHV programme took place on 18th November 2012 with a two-hour public programme in the City Hall, which was attended by more than 200 devotees. Following a brief introduction to the SSEHV programme, Sathya Sai Kindergarten children, along with students of the Chinese SSEHV programme and SSE students of the Tienmou Sathya Sai Centre, presented a cultural programme. A drama titled "Who Am I?" and a short skit on "Unity of Faiths" were also performed by the children. The programme concluded with a song titled "This Little Guiding Light of Mine." On 23rd November, *bhajans* were held at the Tienmou Sathya Sai Centre, followed by loving service at homes for the elderly.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

SSE classes are held weekly. SSE students perform community service monthly at a home for the physically and mentally challenged and at a home for the elderly. On 3rd February, SSEHV teachers, parents, students and volunteers organised a blood donation service activity in Carrefour, MRT Zhishan Station. On 28th April 2012, about 40 SSEHV teachers, parents, students and volunteers participated in the cleaning of Jizhouan, a historic site in Taipei City. Weekly newsletters, bimonthly issues of *Sharanam* and quarterly issues of the SSEHV magazine continue to be distributed via email.



Serving people with mental and physical challenges, Taiwan

ZONE 6

ALBANIA ■ BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA
BULGARIA ■ CROATIA ■ CYPRUS ■ FRANCE
GREECE ■ ITALY ■ MACEDONIA ■ MALTA
PORTUGAL ■ ROMANIA ■ SERBIA / MONTENEGRO
SLOVENIA ■ SPAIN ■ SWITZERLAND



St Peter's Square, Vatican City

CROATIA

The SSIO of Croatia has been active in spreading Swami's message through devotional, service, educational, and youth activities across the country, despite many challenges caused by economic crisis and other serious setbacks.

Service activities conducted in 2012 included visits to homes for the elderly all over Croatia; packing and delivering food and hygiene kits to needy families with children; collecting supplies and cooking meals for the homeless; cleaning apartments and delivering firewood for the elderly; and many other service activities. Sathya Sai devotees collected food, clothing and other necessities for economically deprived Croatians on a monthly basis in Rijeka and in other locales. True to Swami's teachings, loving care was given to abandoned pets as well. Sathya Sai devotees also visited the multinational refugee camp at Mala Gorica, Petrinja, to comfort the refugees.

Fourteen youth and four children participated joyfully in a national youth retreat in Dubrovnik, where they engaged in two days of devotional singing, meditation and workshops. Sathya Sai youth continued to volunteer at the Volunteering Centre in Dubrovnik, to participate in radio shows sharing stories on human values and to visit orphanages. In 2012, they also presented a special performance titled "Truth and Untruth" at the Fifth Elementary School for pupils with special needs, in Orahovica of the Panonia region.

FRANCE

The activities of all Sathya Sai Centres continued with enthusiasm and strong participation by members in 2012. Festivities such as *akhandā bhajan* (annual 24-hour continuous devotional singing), Swami's Birthday, and Christmas were celebrated at the Paris Sathya Sai Centre. The quarterly magazine, *Prema*, is widely read, as indicated by about 23,000 website hits during 2012. Sathya Sai devotees of France distributed food and clothing to the homeless, collected stamps for a national welfare association and collected caps/stoppers for an association helping paralysed people. Funds raised from the sale of these caps are used to purchase wheelchairs for paralysed individuals.



Volunteers serving food, Greece

GREECE

Sathya Sai devotees of Greece continue to practise Bhagawan's teachings with faith and devotion in 2012. Every major occasion, including *Mahashivarathri*, Bhagawan's *Mahasamadhi* and Birthday, and Christmas, was observed lovingly with devotional and service activities. Regular visits were conducted throughout the year to offer medical care to underprivileged children. A paediatrician, accompanied by a pharmacist and an assistant, visited 183 children and administered 91 vaccinations. In collaboration with the Filothei Municipality, Sathya Sai volunteers organised presentations at schools on the importance of donating blood, and blood donations were subsequently arranged. Starting in December, a group of 14 to 20 year old girls, educated in music, undertook a project to record a CD of human values songs in Greek.



House repair, Greece



Refurbished house, Greece

COMMUNITY AND MEDICAL SERVICES

The Sathya Sai Centres of Athens/Piraeus continued to offer loving service to the local community, especially the needy. In one recent case, burglars had broken a door and damaged a rain cover, leaving a needy family of six with no protection from the cold and rain. The family was unable to afford any repairs and, learning of their predicament, Sathya Sai volunteers stepped in to repair the home. All necessary materials, such as a door-frame, cement, polyurethane, paint and panels, were purchased, and the door itself was donated by a volunteer. A team of six Sathya Sai devotees, assisted by two family members, worked three days in October and November 2012 to complete the project satisfactorily before the onset of winter.

Another project completed lovingly in November 2012 involved the installation of a new water pipe and generator at an elderly woman's home. She lives in a remote, hilly area in Perama, where a pump is necessary to raise water to her home due to inadequate water pressure. At one point, her old pump broke down, leaving her without water, as she could not afford to repair or replace it. Soon after that, she was hospitalised for a prolonged period due to mental disabilities. To make matters worse, her electricity bills went unpaid during her hospital stay, and the electric company cut off the power supply to her house. Thus, when she was finally discharged from the hospital, she faced the painful situation of returning to a home without water or power. To alleviate her suffering, local Sathya Sai volunteers purchased and installed a new pump and the piping necessary to lift the water about 120 metres. They also installed a new generator to run the pump, a small shed to protect the equipment and a new faucet in the kitchen to replace the old one. The project was completed before the elderly lady was released from the hospital, and her joy knew no bounds when she witnessed the new facilities at her home, made possible by the loving work of the Sathya Sai devotees.



Water pump installation , Greece

Near Perama in Piraeus, many needy families have been “adopted” by local Sathya Sai devotees, who provide them with food on a regular basis, along with extra milk for families with children. On 3rd November 2012, Sathya Sai Centre members visited such surrogate families in Perama, Piraeus, and distributed 35 bags of food. During the course of the day, a paediatrician together with an assistant visited 17 families and examined 19 children, of whom seven received vaccinations. Instructions were given to parents on topics relevant to the healthy physical and mental development of their children. Extra cans of evaporated milk were distributed as well.

On 17th November 2012, Sathya Sai devotees consisting of nine adults and six teenagers, accompanied by a SSE teacher, paid a monthly visit to KAAPAA, the Children’s Recuperation and Rehabilitation Centre in Voula Attiki. The children, some confined to wheelchairs, were lovingly escorted on an outdoor excursion to enjoy the fresh air. Children who were able to play were divided into teams to play basketball and volleyball.

A homeless family of five was given shelter for several months in a guesthouse; the father, sick mother, and their three children later found shelter in a nearby abandoned house, which needed repairs. Sathya Sai devotees cleaned and painted the house and installed four windows to make it livable. Seven adult and youth volunteers, divided into teams, worked diligently in order to have the house ready before Christmas.

On 25th January 2013, a New Year’s celebration was organised by six Sathya Sai volunteers at the Missionaries of Love, where a large cake was shared with all participants. A large number of 10-kg packages of lentils, pulses and grains (including rice), and several litres of oil and milk were donated to those in need. A similar annual celebration, with cake cutting, was held at the Patisision Centre in Athens, during which a New Year’s message from Dr. Narendranath Reddy, Chairman, Prasanthi Council,

was read. A beautiful video of Swami, an inspiring play and uplifting devotional singing preceded the cake-cutting ceremony.

On 20th February 2013, Sathya Sai volunteers from the Filothei Centre, with cooperation from the local municipality, organised a blood-donation drive, in which 12 bottles of blood were collected. On 27th February, members of the same Centre, under the guidance of a doctor, organised a briefing session for the elderly on the topic, "How to Stand Up (Rise) if You Fall Down." The programme was held at a senior-housing community called KAPI. Instructions were given to 30 elderly persons on how to deal with such an accident and possible injury. The talk was particularly important for the elderly who live alone. Part of the instructions dealt with how another person could assist under such circumstances.

On 9th March 2013, ten adults and two youth, all Sathya Sai volunteers, again paid a monthly visit to KAAPAA, the Children's Recuperation and Rehabilitation Centre in Voula Attiki. Following the local Easter tradition, the children made and decorated candles at this event. As before, the children, some in wheelchairs, were taken out of their rooms for fresh air, and some of them were divided into teams to play basketball and volleyball, while others used the playground facilities.

On the weekend of 23rd March, 15 children accompanied by two SSEHV teachers, five alumni students and five parents participated in a camping trip for the SSEHV students in Sai Prema, Markopoulo. The main theme of the event was "I Give Love, I Receive Joy." The alumni of the SSEHV programme helped in taking care of the young children with great love and care. The youngsters enjoyed the story-telling, team-play, country walks, devotional singing, and prayers. Many young children who had not attended the SSEHV classes previously, expressed an overwhelming desire to participate regularly in the classes.

Every month, a youth team from a Sathya Sai Centre supplies 24 bags of dry food for needy families at a primary-school complex in the Grava area of Athens. Dry food is also provided to needy parents at an intermediate school in a neighbouring area. Eighty percent of the students come from poor immigrant families. A Sathya Sai devotee who is a dentist offers his services to the needy at no cost. Once or twice a week, five Sathya Sai devotees help students with their homework in different areas of Athens and Piraeus.





Playing with children, Greece



Serving children with physical challenges, Greece

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

More than 100 Sathya Sai devotees celebrated Bhagawan's 87th Birthday at the Patisision Centre on 23rd November 2012. The beautifully decorated Centre was packed as the programme started with a divine discourse by Bhagawan. A video by Samuel Sandweiss, titled "Who Is Sathya Sai Baba," with Greek subtitles, was presented, followed by *bhajans*. Two huge cakes were cut and enjoyed by the participants. It was a deeply touching celebration, attended by Sathya Sai devotees of all ages, from senior devotees to the very young. An additional Birthday programme was held at Mother Teresa's home for abandoned women and children. A big cake with Bhagawan's picture was cut, and gift bags were offered to mothers and children residing at the home. Birthday songs were sung joyfully by all participants.

MAHASHIVARATHRI CELEBRATIONS

On 10th March 2013, about 70 Sathya Sai devotees attended *Mahashivarathri* celebrations at the Patisision Centre in Athens. The programme started at 7:00 PM Sunday and lasted until 3:00 AM the following morning. The hall was beautifully decorated with flowers, and a huge garland was placed around Bhagawan's picture. The celebration started with a beautiful video showing the emergence of the auspicious *lingam* from Bhagawan on several occasions at Prasanthi Nilayam. Swami's divine discourse regarding the significance of the day followed, and uplifting *bhajans* were sung with devotion by all present.



Community service at 'Mother Sai' house, Italy

ITALY

COMMUNITY SERVICES

During Christmas 2012, a group of Sathya Sai devotees from Rome went to the home of an elderly woman devotee who could no longer attend the Sathya Sai Centre in Rome because of poor health. It was a joyful occasion as they came together lovingly to sing *bhajans* and share some sweets made for Swami.

Ten Sathya Sai devotees visited a nursing home for the elderly to celebrate the birthday of a 100-year-old woman. A party with music and songs in the popular Italian tradition was organised, and the evening was capped off with the cutting of a delicious cake especially prepared for the centenarian woman.

The region of Emilia, Italy, was struck by an earthquake in May 2012. During a three-day holiday period, 5th through 7th October 2012, the SSIO of Italy hosted 36 disabled victims of the earthquake at the Mother Sai House in Divignano. This sanctuary was built under Swami's guidance more than 20 years ago as a place of peace and joy, where the SSIO of Italy holds many activities. About 20 Sathya Sai volunteers, including several youth, looked after all the needs of the guests in a loving and peaceful manner. In this atmosphere, the victims could come to grips with their injuries, talk about their traumatic experiences and deal with the tragic loss of loved ones or a home. "Dharmic clowns" in costume were present to bring laughter and joy to the guests throughout their stay. Outdoor activities such as a boat trip on tranquil Lake Maggiore and a "sa-

fari trip” to the zoo were arranged. A musical performance was held in the evening, featuring singing and dancing, to bring the fun-filled day to a joyful close. The families of the disabled victims were very grateful for the loving support of the Sathya Sai devotees, as they all experienced Swami’s message of “Love in Action.”

A two-day service workshop was held on the 2nd and 3rd of February 2013 at the Sathya Sai Centre of Valencia, Spain. Seven members of the SSIO of Italy shared their experiences in different areas of service in accordance with Bhagawan’s teachings. The team of trainers, through their example of teamwork and harmonious coordination, delivered a presentation with inspiring quotes and messages. There were many interactive parts that required individual and group introspection, and several games were organised to facilitate understanding of the spiritual concepts in a practical manner.

The workshop was designed for a maximum of 25 participants per day. On the first day, the workshop was opened to any person interested in understanding the meaning of service from Bhagawan’s perspective. Seventeen people from the public participated. On Sunday, 3rd February, the workshop was geared towards Sathya Sai devotees. On both days, the essence of the message was, “Service Is Love in Action without Any Expectations.” The eight-hour training workshop, with presentations, self-inquiry, activities and games, allowed everyone to comprehend the clear mes-



Entertaining victims of earthquake, Italy



Devotional meeting, Italy

sage that service, rendered according to Bhagawan's teachings, is not an external activity but simply the natural way to express ourselves through love.

The "Sai Vivere" (Living Sai) project was undertaken to spread the universal message of love and Swami's teachings. This project started in 2012 at the Sathya Sai Centre of Lombardia and is expected to be expanded to the national level.

A "Relief Project" has been conducted at the Mother Sai House in Divignano on the last weekend of every month in 2012 to welcome needy families, the disabled and the poor who cannot afford to enjoy weekends or vacations.

Bhagawan's 87th Birthday was celebrated at the municipal building in Turin by devotees from all Sathya Sai Centres in the city. The event included an exhibition on "Activities of the Sathya Sai Centres of Italy."

The first anniversary of Swami's *Mahasamadhi* was observed during the week of 22nd to 29th April 2012, with many service projects for the needy and the ailing, and devotional activities for spiritual aspirants. Many Sathya Sai devotees of Italy practised "ceiling on desires," and with the money saved through this practice, they purchased and provided basic necessities and food to people in need.

SERBIA

Sathya Sai devotees in Serbia enthusiastically participated in devotional and service activities. Service activities included the distribution of 162 pairs of socks, 100 pieces of underwear and 42 pairs of shoes for children with disabilities; distribution of about 6 cubic metres of firewood and donations of clothing, food and hygiene kits for the needy. Sathya Sai devotees from Serbia also assisted with providing accommodations for other devotees at an international SSIO meeting in 2012.



Distributing firewood, Serbia



Children helping prepare food, Slovenia

SLOVENIA

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Sathya Sai devotees from two Centres participated in a selfless act of loving service when they renovated the home of an elderly and needy couple in Bela Krajina. The couple, both in their eighties, were overjoyed and grateful beyond words when their small and dysfunctional kitchen and bathroom were transformed in a single day into a functional, freshly painted, bright and clean area. All the doors and windows in the house were refurbished, and the elderly couple was provided with a set of new kitchen utensils. Moved by the selfless and loving service of the Sathya Sai volunteers, neighbours of the couple offered to help the Sathya Sai devotees with similar projects in the future. In another instance of loving service, in June 2012, eight Sathya Sai volunteers helped a needy family of four in the Slovenian town of Zajcji Vrh. In December 2012, five Sathya Sai volunteers helped a disadvantaged family of three in the Slovenian town of Petrovc Pri Zalcu by painting the walls of their house and cleaning the rooms.

Six volunteers from the Sathya Sai Centre of Novo Mesto continued their regular weekly visits to a local nursing home to hold fitness workshops for elderly and disabled people. Six to ten senior citizens usually participate in the workshops, which are held ten months of the year.

Following Bhagawan's teaching to help others in need, members of the Ljubljana and Novo Mesto Sathya Sai Centres and the Sathya Sai Group from Velenje donated funds to aid victims of the earthquake in Italy in 2012.

In August 2012, six Sathya Sai volunteers organised an environmental project to clean up the river Krka.

SPAIN

An improved and attractive national website for the SSIO of Spain was launched on 23rd November 2012. It includes selected quotes and texts about Bhagawan Sathya Sai Baba, His message and work, and information concerning the Sathya Sai Organisation. A national magazine called “*SAInspiraciones*” commenced publication in 2012 and showcased all Spanish events, activities and workshops, with the help of beautiful photographs. On the educational front, the SSE wing has been blessed to have about 30 qualified trainers who are involved in training programmes given by the South European Institute of Education.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

During the reporting period, the Sathya Sai Centre of Barcelona offered food once monthly to the homeless and conducted visits to a home for the elderly on special festival days. The Sathya Sai youth from this Centre presented a play for Swami’s Birthday celebrations and constructed a huge *sarva dharma* symbol to decorate the hall. Blankets and warm clothes were also donated to the homeless in January 2013.

In cooperation with a local church, five Sathya Sai youth from the Sathya Sai Centre of Madrid entertained about 80 children from a poor neighbourhood during Christmas 2012 and also distributed Christmas presents. The youth from the Madrid Centre also organised a retreat in Cáceres, held in October 2012, to facilitate devotional activities and to commune with Mother Nature.

The beautiful Las Palmas Sathya Sai Centre has recently been renovated and enlarged. On the first Sunday of every other month, about 8 to 10 Sathya Sai devotees from the Las Palmas Centre visit the White Cross Foundation, a home for people who are mentally disabled. They entertained and lovingly attended to 60 aged, disabled men who reside at this home. In addition, about five to eight devotees from the Las Palmas Sathya Sai Centre serve lunch every Sunday to about 130 homeless people in a dining room at “Caritas.” Every month, 65 packages containing 6-kg of food each are delivered to needy families. On Swami’s Birthday, 87 packages were distributed. In July and December 2012, a special service project was carried out for the residents of a home for the mentally disabled. The residents were entertained with music, presents, games and a delicious snack.

Forty devotees at the Sathya Sai Centre of Tenerife served a complete, delicious meal to 80 to 100 needy people on a regular basis. Food was also collected and distributed to 15 needy families on a monthly basis. The Centre members organised three blood donation drives, as they do every year.



Human Values Walk, Switzerland

SWITZERLAND

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Sathya Sai devotees in Switzerland participated in selfless service programmes such as visiting the elderly, the sick and the handicapped to bring them comfort and joy. They tended to Alzheimer patients and terminally ill patients. They fed the homeless and the needy, took care of animals, participated in environmental clean-up projects, and helped children and neighbours in distress. Sathya Sai youth actively participated in national events. The youth in Geneva met once a week to hold study circles, to read Swami's teachings, to learn about the *Vedas*, and to discuss ways to contribute locally and nationally to the "Sai Movement." The 24-hour *akhanda bhajan* in Switzerland was also organised by the Sathya Sai youth as part of a "Sai Challenge."

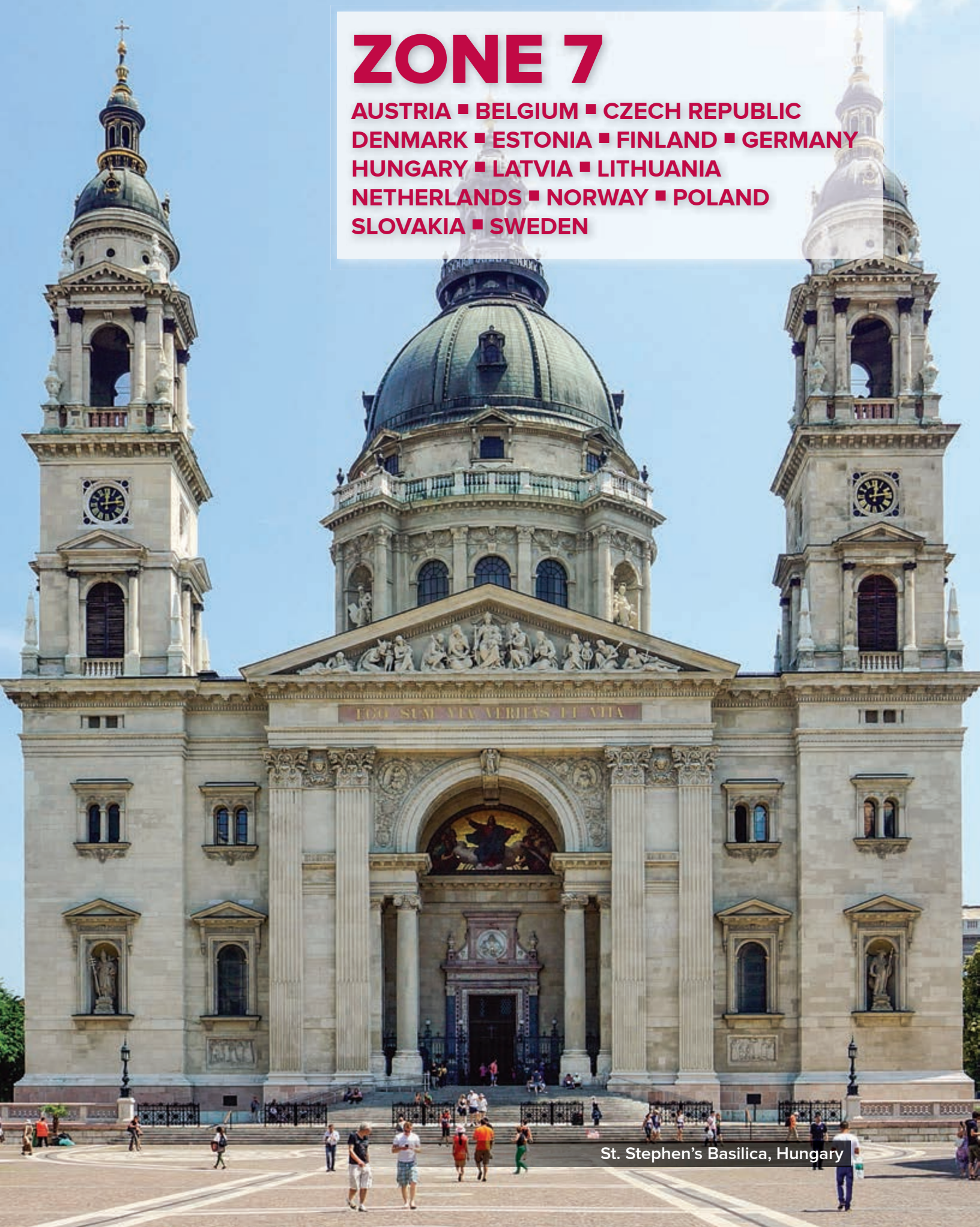
DEVOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Two General Assembly meetings of the Coordinating Committee of the SSIO of Switzerland were held on 24th March and 3rd November 2012. At the March General Assembly, a book project called "Transformation of Hearts" was lovingly initiated, to be offered at the Lotus Feet of Bhagawan during His Birthday. The November General Assembly confirmed the theme of the year as "Unity in Thought, Word and Deed."

In May 2012, the Geneva Sathya Sai Centre staged a play with 17 SSE students, in front of an audience of 160 people. In May, Sanjay Sahani, Director of Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Whitefield, visited Switzerland and gave talks in Basel and Schüpfheim, much to the joy of more than 80 Sathya Sai devotees in attendance. In May, a national retreat was held in Ticino, the Italian-speaking part of Switzerland, where about 90 Sathya Sai devotees took the opportunity to visit a home for the elderly in order to raise the spirits of the residents. The National "Bettag *Satsang*" (Swiss Thanksgiving Day) in September was attended by about 120 Sathya Sai devotees in Aarau. In November, Basel and Bern Bethlehem Sathya Sai Centres organised *akhanda bhajans* for three hours each, while 150 Sathya Sai devotees sang *bhajans* for 12 hours at the Geneva Sathya Sai Centre. Swami's Birthday was celebrated with *bhajans* and prayers all over Switzerland. A beautiful Christmas programme was held in Zurich, as well as in the Italian- and French-speaking regions of Switzerland.

ZONE 7

AUSTRIA ■ BELGIUM ■ CZECH REPUBLIC
DENMARK ■ ESTONIA ■ FINLAND ■ GERMANY
HUNGARY ■ LATVIA ■ LITHUANIA
NETHERLANDS ■ NORWAY ■ POLAND
SLOVAKIA ■ SWEDEN



St. Stephen's Basilica, Hungary



Cooking food for the needy, Belgium



BELGIUM

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

Bhagawan's Birthday was celebrated joyfully by the devotees of the Sathya Sai Centre of Brussels, starting with quotes from Swami regarding the importance of this day for all spiritual aspirants, followed by inspiring *bhajans* sung in unison. A presentation was made about service, focusing on the Poverello, a home for needy people started in 1978 in Marolles, Brussels. Currently, Sathya Sai volunteers operate 14 Poverellos in Belgium. The presentation also described the types of service activities conducted at the Poverello Home, where the homeless, the hungry, the sick and the elderly come to seek food, shelter, warmth and compassion. After dinner, talks were given by two devotees about their participation in the SSIO meetings in Holland and Italy. The Sathya Sai Group of Liege concluded the celebration with devotional songs and amusing stories from the book, *Sai Baba Humour*.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Sathya Sai devotees from the Czech and Slovak Republics gathered for a joint national meeting of both countries from 15th to 17th July 2012. Several Sathya Sai devotees shared inspiring stories and thoughts, and a few values-based songs were sung from the repertoire of the European Sai youth group, LASA. A study circle and a service project were also undertaken.



Singing values-based songs, Czech Republic



Music programme about Bhagawan's life, Denmark

DENMARK

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

The Copenhagen Sathya Sai Centre in Denmark celebrated Bhagawan's 87th Birthday by inviting devotees from other Sathya Sai Centres to join in their evening programme. The leader of the Copenhagen Sathya Sai Centre welcomed all attendees and talked about Swami's wonderful message of love. The Centre members then staged a beautiful 40-minute performance on Swami's life, from birth up to the time when He announced His Avatarhood, based on Howard Murphet's book, *Sai Baba: Man of Miracles*. Four Sathya Sai volunteers took turns reading a part of the story, accompanied by four musicians who played the clarinet, guitar, flute, pan flute, drums and harmonica. In the background, pictures of Swami in His youth were displayed to underscore the points in His life story. The celebration ended with *bhajans*.

Members of the Sathya Sai Centre in Odense celebrated Swami's Birthday by listening to a guest speaker, who described how he met Sathya Sai Baba and the positive impact that meeting had on his life. This presentation was followed by a few short films on Swami's life.

"Wherever you are, whatever work you do, do it as an act of worship, an act of dedication, an act for the glorification of God who is the inspirer, the witness, the Master."

–Sri Sathya Sai Baba
21st April 1967

ESTONIA

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

The SSIO of Estonia celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2012. Nineteen devotees from the Sathya Sai Centre of Tallinn, Estonia came together to celebrate Swami's Birthday. The programme started with a presentation on Swami's teachings, accompanied by beautiful music and a slide presentation. A musician then presented his own compositions, which were followed by group *bhajan* singing.

Twelve Sathya Sai devotees gathered in Pärnu, Estonia, at a local centre for the elderly, where they usually meet to celebrate Bhagawan's Birthday. The event started with a short film by Italian devotees, showing the glory of Bhagawan through the years in Prasanthi Nilayam as well as His last *darshan* and farewell. This was followed by a drama presented by the women devotees of the Sathya Sai Centre, who had prepared sketches from different stories to highlight the "Human Values and the One Divinity in the Multiplicity of Forms." After the drama, the group sang Estonian devotional songs, several of which were created for the Sathya Sai Regional Conference of May 2012. Some of the songs were written by local composers and beautifully reflected the integration of local Estonian culture and spirituality. Sanskrit *bhajans* were then sung, followed by practice of the Light Meditation.



Devotees singing at the "Sathya Sai Cultural Summer Festival" , Germany





Celebrating Swami's birthday at the Sathya Sai Centre of Tallinn, Estonia

GERMANY

DEVOTIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

About 60 Sathya Sai devotees participated in a five-day "Sathya Sai Cultural Summer Festival" in the city of Bad Neuenahr, near the former capital, Bonn, in July 2012. The theme of the event was to examine the spiritual roots of German culture in light of Swami's teachings. The festival started with *bhajans* and recitation of Swami's divine messages. The discussion topics over the next few days included the roots of German culture, the influence of Christianity, German philosophers and poets, and cultural inspirations from Bhagawan. Many lectures, workshops and excursions were organised, and cultural programmes were held in the evenings. Several lectures dealt with the influence of exceptional personalities in German history and their impact on the German way of life. Sai-Art exhibitions were displayed. "Educare" in German primary schools, and service projects and their public reception were discussed. On the last day, the participants focused on the practice of Swami's teachings in their daily lives.



Twenty-five children, from 6 to 12 years of age, participated in a German Summer Camp in 2012. The children were taught lessons based on human values, and every morning a story was narrated and then discussed with the children of different age groups. The adult Sathya Sai devotees also participated in study circle discussions on the same topic, and in the evening, the story was enacted in the form of a play. The afternoons were dedicated to creativity workshops, sports, excursions and outdoor games. One afternoon, Sathya Sai devotees, along with the children, visited a home for the elderly and entertained them with traditional devotional songs. A senior gentleman was deeply touched and remarked, "I have not seen such a beautiful event in my whole life."

COMMUNITY SERVICES

With Swami's blessings and grace, *Atmaseva* was founded in 2011 by Sathya Sai devotees from Germany and neighbouring countries. The group creates living space for the elderly and the needy of any age, so that they can live in a loving spiritual environment. The group owns a complex of old houses in a village near Leipzig. In August 2012, these houses were renovated by Sathya Sai volunteers to provide living space and a spiritual centre.

HUNGARY

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The SSIO of Hungary had been organising arts, crafts and music programmes at a children's temporary home in Budapest that provides temporary shelter for children whose parents are unable to provide a home due to financial difficulties. On 8th September 2012, 15 Sathya Sai devotees organised a wonderful excursion day for the disadvantaged children at the home of a Sathya Sai devotee in Budakeszi, close to Budapest. Eleven children, ranging in age from 7 to 15, along with two accompanying preceptors, were welcomed warmly and offered a variety of fruits, nuts and other treats, as well as gifts of toys and magazines. They were then entertained with arts-and-crafts-related activities, and given guitar lessons. Then everyone present enjoyed a wonderful home-cooked lunch. Team games were organised after lunch, which allowed the children to display their mental and physical abilities with joy and enthusiasm. The day came to a close at 4:00 PM, and everyone gathered for a special session of Hungarian religious songs before departure. The children left with a sense of reassurance and warmth, reminiscent of Swami's love for His devotees.





Children participating in "Sathya Sai Summer Course", Germany



Children being entertained with arts-and-crafts, Hungary



Devotees serve hot meals to the homeless, Lithuania



Workshop at devotional meeting, Netherlands



LATVIA

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

Swami's Birthday was celebrated in several cities in Latvia. The gathering in the Sathya Sai Centre of Riga can be best described as a big family get-together. Melodious *bhajans* were sung in the evening, and a family circle—not the usual study circle—was organised. Every individual in the circle shared a story about the most important gift from Swami in the past year. Each story was different yet showed the unique heart-to-heart relationship with each person. Each participant in the family circle also presented Swami with a gift for the following year. The evening was filled with love for Swami and much joy.


LITHUANIA

COMMUNITY SERVICES

About 10 Sathya Sai devotees serve hot meals to about 70 to 80 homeless people on Sundays in Klaipeda, Lithuania. Many people also take food with them, and the leftover food is being donated to the Klaipeda homeless shelter. The local municipality gladly permits the Sathya Sai devotees to prepare food in the municipal canteen on Sundays.

NETHERLANDS

SERVICE ACTIVITIES



Since the 1990's, a weeklong children's camp at which children are immersed in Swami's teachings has become a tradition in the Netherlands. Since 2008, this has further evolved into a family camp, where children and parents participate in both joint and separate spiritual programmes. In 2011, for the very first time, a full week of service activities was organised at such a camp in the Netherlands. This year, a camp, from 6th to 10th August 2012, represented an attempt to merge the tri-fold paths of *bhakti yoga*, *karma yoga* and *jnana yoga* and put them into practice through the adjuration to "Love All; Serve All." Various service activities were organised daily by Sathya Sai volunteers, such as taking the residents of a home for the elderly on a picnic or to a museum, restoring dilapidated houses and cleaning and gardening at a home for disabled children. Camp participants also worked with mentally- and physically-challenged people and conducted many other service activities. The experience garnered through serving others was shared with all in the evening, giving children an opportunity to listen and learn.



Sathya Sai Choir at international 'Satsang', Netherlands

For parents and children this was a harmonious vacation, suffused with the teachings of Sathya Sai Baba through a variety of practical activities and games. Children also served by taking care of all cleaning chores and helping to prepare the meals. Many innovative ideas were put into practice at the camp. For example, a Sai Challenge to do two nice deeds secretly for others every day brought forth many sweet notes and beautiful handicrafts that were left on the pillows of the attendees! At the conclusion, everyone felt inspired and rejuvenated in their spiritual quest. By sharing service and devotional activities and living together for a week, participants were inspired and united in their resolve to engage in doing more selfless service.

DEVOTIONAL MEETING

The SSIO of the Netherlands hosted an international *satsang* from 10th to 13th May 2012 in Biezenmortel, Netherlands, attended by 220 Sathya Sai devotees from nine different countries. The first speaker was Sri Sanjay Sahani, Director of the Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Whitefield, who spoke eloquently about Swami's message. Two other speakers, Dr. Samuel Sandweiss and his wife, Sharon Sandweiss, from the USA, inspired the participants with lively stories of how Swami transformed them into ardent devotees. The Sandweisses also held workshops for the young adults. Another keynote speaker, Gisela Sebastian from München, Germany, described how Swami came into her life, brought her closer to Him and gave her peace and grace. Gisela touched everyone's heart with her stories and songs, and many people shed tears of joy. A separate programme for the children was led by experienced teachers of SSEHV. In the afternoon, workshops were held on various spiritual topics. The Sathya Sai Seva Choir brought the *satsang* to a close with an inspiring performance, brimming with love for Swami. The *satsang* gave Sathya Sai devotees from many European countries a chance to get to know each other, imbibe words of love, sing together for the glory of God, participate in educational workshops and enjoy artistic programmes. Swami's love was clearly flowing through all the thoughts, words and deeds, and constituted the golden thread connecting all participants of the *satsang*.

NORWAY

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

A two-day programme held to celebrate Swami's Birthday started on 22nd November 2012 with three *OMs*, *Ashtotharasatanamavali* (108 Names of Swami), the Light Meditation, chanting the *Gayatri Mantra* 21 times, and the prayer, *Samastha Loka Sukhino Bhavantu* ("May all the worlds be happy"). A short time before the meeting, Sathya Sai devotees observed some black stains in the *Arathi* plate, which had been polished before the meeting. On closer inspection, it was clearly seen to be the holy sign of *OM*, indicating the grace of Bhagawan!

Thirteen people attended another celebration on 23rd November. A simple programme was offered at the Lotus Feet of Bhagawan, with *Ashtotharasatanamavali* (108 Names of Swami), chanting the *Gayatri Mantra* 21 times, and beautiful *bhajans*. This was followed by an enchanting musical performance on the flute by Achutan, who once played in the physical presence of Swami in Sai Kulwant Hall. The programme concluded with a message from Swami Himself about His birthday:

Try to give one gift to Me on my birthday. I cannot resist asking for this gift. What is this gift? Reduce your selfishness. Minimise your greed. Develop the habit of sacrifice and become a broadminded individual. You can experience the real bliss of participating in the Birthday celebrations if you practise what I have mentioned above.

Prasadam, prepared lovingly by Sathya Sai devotees, was distributed after the programme, including a traditional *OM* cake.

POLAND

DEVOTIONAL MEETING

From 27th April to 1st May 2012, the youth of Europe met in Wiezyca close to Gdansk, Poland, under the theme of "Sai Vision." What started as a brief conversation and sharing of experiences in July 2011 in India, gained momentum and resulted in this international event. The four days of the meeting were filled with delightful songs of various styles, some of which were presented for the first time during the Sai Vision Song Contest.

In addition, service activities were conducted in animal shelters, and an environmental cleanup project was undertaken. It was a joyful sight to see so many people helping the animals at the animal shelter, while singing songs and *bhajans*. A concert was held, with performances by the LASA band and by two professional singers from Macedonia and the Netherlands. Attendees were inspired by speeches, attend-



Building houses for cats at an animal shelter, Poland



Singing Contest at the "Sai Vision" meeting, Poland

ed interactive workshops on spirituality and participated in discussions on future courses of action for the Sathya Sai Organisation. Each country, group and youth member contributed to this beautiful conference. Many talented musicians, artists, service workers and others came together to work in unity in "Sai Vision." Everyone was touched by divine love and experienced joy through heart-to-heart communications during the meeting.

The 20th National Meeting of all Sathya Sai devotees in Poland and the second Regional Meeting of Region 73 were held together in Gdansk. Mr. Leonardo Gutter from Argentina, member of the Prasanthi Council, was a guest speaker, along with Mr. Dhroeh Nankoe from Holland. The meeting was attended by 180 Sathya

Sai devotees, including three from Finland, nine from Estonia, seven from Latvia, sixteen from Lithuania and the rest from Poland. The programme started on the evening of the first day, with everyone joining to sing devotional songs. The second day opened with a talk about the meaning of the prayer, *Samastha Loka Sukhino Bhavantu* ("May all the worlds be happy") followed by three inspiring talks by Mr. Leonardo Gutter. He shared from his personal experiences with Swami over the years and discussed Swami's teachings and advice regarding working as a member of the Sathya Sai International Organisation and being Swami's messenger. Various cultural programmes were presented every evening by the children, youth and adults, inspired by the prayer, *Samastha Loka Sukhino Bhavantu*. Many songs about sharing love and grace were sung in both English and European languages, which energised the participants. Everyone present resolved firmly to spread Swami's love and teachings through their daily lives.



ZONE 8

AZERBAIJAN ■ ARMENIA ■ BELARUS ■ GEORGIA
KAZHAKSTAN ■ KYRGYZSTAN ■ MOLDOVA
RUSSIA ■ TADZHIKISTAN ■ TURKMENISTAN
UKRAINE ■ UZBEKISTAN

AZERBAIJAN

SATHYA SAI EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES

The third children's family camp, "Buta" was held on 14th June 2012 and was attended by SSE teachers from Region 4, Caucasus and Azerbaijan. Lessons in SSEHV were given to children of different ages, and Sai Olympics was held on the last day of the camp.

Between 26th and 28th October 2012, 17 people participated in the first leadership course in SSEHV, held in Baku, Azerbaijan. The second leadership course was held on 17th and 18th November 2012.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Devotees from three Sathya Sai Centres in Azerbaijan cooked and served hot food on 16th March, 2013 in the village of Kyzyl-Dash. Essential supplies were also distributed.

DEVOTIONAL MEETINGS

On 6th April 2012, 11 people from the public attended a meeting about Swami and viewed the film "His Work" and other videos exhibited by the SSIO of Azerbaijan. Some of the participants expressed a desire to know more about Bhagawan and His teachings, and subsequently were involved in *bhajans* and service work.

BELARUS

SATHYA SAI EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES

Weekly and bi-weekly SSE classes are conducted for Sathya Sai children on Sundays in Belarus. Thirty-nine people participated in a family camp in Belarus from 29th June to 3rd July 2012, where SSE classes for children, training classes for teachers and roundtables for parents were conducted. On 15th September 2012, 16 people attended a joint celebration of the new school year in Baranovichi and Mozyr. Nine Sathya Sai devotees and seven people from the public attended an educational seminar on 20th and 21st October 2012 in the city of Vitebsk. Six SSE trainers conducted a self-awareness course on five separate occasions between September 2012 and April 2013, in the cities of Minsk, Vitebsk and Baranovichi. Educational seminars were also conducted in the cities of Mozyr and Vitebsk in September and November 2012, respectively.



Birthday celebrations, Belarus

DEVOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

More than 50 people attended the National Conference of the SSIO of Belarus on 2nd and 3rd March 2013, including 42 Sathya Sai devotees.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Twenty-one Sathya Sai volunteers offered their services at an orphanage in Vitebsk on 17th and 18th August 2012. They repaired the premises of the institution and assembled new furniture. The director of the orphanage was very thankful for the services rendered.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

All Sathya Sai Groups and Centres celebrated Bhagawan's Birthday in the cities of Minsk, Vitebsk, Baranovichi, Lide and Mozyr. In honour of Swami's Birthday, 27 Sathya Sai devotees and people from the public attended a meeting on the life and teaching of Sri Sathya Sai Baba in the city of Minsk on 23rd November 2012. Discussions took place on why Avatars come on Earth, on Swami's teachings, and about Sathya Sai Education. A video about Swami and His work was shown, and *bhajans* were sung, followed by the distribution of *prasadam* of nuts and dry fruits. In Vitebsk, 30 Sathya Sai devotees and guests gathered in a private home, where a concert was performed, along with songs, poems and proverbs (*paroemias*). *Bhajans* were also sung and *prasadam* was distributed at the programme's conclusion. In Baranovichi, 14 people participated in the Birthday celebration, which began with a talk about the Avatar's mission on Earth. Presents were offered to Bhagawan in the form of songs, poems, sketches, videos and musical videos. A video performance of a Russian choir singing at Prasanthi Nilayam was shown, inspiring everyone present to join in the singing. The programme concluded with *bhajans* and *prasadam*. In Lede and Mozyr, Sathya Sai devotees held concerts for Swami and sang *bhajans*.

KAZAKHSTAN

COMMUNITY AND MEDICAL SERVICES

In April 2012, the SSIO of Kazakhstan organised its 15th annual medical camp in Novodolinka village, Karaganda region. Forty-six volunteers from nine cities in Kazakhstan, and nine doctors covering various specialties, served 171 patients. Concurrently, Sathya Sai volunteers lovingly offered lessons on human values to 700 children at a local school. Children from the fifth to tenth grades were taught human values, including lessons on “self-knowledge.” The younger children in primary classes were lovingly offered creative lessons in puppet theatre and other arts. The director and teachers of the school were highly appreciative of the lessons given to the children. Several rooms at the school were freshly painted by Sathya Sai volunteers.

Sathya Sai volunteers also repaired the building of a shelter for abandoned children. The caretaker of the shelter commended the Sathya Sai volunteers and stated that in her 77 years, she had never met such people, who came with caring smiles and rendered such loving service. The children at the shelter presented a cultural programme for the Sathya Sai volunteers that included instrumental music, dancing and singing.

Packages of needed supplies including clothes were also distributed to 30 needy families. Sathya Sai volunteers along with Sathya Sai youth and the children from the local school jointly presented a play called “Three Sisters, Three *Gunas*,” followed by a musical programme. The school director thanked the Sathya Sai volunteers for their selfless service.

The SSIO of Kazakhstan held its 16th annual medical camp from 5th to 7th October 2012 in the village Dolinka, home to some of the poorest people in the Karaganda region. Twenty-eight Sathya Sai volunteers from four cities of Kazakhstan offered their loving services. Free medical check-ups were given to 61 children, teachers and technical staff of the Dolinka Medium High School and to about 30 residents of nearby towns. Medicines were distributed at no cost, and needy families received over 30 packages containing oatmeal, oil, rice, tea, biscuits, sweets and good-quality used clothing, such as jackets, jumpers, pants, shirts and warm woollen socks. The school’s classrooms were also renovated.

SATHYA SAI EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES

The Bobek National Research, Education and Health Improvement Centre (The Centre) was founded by Mrs. Sara Nazarbayeva, First Lady of Kazakhstan, who took a keen interest in SSEHV as taught by Bhagawan. Since 2010, the instructional ma-





Distribution of food and supplies, Kazakhstan

materials of SSEHV have been introduced into the curricula of all kindergartens, schools and higher education institutions in Kazakhstan. The Centre is administered by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan. It has grown considerably over the years. The campus at present consists of a gymnasium, college, observatory, medical-pedagogical service centre, kindergarten, canteen, hotel, sports hall, stadium and hothouse. In addition, the grounds are graced by playgrounds, fountains, parks with beautiful flower gardens, orchards and orangeries (greenhouses) all of which represent a holistic approach to education.

A seminar was organised by the Centre from 21st to 24th August 2012, in Almaty, the nation's largest city, on the topic, "The Concept of Self-Knowledge in Sathya Sai Education in Human Values – A Universal Approach." The idea behind this initiative was to introduce the concept of "self-knowledge" and its relation to the five human values and to provide methods, examples and tools for practical implementation of the concept. Another objective was to inspire the attendees to become living examples of the values. At the invitation of the First Lady, an English-to-Russian translator and three SSE educators from Austria, Denmark and Germany travelled to Almaty, Kazakhstan, to present lectures and work-

shops to a Russian-speaking audience and to train 250 teachers in SSEHV. Seminar participants included developers of the SSEHV programme, professors of the Abai University in Almaty, authors, psychologists, educators, administrators and Sathya Sai devotees.

The Sathya Sai educators were greeted with love and openness. They successfully conveyed the depth and power of the spiritual concepts behind Swami's teachings about human values. One participant said that "this knowledge gave us courage as teachers to deliver important information, such as the five sheaths of the human personality." A physician who was present said, "As a doctor, I can say that if people possessed such knowledge, there would be fewer patients." Another person said, "The seminar was a significant event in my life. All that I felt in myself, what I was striving for all my life – I'm 57 years old – was clarified, explained to me and formed my character like a flower garland."

On the 2nd and 3rd February 2013, 38 people attended a basic course on self-knowledge and human values, held in Astana, Kazakhstan. The course helped the participants acknowledge their inherent divinity and appreciate the core human values as taught by Bhagawan. The event also included *bhajans* accompanied by music, performances, meditation, prayers and round-table discussions, during which people could connect with each other.

YOUTH CONFERENCE

The third Youth Conference of the SSIO of Kazakhstan was held from 8th to 10th February 2013 in Almaty. The subject of the conference was "Ideal Life According to Sai," and the slogan of the conference was "Be, Do, Talk!" There were 33 participants from the three cities of Semey, Astana and Almaty. The first evening was dedicated to the decoration of the conference hall, followed by a candlelight meeting of all the participants for the sake of experiencing unity. The conference opened officially with a greeting from the National Coordinator and a presentation on the nine steps of spiritual discipline in Sathya Sai Organisation. A presentation on selfless love was then shown, with video clips from movies about Mahatma Gandhi and Mother Teresa, followed by a discussion about the work being done by the youth from Zone 8 of the worldwide SSIO. A workshop that attracted much attention and interest was titled "Dharma in the Family – The Role of a Woman." A concert in the evening concluded the day's events. On the second day, a presentation was given on "Peace and Harmony," which concluded with a movie about an extraordinary person, Nick Vucic, who showed the world that the most important thing is the soul, strength of spirit and character. Each presentation was followed by a round-table group discussion, to develop unity among diversity.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Forty-six Sathya Sai devotees and one invited guest attended the Ninth National Conference of the SSIO of Kazakhstan in Astana from 26th to 28th October 2012.



Education in Human Values, Kazakhstan



Volunteers refurbishing school gymnasium, Kazakhstan



Youth conference, Kazakhstan



Devotees serving the needy, Moldova

MOLDOVA

SSE classes are conducted for Sathya Sai children on a monthly basis. On 6th April 2012, 16 Sathya Sai devotees and people from the public attended a meeting in Chisinau that focused on the life and teachings of Bhagawan. On 28th October 2012, Sathya Sai devotees in Chisinau served food to the hungry. Sathya Sai devotees also distribute food packages regularly to war veterans on Sundays.

RUSSIA

SATHYA SAI EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES

Seventy-three people attended a basic course of the ESSE Institute, conducted by Russian trainers in five cities in Russia. Ninety people attended a self-awareness course in 2012, conducted by trainers in six cities of Russia. Fourteen people defended their theses as part of the “Leadership I” and “Leadership II” Courses.

Over 60 people from all across Russia participated in a zonal conference for teachers in March 2013 in the town of Dzerzhinsky in the Central region of Russia. In 2012, 45 seminars were held in Russia on the activities of the SSIO. Seminars on organisational matters for the SSIO and workshops for parents are conducted once or twice a year in all regions of Russia. Sunday SSE classes are conducted for children every week or every other week.

Camps were organised for children and parents in six regions of Russia. Ninety-seven people, including 24 children, participated in a children’s camp in the Central region of Russia, near Moscow. SSE classes for children were conducted in the educational camps, as well as creative workshops, games, concerts, theatre and sports events.

One zonal and six regional youth conferences were organised. Sathya Sai youth gave talks about their work. In addition, discussions and workshops were conducted at these events. Service camps were also held in six regions. The youth are actively involved in the activities of the SSIO of Russia.

DEVOTIONAL MEETINGS

More than 160 Sathya Sai devotees along with an estimated 300 people from the public attended public meetings in November 2012 and April 2013, where the life and teachings of Bhagawan were described. Regional Conferences of the SSIO were held in all seven regions of Russia, attended by about 400 senior office-bearers of the Sathya Sai Organisation and also devotees.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Medical, community service and educational camps are organised all over Russia for the rendering of service, along with the distribution of food, hygiene kits, clothing and medicines for the needy. Significant construction and rebuilding are also accomplished at these camps. SSE classes are conducted for children, and sports events are organised. Sathya Sai devotees serve regularly at nursing homes and shelters for the homeless, and provide care for the sick. In addition, they organise concerts and the screenings of films with moral content, and help rebuild old or damaged living quarters. On 13th November 2012 and 17th March 2013, about 200 Sathya Sai devotees lovingly served food to about 800 needy people. Feeding the hungry is a regular weekly or bi-weekly service activity in Russia.



Volunteer painting gazebo in Belyaev, Russia

From 1st to 3rd June 2012, 14 Sathya Sai volunteers rendered loving service to the community of the Belyaev Township in the Kaluga region, southeast of Moscow. This small village in central Russia is about 230 km from the capital and is mainly inhabited by poor peasants and farmers. Ornamental and fruit trees, shrubs and flowers were planted in the garden surrounding the community chapel. At the chapel's entrance, a flower stand shaped like a lotus was prepared and painted by Sathya Sai youth in a sky-blue colour, to match the roof. The classroom walls of a village kindergarten and nursery school were painted with pictures from cartoons. Sathya Sai volunteers repaired the kitchen in the apartment of a single mother of three children. This included installing a new refrigerator, whitewashing the ceiling, painting the walls and installing linoleum. The children and the mother were overjoyed with the selfless service of the Sathya Sai volunteers. Sathya Sai volunteers along with local teenagers painted a gazebo in a playground. A new wooden seesaw decorated with swans was constructed and installed in the playground. The local residents, including children, were given more than 20 therapeutic massages. The villagers were happy and requested the Sathya Sai volunteers to come back soon.

From 10th to 12th June 2012, a second regional work camp in the Siberian region was organised at the village of Nizhnii Koen, located 60 km from Novosibirsk. About 30 Sathya Sai volunteers from four cities of the Siberian region (Novosibirsk, Kemerovo, Barnaul and Novokuznetsk) participated. A local medical clinic and a shop were painted. Flowers were planted in the village. Playing fields and water-pumping areas were cleaned up by the removal of litter. Free haircuts were given to villagers. Children of the Sathya Sai volunteers inspired the adults by joining the painting, weeding and clean-up crews. Russian songs and dances by the volunteers produced a joyful atmosphere. At the end of the service project, the heavens opened up and blessed the village with a long-awaited thunderstorm that broke a two-month-long spell of dryness and hot weather. The villagers were overjoyed with the loving services offered by Sathya Sai volunteers and invited them to visit again.

The first of September marks the start of a new school year in Russia and Russian-speaking countries. In cities with Sathya Sai Centres and Groups, such as St. Petersburg, Moscow, Ekaterinburg and Krasnodar, the SSE school year started with a theatrical play-day for children and adults. Fairy tales were enacted, in which the children had to travel long distances and learn how to cope with hardships along the way, through practising human values. Art lessons were given and puppet plays performed, in which evil was defeated by good. Adults and children from some Sathya Sai Centres started their new school year by collecting garbage from forest or lakeshore areas. These collection activities were a practical lesson in protection of the environment.

On 13th October 2012, an extensive community service project to feed the hungry was undertaken in the Russian-speaking countries of Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan. More than 300 Sathya Sai devotees lovingly offered delicious porridge and apple crumpets to approximately 200 homeless people. About 150 pairs of socks and underpants were also distributed. The event was held on a beautiful, sunny day, with a lot of joy, laughter and heartfelt gratitude to Swami.

On 14th October 2012, 36 Sathya Sai devotees, including children, from two Sathya Sai Centres and two Sathya Sai Groups from Ekaterinburg and Revda, gathered in a beautiful pine forest on the shore of the Revdinskiy reservoir. It was one of the festival days of the Russian Orthodox Church, celebrating the meeting of autumn and winter. After the devotees recited *OM* three times and invoked Swami's presence, an orange butterfly appeared and flew around the lake! Surprisingly, no other butterflies were seen that day. The children and adults then engaged in the task of cleaning up the forest and the lakeshore. Over 20 bags of rubbish were collected. After lunch, a Russian fairy tale was enacted about the wisdom that gives happiness and everlasting peace. In the play, the children had to demonstrate patience, intuition, mutual understanding, discipline, team spirit and amia-

Serving the homeless, Russia





bility to win the wisdom. In the end, everyone joined in singing “Ave Maria” and felt blessed by Swami.

A regional project was held in the Urals region of Russia on 27th February 2013. Volunteers from two Sathya Sai Centres and three Sathya Sai Groups from Ekaterinburg, Revda and Pervouralsk helped the residents of a home for transients in Ekaterinburg, where needy people may obtain shelter, food and work for a month. Eleven Sathya Sai devotees, including two children, entertained the occupants of the home, whose faces lit up with smiles. The volunteers also offered home-cooked meals and gifts to about 30 people at the home.

YOUTH CONFERENCE

From 8th to 10th March 2013, more than 50 Sathya Sai youth from 22 cities, six regions of Russia and two adjoining countries, Belarus and Kazakhstan, attended the 12th Youth Conference in Ekaterinburg, Russia. The focus, theme and motto of the conference followed the divine inspiration of Bhagawan’s aphorism, “My Life Is My Message.” Discussions were held on the objective, purpose and role of the Sathya Sai Organisation, on leadership qualities, on control of the mind and on Bhagawan’s message to “Love All, Serve All.” The national and regional youth coordinators presented projects in their respective areas. The remainder of the first day was dedicated to the theme of the conference, and a colourful concert was held in the evening. The performance included traditional Russian dances from the Urals region, opera song and comic ballet from the Volshsko-Urals region, funny sketches from Belarus, and beautiful songs from the Christmas programme presented in Prasanthi Nilayam by the Siberian, South and Volshsko-Urals regions. On the second day, round-table discussions were held about important spiritual objectives and practices, and a summary was prepared before concluding.



Youth conference, Russia



Dance by youth, Russia

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

On 23rd November 2012, about 150 Sathya Sai devotees from St. Petersburg celebrated Bhagawan's Birthday. Six Sathya Sai Groups and Centres presented a concert programme and decorated the hall and the altar beautifully. Books written by and about Sri Sathya Sai Baba were displayed prominently at the entrance of the hall, available for purchase. The programme consisted of a concert, followed by *Veda* chanting, songs about Bhagawan and presentations of His works. A special song on Bhagawan's life, composed by devotees from the Baltic states, was sung by the Sathya Sai youth, followed by *bhajans* and distribution of *vibhuthi prasadam*.

On 23rd November 2012, over 400 members of the Sathya Sai Centre of Moscow celebrated Bhagawan's Birthday at an auditorium beautifully decorated with flowers, balloons and coloured fabric. The programme began with the chanting of *Omkar*, *Gayatri Mantra*, *Sai Gayatri*, *Rudram* and *Ganesha bhajans*. Following a welcome address by Lyudmila Deputatova, President of the Central Region of Russia, a series of cultural programmes were presented by all participating Sathya Sai Groups and Centres. Devotees from Korolev staged a performance about the five elements of creation. The SSE children from Moscow, along with their teachers, presented a drama on the importance of music and the five universal human values. A Sathya Sai Group from Dzerzhinsky performed a famous parable of love between two brothers. Another Group created the figure of the Goddess Gayatri in costume, accompanied by songs and dances. A touching play about a scene from the life of the famous saint Tukaram was performed by a family from Moscow. Another Sathya Sai Group from Moscow showed episodes from the life of Shirdi Sai Baba and His teachings. A group from Obninsk presented an episode from the life of Jesus Christ, along with His teachings. In conclusion, a drama/musical entitled "Mother of Mothers" was performed by the Sathya Sai youth. The celebrations concluded with *bhajans* and dis-



'Gayatri' chanting at Birthday celebrations, Russia



Music programme at Birthday celebrations, Russia

tribution of *prasadam* of hot yellow rice, *dal* and sweets. The three-hour performance made a lasting impression on the audience, with its beautiful songs, colourful costumes and wonderful actors.

Twenty-two devotees of the Sochi Sathya Sai Centre gathered on 25th November 2012 to celebrate Bhagawan's Birthday in a country house. The celebrations began with a Light Ceremony in which the participants stood in a circle and candles were lit from one to another, while gratitude was expressed to Swami for His Divine Presence in their lives. A study circle discussion was held on the topic, "What Spiritual Experience Have I Received during the Year?" A movie entitled "Life Is a Game" was shown, to inspire the participants to work in a spirit of cooperation within the Sathya Sai Organisation. A series of group activities and games was held, followed by a popular Russian dance called "Blessing." After lunch, a game

called "The Circle of Love" was played, in which two concentric circles are formed, with individuals facing each other in pairs. Music was then played, and when the music stopped, complimentary words of encouragement and support were exchanged between participants in the inner and outer circles, to increase happiness and love. Additional exercises and activities were staged to enhance spiritual awareness. The day was filled with the inspirational messages of Swami, meditation and *bhajans*. The event concluded with the cutting of a huge cake in the form of the celestial sphere, with *OM* written in the centre.

UKRAINE

YOUTH CONFERENCE

The Ukrainian Sathya Sai Youth Conference of 2012, held on 15th and 16th December 2012 in Kiev, was attended by 45 people, including seven from Belarus, two from Azerbaijan and two from Russia. The theme of the conference was “Your Life Is My Message.” A special guest from the city of Ufa, Russia, spoke about his observations and personal spiritual experiences. He stressed the importance of keeping oneself in a continuous state of inner happiness and the importance of active participation in the Sathya Sai Organisation. The teachings of Bhagawan were discussed, using personal examples and practices, with a focus on developing positive thinking. Twelve speakers shared their experiences with Bhagawan. The sharing was inspiring, encouraging and practical.



Youth conference, Ukraine



Youth activity, Ukraine

SATHYA SAI EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES

SSE teachers conduct classes for Sathya Sai children once a week, as well as classes for other children once a month in two state schools. In the city of Sumy, SSE classes are conducted thrice weekly for children in a boarding school. In December 2012, 19 Sathya Sai devotees and 18 children attended the Ukrainian Children's Conference.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Fifty-three Sathya Sai devotees attended the National Conference of the SSIO of Ukraine in Kiev from 25th to 27th January 2013. Sathya Sai Group and Centre leaders talked about their work and their shared experiences. Workshops were also held on spiritual, service and educational topics.

DEVOTIONAL MEETINGS

During this reporting period, 16 public meetings were held in six cities of Ukraine, to discuss “The Life and Teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba.” Twenty-six orientation meetings were held for new Sathya Sai devotees, in five cities of Ukraine. In Kharkov, the *Sai Ram!* magazine is published three times annually, along with the Supplement called *Aham* (I Am).

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Sathya Sai devotees regularly feed the hungry in 10 cities of Ukraine, and served food to about 7,000 people in 2012. In addition, warm clothing is distributed during the winter in Odessa, Kerch and Dnepropetrovsk, as well as supplies, hygiene items and spectacles. Sathya Sai devotees assist disabled people and large families by distributing food, clothing, supplies, hygiene kits and medical items. They also repair buildings, clean houses and walk pets for needy people.

Service activities are conducted at boarding schools, hospitals and rehabilitation centres in eight cities in Ukraine. Concerts are organised for the children and the ailing, holiday gifts and daily necessities are distributed, guided tours and sightseeing excursions are arranged and lunch is arranged for the children at a restaurant. Sathya Sai volunteers also help with the purchase of household appliances, medicines and hygiene items, and provide help to rebuild damaged buildings and premises.

Sathya Sai volunteers helped with the construction of a rehabilitation centre for the blind and handicapped in the village of Motovilovka, in Kiev. Parks and forest areas were also cleaned up in three cities of Ukraine.

Fifty-three volunteers participated in a community service camp from 14th to 20th June 2012, in the village of Grishkovtsy in the Zhytomyr region. Services rendered at the camp included plastering and finishing 116 square metres of wall area, painting an assembly hall, replacing broken tiles, chairs and tables; installing and painting a fence and painting the floor and whitewashing the ceiling of a large office. Sathya Sai devotees helped to renovate the homes of elderly people, provided cleaning services to the needy, cleaned up public areas and lawns and provided food and soap to 14 needy people. Assistance was also provided to the children in a boarding school, who received games and DVDs with human values themes. Five massage therapists gave therapeutic massages to 75 patients. Educational activities at the camp included SSEHV lessons for a kindergarten class, workshops and classes for children in a boarding school and presentations on human values and character to teachers and educators.

ZONE 9A

IRELAND ■ UNITED KINGDOM ■ BENIN ■ BOTSWANA
CAMEROON ■ CONGO ■ CONGO DR ■ GABON ■ GHANA
IVORY COAST ■ KENYA ■ MADAGASCAR ■ MALAWI
MAURITIUS ■ MOROCCO ■ NIGERIA ■ SIERRA LEON
SOUTH AFRICA ■ TANZANIA ■ TOGOLAND ■ UGANDA
ZAMBIA ■ ZIMBABWE



Arusha National Park, Tanzania

BOTSWANA

MEDICAL SERVICES

Botswana is a small country located in Southern Africa with a slowly growing population of about two million. The Sathya Sai Baba Free Medical, Dental, and Eye Clinic, located in Gaborone, Botswana, has provided much-needed healthcare to more than 11,000 needy patients since opening its doors on 6th June 2006. It is open on Sundays from 9:00 AM to noon, and typically provides medical services to about 65 patients. In addition, all patients and their families are served breakfast at the clinic. Local residents travel for miles to arrive at the clinic as early as 5:00 AM, because of the limited availability of appointments. All patients are screened for blood pressure and blood sugar levels before they see physicians. More than 11,000 patient records are stored both electronically and manually. The clinic is supported by 21 medical and 30 non-medical volunteers, as well as 3 translators. Each week, a qualified pharmacist assists with the dispensing of medication, which is provided free of cost.

The eye clinic is held twice a month because of high demand, and eyeglasses are provided with the help of a local optical company. Sathya Sai devotees have reported that some of the patients received eyeglasses for the very first time and their joy knew no bounds, as they could see clearly! The dental clinic, conducted once a month, provides much-needed dental services for tooth extraction, filling, and general cleaning. The University of Botswana has recently started sending medical and nursing students to the clinic to learn and offer assistance, as needed.

DEVOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Sathya Sai Centre of Gaborone, Botswana, has 150 devotees who engage in devotional, educational and service activities. Regular weekly *bhajans* are held on Thursdays and Sundays, and a devotional programme on Saturdays. Study circles are held at the Sathya Sai Centre, including audio and video presentations on Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

Bhagawan's 87th Birthday was celebrated at the Naledi day care centre; the programme consisted of *Nagarsankeerthan*, *bhajans*, and *arathi*, and a video presentation. The day was marked by much-needed, torrential rain, which was considered to be a blessing from Swami.

SATHYA SAI EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES

Sathya Sai children in Botswana engage in many educational and spiritual programmes that transform the children and inspire the parents. They participate in *bhajans* and *Veda* chanting during Easwamma Day and other celebrations throughout the year. More than 500 people attended the Easwamma Day celebration in 2012. The SSE children also conduct *bhajans* every fifth week of the month.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community services were provided at the Naledi, Bateleng and Mogoditshane day care centres, the Tsholofelo primary school, and the cancer and TB rehabilitation centre. Sathya Sai devotees offered their services at some of these locations on Easwamma Day, Global Handicapped Day, Ladies Day and Bhagawan's Birthday. Also, services were rendered at the Otse Camphill Centre, a live-in facility and school for children and young adults with physical and developmental disabilities, and the Home for Hopeful.

Sathya Sai devotees responded to water shortages by practising water conservation techniques, which allowed them to maintain the garden and decorate Swami's picture with home-grown flower garlands throughout the year.



Medical clinic in Gaborone, Botswana



Patient registration, Botswana



Patients at the clinic, Botswana



Serving patients at the Orthopaedic Training Centre, Ghana



GHANA

COMMUNITY SERVICES

At the Orthopaedic Training Centre (OTC) in Nsawam, Ghana, Sathya Sai devotees lovingly serve patients who are disabled on account of accidents and who use artificial limbs. Some of the patients have no arms or legs because of a lack of medical attention before birth. In spite of their debilitated conditions, the OTC patients joyfully receive the Sathya Sai volunteers when they visit the Centre, both individually and as a group. Such visits are regularly conducted every year on Boxing Day (day after Christmas) and Easter Monday, which brings great joy and happiness to the OTC residents. Twenty-four Sathya Sai volunteers visited the OTC Centre on 26th December 2012 and served rice and stew, cupcakes, biscuits, bread, assorted toffees, pineapple, bananas, oranges and fruit drinks to 50 patients in a loving atmosphere. The volunteers and patients also participated in a musical programme and danced jubilantly in honour of the glory of God, expressing their gratitude. Some OTC patients remarked that they felt spiritually elevated and closer to God in the company of the Sathya Sai devotees.



Sathya Sai sanctuary for animals, Ireland



Medical camp, Kenya



Sathya Sai school in Kisaju, Kenya

IRELAND

SERVICE TO ANIMALS

The Sathya Sai Sanctuary Trust for Nature was founded in 1991, primarily to offer a place of peace and refuge for old, injured, neglected and abused donkeys, that were abandoned through no fault of their own. The project was blessed by Bhagawan Sathya Sai Baba at Christmas 1992 and has quietly grown over the ensuing years. Situated in truly magnificent surroundings adjacent to the ancient Neolithic site of Carrowkeel in the Bricklieve Mountains, near the village of Castlebaldwin, the sanctuary now houses donkeys, mules, ponies and other neglected animals and is open to visitors.

KENYA

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

In November 2012, the Sathya Sai Centre of Nairobi, Kenya, celebrated Bhagawan's Birthday with devotional and service activities, which included feeding about 500 destitute children from the nearby slums. About 30 Sathya Sai devotees actively participated in this *Narayana seva* (feeding the hungry) over nine consecutive Sundays leading to 23rd November 2012. In addition, the Service Wing, with the support of a

medical team, held a special medical camp for the screening of blood pressure, diabetes and dental ailments, for more than 120 people. For the Ladies Day Celebrations on 19th November 2012, ladies from the Sathya Sai Centre visited a local church that supports 80 destitute girls and served food and distributed other essential items.

The Sathya Sai School in Kisaju, located in Isiniya District, Nairobi, Kenya, held a grand-opening celebration for a new, ultra-modern auditorium on 25th November 2012, to coincide with Founder's Day celebrations (Bhagawan's Birthday). The newly constructed auditorium is intended for school activities as well as community "Educare" programmes.

MADAGASCAR

The Sathya Sai Centre of Antananarivo, Madagascar, was inaugurated on 23rd March 2010, and because of rapid growth moved to new premises on 25th March 2012. It is open from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM every day and *bhajans*, prayers and study circles are held on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, followed by *Narayana seva* (feeding the hungry). Three times a week, 60 to 80 Sathya Sai devotees provide food for 400 to 600 people. In addition, clothes for the needy and toys for children are also distributed. The Centre's main objective is to help orphans, impoverished children, and destitute elderly persons. Since November 2011, a Sathya Sai pre-primary school has been open to provide free education to orphans and destitute children of the region.

MAURITIUS

MEDICAL SERVICES

The SSIO of Mauritius conducts medical screening for needy villagers at regular intervals. Blood donation drives are coordinated between the Central Blood Bank of the Ministry of Health and the SSIO, which prepares annual blood donation plans. The SSIO organises two to four blood donation drives every weekend and provides the largest supply of "liquid love" donated in the island of Mauritius, which totals 5,000 to 6,000 pints on an annual basis.

For more than 20 years, the SSIO of Mauritius has been organising blood donation camps on the 1st of January each year at the Ganga Talao pilgrimage site. Thousands of people start the New Year with prayers here, and many of them come to donate blood in order to start the year auspiciously. Every year, about 300 pints of blood are collected on the 1st of January, and this year, in spite of inclement weather, 308 pints of blood were collected in just six hours.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

In October 2012, goods and supplies were distributed to the needy at Dubreil. In November 2012, goods and supplies were distributed to nine needy families in Fond Du Sac and one needy family in Belle Vue Maurel. Devotees from the Triolet Sathya Sai Centre distributed shoes, socks and juice at the Natresa School Cap-Malheureux.

A needy family in L'Amitie had lost their living quarters after a heavy rainfall and did not even have a proper toilet. Their plans to build a working toilet were postponed for lack of funds. The SSIO of Mauritius built a new house for this family, consisting of a bedroom, a kitchen and a bathroom with toilet. Sathya Sai devotees started the construction project on 17th March 2013, by clearing the site and pouring the foundation of the building. The new house, which has two 12 ft by 12 ft rooms, is made of concrete blocks.

A needy family with two young daughters, one and two years old, was forced to live in a single dilapidated room, with no bathroom or toilet, in Camp de Masque. The SSIO built a house with a room and a bathroom with toilet, for their use. The construction started on 9th February 2013, and the installation of flooring, plumbing and electrical lines was completed by 30th March 2013.

On Saturday, 30th March 2013, heavy rains and a disastrous flash flood impacted Mauritius, killing 11 people in the capital city of Port Louis. Canal Dayot, a small village on the northwest side of the island, witnessed unprecedented floods as a nearby river overflowed, damaging all houses in the vicinity, along with their contents. Sathya Sai devotees commenced disaster relief operations the very next day. The SSIO took stock of the situation



Medical Services, Mauritius



Blood donation camp, Mauritius

on 31st March and started offering food, water and clothing to the residents of Canal Dayot, who were rendered homeless overnight. The SSIO not only coordinated disaster relief operations from across the country but also embarked upon the task of cleaning up homes filled with water, mud and debris. The 1st of April was declared a Mourning Day in Mauritius and a holiday. Sathya Sai devotees from across the island came together to lend a helping hand to the disaster victims at Canal Dayot. Teams of 10 to 15 Sathya Sai devotees undertook the task of cleaning and restoring each damaged house, including restoration of furniture, appliances and household goods. All the damaged houses were made habitable again.

Sathya Sai devotees renovated a house occupied by a mother and her handicapped daughter at Mare Du Puit, Belle Mare. Their home had no toilets or bathrooms, and their wooden kitchen floor was badly damaged. It was decided to build a new kitchen and bathroom with toilet for the needy family.

NIGERIA

MEDICAL SERVICES

On 10th November 2012, Sathya Sai devotees held a medical camp at Enugu-Ngwo, serving 50 needy community members. Doctors and nurses gave a brief talk on healthy habits and environmental health, and then screened the patients for blood pressure, body weight, and blood sugar level. General medical consultation and free medicines were also provided.

Sathya Sai devotees regularly visit the general hospital, Lasuth Ikeja, to distribute medicines and food to needy children. Children suffering from different types of cancer, such as leukaemia, nephroblastoma and retinoblastoma are provided with cancer drugs on a regular basis.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

Swami's Birthday was celebrated with service activities, *bhajans* and cultural programmes at all Sathya Sai Centres in Nigeria from 22nd to 25th November 2012. On 25th November 2012, about 50 Sathya Sai devotees from all Centres in Nigeria attended national celebrations at the national headquarters in Lagos. A spiritual retreat was held at the same time, focused on two topics: practising Swami's teachings in daily lives for spiritual progress, and women as role models for the advancement of society. The meeting was facilitated by the National Women's



Birthday programme in Lagos, Nigeria

Coordinator, Dr. Maria Ekpenyong. Two inspiring talks were given. Mr. Imo Okwudiri, National Chairman of the Central Council in Nigeria and Deputy Central Coordinator for West Africa, appealed to all to take Swami's mission to the next level, calling upon all Sathya Sai Centres in Nigeria to engage more vigorously in service activities and spread the message of love. The second talk was given by Mr. Alhaji Kole, a trustee and a long-time devotee of Bhagawan, who shared lessons learnt by him at the Divine Lotus Feet, and described how he assimilated Swami's message in his thoughts, words and deeds. He concluded by saying that Swami's glory will be spreading across the world in the future and that the divine message will benefit all mankind. A video-recorded discourse by Swami was then watched by all the devotees with reverence and love. The programme ended with a joyful cake-cutting ceremony by the children from the local Sathya Sai orphanage and the Sathya Sai youth.



Mahasamadhi observance, South Africa



SSEHV play, South Africa



SOUTH AFRICA

BHAGAWAN'S MAHASAMADHI OBSERVANCES

More than 5,000 Sathya Sai devotees, belonging to over 120 Sathya Sai Centres and Groups, observed Bhagawan's first *Mahasamadhi* Day on 24th April 2012, by conducting *bhajans*, presenting talks on His life and teachings, playing videos of Swami and staging short inspirational plays by children enrolled in SSE programmes. Sathya Sai devotees in South Africa also observed this day as a time for introspection and for offering their gratitude to Swami. Many selfless service projects, including conducting medical camps and feeding the needy, were held during the last two weekends of April 2012.

In the Gauteng region around Johannesburg, South Africa, more than 300 Sathya Sai devotees paid tribute to Bhagawan in a special function at the Wits Medical School Auditorium on Sunday, 22nd April 2012, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The programme included devotional songs by the Gauteng music group, a drama by the SSE children and students and inspirational talks by members of different faiths.

In the Durban area, a programme on the unity of all faiths was held on Sunday, 29th April 2012. More than 350 people attended the meeting, including many religious and community leaders. A display on the uniqueness of Swami's teachings and projects was set up at the entrance to the venue, and a special commemorative brochure was distributed to all participants.

A national newspaper, published mainly for the Indian population in South Africa, featured a two-page special section on Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. A week later, the newspaper published a special supplement dedicated to Bhagawan, including a message from the President, SSIO of South Africa. It also featured articles on service projects conducted by the Sathya Sai Organisation. The supplement was well received by the public and generated many inquiries about Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

The same newspaper reported an additional interesting incident. A local indigenous person, who had seen a picture of Swami on the back of a bus owned and operated by a local Sathya Sai devotee for public transport, memorised the image and then recreated the image in the form of sand art on the shores of the Durban beach. The newspaper featured a photograph of this depiction, with an article on the front page.



Vocational training, South Africa



Repairing a home



Packaging food

COMMUNITY SERVICES

In honour of Bhagawan's *Mahasamadhi*, on 21st April 2012, over 600 Sathya Sai devotees participated in a service project in the Lenasia region, South Africa, to assist 195 needy students of the Sathya Sai School and their disadvantaged families living in poverty. Many students live in dilapidated quarters in need of repair. Sathya Sai devotees improved the insulation and patched the roofing of five homes and also conducted maintenance activities at the Sathya Sai School, including painting, varnishing and minor repairs. Each child received a grocery hamper that included rice, sugar, mealie meal and other food items. The children also received a study desk and chair, a solar study lamp, beanies, scarves and gloves, and enjoyed a hot meal along with their families. An ongoing training programme was launched the same day, for 15 adult trainees. The programme imparted knitting and sewing skills that would enable the needy parents to earn a living.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Medical camps are conducted throughout South Africa to treat common ailments such as cold, flu, bronchitis, and skin disorders. Chronic ailments such as hypertension, diabetes, asthma and arthritis are also treated, and the patients are then referred to the nearest medical facility. Medical assistance is also provided during disaster relief operations. Four medical clinics provide services regularly on certain days of the week. Medical care is provided on an ongoing basis, with follow-ups and referrals, for the continuity of care for patients with chronic ailments and communicable diseases. The success of the medical clinics is a reflection of the strong sense of dedication by the doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and volunteers, who practise the dictum, "Love all, Serve all."

A relatively new service programme that has been initiated is hospital *seva* (service), following the example set by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. An intensive spiritual training is provided, over a period of several weeks to Sathya Sai devotees who wish to serve in this programme to enable them to cope with the physical, emotional, and mental challenges of caring for the sick in a hospital environment. In a typical weekend, about 50 Sathya Sai devotees lovingly offer their services in this programme, to ease the pain and suffering of 500 to 700 patients.



'Christmas with Gogo' by South Africa



Christmas drama at Prasanthi Nilayam

A Sathya Sai short-stay ward has been established at a state hospital that was unable to provide such a service for patients. The ward provides day-patients, who endure long hours of waiting, with a comfortable environment in which to recuperate from medical treatment.

YOUTH CAMP

A National Youth Camp was held in Durban, from 30th November to 2nd December 2012, attended by 166 Sathya Sai youth from all over South Africa. The theme for the event was "Surf the Inner-Net," and presentations were given on the topics of balance and equilibrium in life, the goals of life, and finance and career. The subject matter was discussed in light of Bhagawan's teachings, and with the help of dramas, study circles and other activities. The objective was to help the youth assimilate Swami's teachings and live their daily lives accordingly. These topics are also addressed in a special programme, "Youth Living for Truth," which is a platform for youth to explore Bhagawan's message. The programme is created by the youth, for the youth, and serves to inspire and provide opportunities for activities to transform their lives.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME

Children from South Africa were blessed with an opportunity to present a play in Prasanthi Nilayam during Christmas 2012. The presentation, "Christmas with Gogo," focused on the unity of all creation as expounded by both Bhagawan and Jesus Christ. The scene was set in the African grassland, where a grandmother and story-teller, Gogo, gathered children from different lands, and related the story of Christmas. The story is traditionally told under the legendary baobab tree, one of Africa's most ancient trees, known as "The Tree of Life." A tree itself is an icon of selflessness, and children can learn about human values from it. In the play, the children referred to Bhagawan's message about lighting the lamp of love in all hearts and presented the song first sung by Bhagawan during Christmas 1968, "Love Is My Form, Truth Is My Breath, Bliss Is My Food."

UNITED KINGDOM

There are 50 Sathya Sai Centres and 49 Sathya Sai Groups spread across the UK. In addition, 222 trained educators conduct classes in SSEHV for 1,125 children at 37 Sathya Sai Centres. Sathya Sai youth are also very active in the UK.

BHAGAWAN'S MAHASAMADHI OBSERVANCES

About 300 Sathya Sai devotees from across the UK participated in "Sai Smaran Bhajans" on 24th April 2012, in Watford, London.

About 1,500 Sathya Sai devotees celebrated a National Sai Remembrance Day on 28th April 2012 in Leicester, to mark the first anniversary of the *Mahasamadhi* of Bhagawan. The programme, with the theme of universal love, commenced with a beautiful procession by the SSE children, led by representatives from various religions. This was followed by chants about the universality of love from the perspective of different faiths. Dr. Sanjay Sahani, Director of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Brindavan Campus, delivered a rapturous and awe-inspiring talk. "Living with God is education," he said. "Living for God is service, and living in God is spirituality." The event came to a close with an elevating musical performance by reputed musicians from the UK.

On Sunday, 29th April 2012, the Pinner Sai Centre of UK, Region 2, honoured Swami's *Mahasamadhi* by presenting a performance titled "Legacy," in celebration of Swami's teachings on the unity of faiths. Children from 12 Sathya Sai Education (SSE) classes, ranging in age from 1 to 16, along with SSE teachers, offered sketches, songs, poems and videos to a large gathering of Sathya Sai devotees from across the region. It was an interactive programme, in which the congregation participated joyfully with the children. The programme ended with a finale of songs from different faiths, followed by *arathi* and the distribution of *vibhuthi* and *prasadam*.



Sewing and knitting clothes for children at the Lady of Lourdes Church, UK

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Wanstead is a suburban area in the London Borough of Redbridge, Northeast London. Since early 2012, more than 25 volunteers, including a few members from the Lady of Lourdes Church, have participated in monthly craft sessions at the church in a spirit of selfless service to the needy. They sew cotton dresses for children and knit blankets, scarves and garments for the underprivileged. Over a period of six months, about 80 clothing outfits for children were completed. The cotton dresses and other donated clothing were sent for distribution to needy children in Kenya, Sri Lanka and Uganda, and the warm clothes were distributed locally.

The City of Leicester is located on the banks of the river Soar, approximately 100 miles northwest of London. On 22nd July 2012, volunteers from the Sathya Sai Centre of Narborough Road entertained 60 elderly guests by picking them up from their homes and escorting them to the Birstall Village Hall. The guests were gleaming with joy. They appreciated the opportunity to converse with one another, to be entertained and, most importantly, to be loved. A sumptuous lunch was served following refreshments and entertainment. *Bhajans* and devotional songs were sung,

and the day ended with *arathi* to Bhagawan on a joyful note.

As Sathya Sai doctors, nurses and volunteers prepared to head to the Yonibana Sai Hospital in sunny Sierra Leone, West Africa, members of the Tooting Sai Centre, UK, came together on Sunday, 24th March 2013, to pack boxes and prepare gifts for the underprivileged people of Sierra Leone, 3,000 miles away. A total of 62 boxes, weighing 1,426 kg and containing medicines, books, food items, and clothing, were packed and readied for dispatch. All supplies were either donated by volunteers and local businesses or purchased through the Better Lives Foundation charity. Brightly-coloured clothes, lovingly hand knitted, were also donated for children ranging from newborn to six years of age.

EASWARAMMA DAY

About 550 Sathya Sai devotees, including 175 children and their parents from all regions of the UK, celebrated Easwaramma Day on Saturday, 5th May 2012, in Hatfield, Hertfordshire. The theme chosen for this event reflected Bhagawan's teaching of gratitude to the "Five Mothers," which include, one's physical mother (*dehamata*), the motherland (*desamata*), the scriptures (*vedamata*), the cattle (*gomata*), and mother Earth (*Bhoomata*). At the event, the main stage was tastefully decorated in shades of white, blue, gold and pink, reminiscent of the colours of Prasanthi Nilayam. The programme commenced with a procession by the children carrying banners, flowers and various symbols representing the theme for the day. After a few uplifting talks, the children, representing each of the eight regions of the UK, presented an item on an aspect of motherhood, consistent with the theme. A delicious lunch was served and a musical rendition on human values was presented and enthusiastically received by all.

MEDICAL SERVICES

The SSIO of the UK, in association with the Brent Indian Association (BIA), organised a Free Health Awareness Day in Wembley, Northwest London, on 20th May 2012. Twenty-seven Sathya Sai volunteers and 15 medical professionals, including 3 primary care doctors, 3 dentists, 4 ophthalmologists and 5 nurses, provided medical services to 248 needy people, many of whom had travelled long distances to attend the medical camp. The medical services included screening for high blood



Easwaramma Day celebration, UK



pressure and consultation in general medicine, dental, health, and vision. Presentations were made on preventive health, diabetes, heart disease, nutrition, and the hazards of smoking. Food was prepared and served to all those who came to the medical camp. The attendees were appreciative of the love, care and guidance received from the Sathya Sai volunteers and medical professionals.

The Farnborough Sathya Sai Centre organised a Walk-In Health Awareness Day at the Elles Hall Community Centre in Farnborough on 1st July 2012. The aim was to provide free health checkups and advice on common health issues, and to raise awareness about various health services available locally. Two general physicians, two cardiologists, one gastroenterologist, three dentists and two optometrists provided 986 consultations in their respective fields. The event was officially opened by the Mayor of Rushmoor, Peter Crerar, who appreciated the efforts of the Sathya Sai volunteers. A total of 198 people, including many elderly people, were checked for blood pressure, blood sugar levels, and BMI (Body Mass Index). The participants were also given specific advice on how to lead a healthier lifestyle, and 60 referrals were made to general practitioners, opticians and dentists for further treatment.

On Sunday, 26th August 2012, 77 Sathya Sai devotees, both young and old from across the UK, donated blood at the National Health Service (NHS) Blood Donor Centre, near Oxford Circus, Central London. The NHS, which serves patients across the UK, uses a staggering 7,000 units of blood a day to meet the unplanned needs of accident and emergency patients, as well as scheduled medical treatments. The NHS were so humbled by the selfless response, a unique identifier was awarded to the SSIO of the UK, for donation of blood anywhere in the country.

Healthcare professionals from across the UK attended a second annual Sai Ideal Healthcare Seminar in Hatfield, London on 16th September 2012. The theme was “Sai Ideal Healthcare through Sustained Partnerships,” and a wide variety of projects, both local and international, were presented to underscore the importance of delivering healthcare with love and compassion. Presentations included reports on current practices in Sathya Sai Health Awareness Days and the unveiling of revised guidelines and forms to assist and encourage Sathya Sai Centres to maintain high quality and standards. Two other activities, blood donation clinics and first aid training, were also launched. A session on international medical activities was rich with the experiences of healthcare professionals who had participated in medical camps in remote corners of the world. Inspiring reports about activities in Sri Lanka, a country ravaged by both the tsunami of 2004 and a lengthy civil war, were also shared.

On 6th October 2012, more than 100 Sathya Sai volunteers from the SSIO of the UK, Region 5, in conjunction with the Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust and Oldham Council, Greater Manchester, successfully hosted a Health Awareness Day. The event was inaugurated by the Mayor of Oldham, Councillor Olwen Chaderton, and attended by the Director of Public Health.

DEVOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

On 1st July 2012, about 2,000 Sathya Sai devotees from the UK participated in prayers for the peace and welfare of the world, at the Sri Venkateswara Temple in Birmingham. This was an offering of loving gratitude to Bhagawan on the auspicious occasion of *Guru Purnima*. Intense prayer and contemplation of the Lord was observed by all Sathya Sai devotees embarking on the “Sai Jyoti” (Journey to Divine Light), the UK National Pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam that subsequently took place in October 2012.

NATIONAL SAI RETREAT – “DIVINE LIGHT”

After an absence of several years, a UK National Sai Retreat, titled “Divine Light,” was held 17th to 19th August 2012, in Llandudno, a coastal town in North Wales. The retreat took on a distinctive charm with its location near the sea, the conference venue, the programmes, the catering, the volunteers involved, the facilitators, the singers, the musicians, the delegates, and the guest speakers.

UK NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE – “JOURNEY TO DIVINE LIGHT (SAI JYOTI)”

Sathya Sai devotees from the UK went on a pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam from 7th to 27th October 2012. The 57 pilgrims offered a performance at the Lotus Feet of Bhagawan in Sai Kulwant Hall. The Sathya Sai youth visited nearby villages and served food for nine days and up to 50,000 people daily!



Music concert by UK devotees at Prasanthi Nilayam

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

About 1,300 Sathya Sai devotees celebrated Bhagawan's Birthday on a cold and crisp Saturday morning on 24th November 2012 at Maher Hall in Leicester. The stage was a reflection of the Hill View Stadium in Prasanthi Nilayam; the theme for the event was "The Light in Our Hearts." The programme commenced with a beautifully choreographed traditional *Bharatnatyam* dance, rendered superbly by four young SSE students. Dr. Samuel and Mrs. Sharon Sandweiss enthralled the audience with their experiences. SSE children from across the UK then presented "Lamps of Love" at the Divine Feet. After several uplifting talks, lunch was served, and a *Jhoola* Ceremony was beautifully enacted. Vocal and instrumental music was offered at the Lotus Feet, and the celebration concluded with the offering of four beautifully decorated birthday cakes at the Divine Feet of Bhagawan.

NATIONAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

About 400 Sathya Sai devotees celebrated Christmas on 16th December 2012 at the Cheltenham Ladies College Hall in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. The festive programme included a traditional Christmas service, uplifting prayers, music, guest speakers and Christmas carols. The celebrations commenced with invocation hymns. The service followed the format of the "Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols," with alternate readings from the Holy Bible and the singing of Christmas carols. The Mayor of Cheltenham addressed the group, drawing attention to the



SSEHV for children, Leicestershire, UK

need for extending our hands and hearts to the needy and serving society. Closing hymns were given by the Quire Voice Ensemble, Windsor, and the programme ended with a special Christmas lunch.

VISIT BY THE LEADERS OF THE SATHYA SAI INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

The UK was fortunate to have the presence of the two senior-most leaders of the Sathya Sai Organisation, namely, Mr. Gary Belz, Chairman, Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation and Dr. Narendranath Reddy, Chairman, Prasanthi Council, from 17th to 22nd January 2013. They had the opportunity to interact with members of the UK Central Council, the UK Trust and management teams of the Sathya Sai School (Leicester) and the ISSE. Their presence and the direct guidance they provided were valuable and greatly appreciated by everyone.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE

On 9th February 2013, about 300 Sathya Sai devotees assembled in Hatfield near London for a National Sathya Sai Orientation Conference, with the theme “How to Serve Aply as His Instruments in His Mission.” Dr. Kiran Patel, National Chairperson of the SSIO of the UK, addressed the audience, declaring that 2013 would be observed in the UK as the “Year of Harmony,” encouraging everyone to attain both internal and external harmony. The conference offered two interactive workshops. The first workshop focused on the Guidelines and touched upon topics such as the importance of reflecting on the universal nature of Sathya Sai teachings, enthusiastic and prompt response to service opportunities and the right way to manage finances. The second workshop focused on qualities that are essential for being an “instrument” in the Divine Hands, such as enthusiasm and commitment to serve, an attitude of humility and dedication, and practical operational skills. Six SSE children from the UK who excelled in the 2012 national examinations and projects were invited on stage and presented with certificates. Two very ardent and longstanding devotees of Bhagawan, Mr. Balram Puri and Mr. Dipak Fakey, OBE, spoke about their experiences and personal blessings received from Bhagawan. Mr. Puri also offered a set of two audio bhajan CDs at the Divine Feet, rendered by his late wife.

The concluding address, by Dr. Narendranath Reddy, Chairman of Prasanthi Council, was made possible through a live video link from California, USA. Dr. Reddy reminded the audience that only by Divine Grace one can attain the following four special blessings: human birth; desire to attain liberation; association with Divine Master and opportunity to serve in His Divine Mission.

YOUTH PROGRAMMES

More than 200 Sathya Sai youth attended a National Youth Conference from 22nd to 24th February 2013 in Watford (London). The theme of the conference was “How We Can Make Our Lives His Message.” The workshops, question-and-answer sessions and musical performances created a blissful atmosphere and left the attendees inspired and invigorated.

A Sathya Sai Leadership Training Programme was launched in 1998 to implement one of the First World Youth Conference resolutions, and to develop the leaders of tomorrow who can lead by Bhagawan’s teachings and ultimately become ambassadors of Bhagawan. The programme runs for 14 months and covers workshops, project assignments and outdoor activities, while focusing on Sathya Sai teachings. This year there were 15 graduates of this programme, making a grand total of 87 graduates.

Sathya Sai youth led an Interfaith Walk in Wimbledon on 1st April 2012, joined by 36 Sathya Sai devotees. Their first stop was the Wimbledon & District Reform Synagogue of the Jewish faith, to observe the Torah (Hebrew Bible). The next stop was the Buddhapadipa Temple of the Buddhist faith, built in the exuberant Thai style. The central shrine displayed three statues of the Buddha, one of which was 1,000 years old, and the surrounding walls were covered with colourful paintings depicting scenes from the Buddha's life. The participants then walked to St. Andrew's Anglican Church, where the Reverend greeted them and emphasised the importance of "breaking bread" together, signifying unity. Finally, the group congregated at the Ganapathy (Lord Ganesha) Temple in Merton, bringing to a close an interesting day packed with new experiences, good will and understanding of all faiths.

ZIMBABWE

COMMUNITY AND MEDICAL SERVICES

The Harare Sathya Sai Centre organises many service projects throughout Zimbabwe with great success, including the donation of food, as well as text books and stationery to more than 600 school children. Sathya Sai devotees also hold vision camps and donate food to state hospitals in Harare, Chitungwiza, and the surrounding rural settlement areas in Zimbabwe. Recently, more than 500 packs of cataract kits and after-care instruments and lenses were donated to an eye hospital in Harare for further distribution to remote hospitals.

On 2nd September 2012, a vision camp was held at the Parirenyatwa Hospital, in Sekuru Kaguvi, Harare, Zimbabwe. Food was also distributed to about 150 patients and nurses by Sathya Sai devotees and others. Dr. A. Kufa, head of the Government Eye Unit in Harare, assisted with this service project.

In November 2012, food and blankets were distributed to about 200 local residents at Denda, a remote town approximately 60 kilometres from Harare. In July 2012, books and stationery packs were given to 600 children at a primary school based in Domboshawa, where the headmaster and department heads of the school welcomed the Sathya Sai devotees.



ZONE 9B

ABU DHABI (UAE) ■ BAHRAIN ■ DUBAI (UAE)
IRAN ■ KUWAIT ■ OMAN ■ SAUDI ARABIA
SHARJAH (UAE) ■ SYRIA ■ TURKEY

Blue Mosque, Turkey



Inaugural ceremony of human values competition, Oman



Participants at human values competition, Oman

ABU DHABI

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

The SAI (Serve And Inspire) Group celebrated Bhagawan's 87th Birthday over a period of 87 days, with *Veda* chanting and devotional and service activities. Winter jackets were distributed to 120 labourers in the industrial area of Mussafah, 40 kilometres from Abu Dhabi, and blood-donation programmes were also organised. About 250 Sathya Sai devotees celebrated Bhagawan's Birthday on 23rd November 2012 with *Om*karam, *Suprabhatam*, *Veda* chanting, *bhajan* singing and *prasadam* distribution.

OMAN

SATHYA SAI EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES

On 12th, 19th and 26th April 2012, the SAI Group, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Sultanate of Oman, conducted an open essay-writing and poster-making competition on human-values themes for schools in Oman. About 3,600 children from 245 schools, representing different nationalities, participated in the "Spreading the Light through Human Values" event. The programme was supported by UNESCO. Ms. Fatima Abdul Abbas Noorani, Director General, Directorate of Private Schools, Ministry of Education, Sultanate of Oman, inaugurated the competition. The Chief Guest at the Award Presentation Ceremony was Sri Hamood Bin Khalfan Al Harthi, Under-Secretary for Education and Curriculum, Ministry of Education, who presented plaques and certificates of merit to the winners of the competition. This service initiative of the SAI Group received full press coverage by the *Times of Oman* Group of newspapers.

About 100 people attended the Second Regional Youth Conference in the Sultanate of Oman on 7th December 2012, which focused on Bhagawan's message, "Service Is Sai Education." The programme commenced at 9:30 AM with a welcome address by Mr. A.V. Manohar, Chairman, SSIO of Oman. The first guest speaker, Dr. P. L. Rani, who was a staff member from the Anantapur Campus of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, gave an inspirational talk titled "Man's Quest and the Lord's Bequest." The talk was based on her personal experiences with Swami. A video was then presented about service to the poor, followed by a web conference on the *Vidya Vahini* project, which was inaugurated by Bhagawan Himself. After a short, 40-minute lunch break, the second half of the conference commenced with a talk on Sathya Sai Education. The audience was then updated on a few selected



Children's activities, Oman

service activities conducted around the world by the SSIO. Professor Gautam Datt from Oman narrated a number of his experiences with Swami to underscore the importance of selfless service. This was followed by a panel discussion on balancing family duties with service to society and the viewing of Swami's discourses on the duties of youth, on love and on service to society.

The Special Children's Group (SCG) of the SSIO of Oman celebrated a Sports and Fun Festival Day on 30th November 2012, at the Indian School Al Ghubra, in Muscat. The event was organised for children with autism to promote patience, practice, perseverance, courage, and determination. The programme was attended by a few local Omani dignitaries and about 125 SCG volunteers and children. Following registration and opening ceremonies, the SCG volunteers lovingly escorted 24 special children into various "houses" named after the human values: Truth, Right Conduct, Love, and Peace. The children were grouped to participate in events such as shopping games, hurdle races, relays and frog races, all designed to hone their motor skills, cognitive skills, and other faculties. Paintings made by a special child were presented as tokens of love to the dignitaries in attendance. Finally, medals were awarded to the children and the families were given gift-hampers and various learning aids for children with autism.

KUWAIT

MEDICAL SERVICES

A medical camp was held on 7th December 2012 at the Salmiya Indian Model School in Kuwait. Large numbers of low-income expatriates in Kuwait suffer from various illnesses such as hypertension and diabetes but do not receive proper medical care. Thirty-four physicians, specialising in cardiology, ENT, nephrology, neurology, diabetics, gynaecology, ophthalmology, dermatology, general medicine, and other fields, as well as 30 paramedical staff, provided medical services to more than 700 such expatriates hailing from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Egypt. About 120 Sathya Sai devotees from Kuwait volunteered their services at this camp. The Hon. Satish C. Mehta, Ambassador of India to Kuwait, and Dr. Mohomad Al Mutairi, President of the Kuwait Medical Association, visited the medical camp. Services provided included screening for hypertension and eye diseases, along with cholesterol tests, ultrasound examinations, and ECG. This was the sixth medical camp jointly organised by the Kuwait Sai Centre (Shanti Association of Kuwait), Indian Doctors Forum (IDF), Kuwait Medical Association and Kuwait Heart Foundation.

BHAGAWAN'S MAHASAMADHI OBSERVANCES

In observance of the first *Mahasamadhi* anniversary, several devotional and service activities were undertaken for 10 days, from 19th to 28th April 2012, by Sathya Sai devotees of Kuwait. On 19th April, about 70 Sathya Sai devotees took part in a study

Medical services, Kuwait





Medical camp, Kuwait



circle and a *bhajan* session led by the women. On 20th April, as part of a monthly service project, 20 Sathya Sai volunteer women distributed rice, *dal*, sugar, and oil, along with sweets, to 140 ladies at a labour camp in Farwania. A blood-donation campaign was organised on 21st April. Twenty Sathya Sai volunteers and medical staff from the Kuwait Blood Bank lovingly offered their services, and more than 115 people donated blood. On 22nd April, Sathya Sai youth presented a special music programme to about 70 people. A special souvenir issue of *Sai Lekha* magazine was released to commemorate the *Mahasamadhi* Day. For many years, Sathya Sai volunteers from Kuwait have been rendering loving service to children with special needs. On 25th April 2012, 11 such children were taken for a picnic at the Orange Beach, where the activities included singing, playing games, and a stroll along the beach. Homemade snacks were also served to the children. Another picnic was organised for the children on 27th April at the Sharq Garden, with participation by about 90 children, 30 teachers and 15 Sathya Sai volunteers. As part of a regular Friday and Saturday service activity, more than 20 Sathya Sai volunteers served sumptuous meals to over 270 needy people at three labour camps on 27th and 28th April.

DEVOTIONAL MEETING

Eid festival was celebrated by 87 Sathya Sai devotees at the Kuwait Sai Centre in Salwa, Kuwait, on Friday evening, 26th October 2012, with the chanting of *Sai Sahasranama* followed by *bhajans*, some of which were sung in Arabic. A few grains of rice were offered at the Lotus Feet of Swami by the devotees while chanting each name of Bhagawan.



Blood donation, Bahrain



Easwaramma Day cultural programme, Bahrain

BAHRAIN

BHAGAWAN'S MAHASAMADHI OBSERVANCES

On 24th April 2012, about 130 Sathya Sai devotees took part in a devotional programme as part of Bhagawan's *Mahasamadhi* observances. On 25th April, about 125 Sathya Sai devotees attended an inspirational audio-visual presentation of devotees' experiences and choir presentations. A medical camp was organised by 15 Sathya Sai volunteers on 26th April for a labour camp in Bahrain. Free medical check-ups were performed for 325 guests, including screening for blood sugar. The "Shakti" (women's) wing of the SSIO, Bahrain also prepared and served sumptuous meals to the 325 workers. Sathya Sai devotees have been organising blood donation camps at the local government hospital for the past 27 years to celebrate Bhagawan's Birthday. This year on 27th April, 117 people donated blood in a hall reserved outside the hospital to maintain a divine ambience and to encourage greater participation.

EASWARAMMA DAY

On 6th May 2012, about 750 people attended Easwaramma Day celebrations organised by 22 SSE teachers and 25 Sathya Sai volunteers at the Jashanmal Auditorium of the Bahrain Indian School. The SSE children paid homage to Mother Easwaramma and presented a cultural programme on the theme, "Love: The Universal Religion," highlighting the unity of faiths and the concept of the "Brotherhood of Man and the Fatherhood of God." The programme showcased festivals representing Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism. The spiritual significance of these festivals was wonderfully illustrated through skits, dances, and dramas.



Birthday celebrations, Bahrain

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

To celebrate Bhagawan's 87th Birthday, the SSIO of Bahrain undertook spiritual and service programmes for 87 days under the theme, "Swami the Indweller." The programmes commenced on the auspicious day of Onam and covered all major festivals leading up to Bhagawan's Birthday. Major spiritual activities included Shirdi Sai *Sat Charita Parayana* (reading of the sacred life story of Shirdi Sai Baba), *Tapovanam Parayana* (reading of the sacred life story of Sathya Sai Baba), *Laksharchana* (repetition of God's name 100,000 times) and *Sahasranamavali* (chanting of 1,000 names of God). Throughout the period, many inspirational talks and SSEHV programmes were conducted on the glory of the Sathya Sai *Avatar*, along with *bhajan* workshops. Finally, the 87-day series of programmes concluded on 23rd November 2012, when 300 Sathya Sai devotees celebrated Bhagawan's Birthday with *Veda* chanting, *Ashtotharasatanamavali* (chanting of 108 names of Bhagawan), a talk based on Bhagawan's Birthday messages, cake cutting, SSE children's choir performances and *bhajans*.

DUBAI

MEDICAL SERVICES

The SSIO of Dubai has been organising blood donation camps in cooperation with the Latifa Hospital Blood Bank, Government of Dubai, on a quarterly basis for more than 12 years. In 2012, a total of 360 blood donations were recorded. Around 1,800 labourers were screened at eight medical camps held in labour camps where workers from various nations reside in abject poverty. Medicines were also distributed.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The SSIO of Dubai, in collaboration with the Emirates Environmental Group, a non-governmental organisation (NGO), participated in two environmental projects. The first project involved the collection and recycling of used aluminium cans. The second project, "Clean-Up Campaign," is an annual event in which educational institutes, businesses and the government join forces to clean up the environment. In 2012, more than 42,000 participants joined hands in this massive cleanup operation conducted at 112 sites all over the UAE.

Medical services, Dubai





Distribution of food to the needy, Dubai

BHAGAWAN'S MAHASAMADHI OBSERVANCES

On 13th April 2012, a medical camp was held for about 108 women of various nationalities who work at the Modern Building Maintenance (MBM) company office. Medical services included blood-sugar testing, physical check-up and free distribution of medicines.

In honour of Bhagawan's *Mahasamadhi*, more than 235 Sathya Sai devotees took part in a five-day programme at the Sathya Sai Mandir, Dubai, from 23rd to 27th April 2012. The programme included a display of Bhagawan's teachings in the mandir, *bhajan* sessions, *Veda* chanting and a video presentation. On 27th April, 1,008 packages containing rice, two types of *dal* (lentils), cooking oil, sugar, dates, tea, biscuits and flour were distributed at labour camps.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA

On Friday, 23rd November 2012, the SSIO of Dubai celebrated Bhagawan's Birthday at the Sathya Sai Mandir, Dubai. The morning session, attended by about 200 Sathya Sai devotees, commenced with *Om karam* and *Suprabhatam*, followed by *bhajans*. The evening *bhajan* session was attended by about 480 Sathya Sai devotees. In addition, 1,008 packets of eight food items—rice, two types of *dal*, oil, salt, *masala* powder, biscuits and *kesari*, along with a blanket, were distributed to needy residents at three labour camps, the ETA Camp in Sharjah, the MBM Ladies Camp in Dubai, and the Fishermen Camp in Dubai. Sathya Sai youth launched a *seva* project by distributing 450 toiletry packs, dry rations, sweets and blankets to fishermen at two labour camps in Jumeirah, Dubai. Each toiletry pack contained toothpaste, toothbrush, hair oil, shampoo, and soap.

PRASANTHI EVENTS



Buddha Purnima

BUDDHA PURNIMA FESTIVAL

On 7th and 8th May, more than 300 Sathya Sai devotees from 12 Buddhist countries – China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Sri Lanka – participated in the celebration of the holy festival of Buddha Purnima at Prasanthi Nilayam. The 2012 festivities, held in a beautifully decorated Sai Kulwant Hall, included illuminating talks by distinguished speakers, Veda chanting, devotional songs, *bhajans* and cultural programmes by devotees. The theme of this year’s Buddha Purnima celebrations was “Love and Compassion”.

The programme on 7th May 2012 began at 8:00 AM with *Veda* chanting, followed by the welcome address by Mr. Ashok Sakhrani, National Coordinator, Sathya Sai Organisation of Hong Kong. The welcome address was followed by the talks of two distinguished speakers. The first speaker, Mr. Nari Chugani, Chairman, Zone 5 of the SSIO, observed the similarity between the teachings of Bhagawan and the message of Lord Buddha given to mankind over 2,500 years ago. The next speaker, Professor Sunanda Degamboda from Sri Lanka explained how Bhagawan’s divine love helped him to overcome his initial mental resistance and realise the identity of Bhagawan’s teachings with those of Buddha. The erudite speaker quoted from the teachings of Bhagawan and Buddha and said that, according to both, control, reduction and elimination of the mind are essential for attainment of enlightenment.

The afternoon programme started at 5:00 PM with the chanting of *vedic* hymns, followed by the talk of Mr. Ashok Sakhrani, who presented an overview of service activities conducted by the Sathya Sai Organisations of these countries in the fields of healthcare, human values, water projects, homes for the aged and orphanages. Thereafter, a group of children from Thailand presented a beautiful dance in Chinese and Indian costumes. The theme of this presentation was “Know Thyself: Life Is Bliss When Truth Is Realised”. The next item of the programme was a Japanese choir which presented a programme on the theme of “*Bhajans* and Their Use in Daily Life”. The last item of the programme was *Abhishekam* of the idol of Lord Buddha, in which all the devotees participated.

The final session of the Buddha Purnima celebrations was held on the afternoon of 8th May 2012. The programme began at 5:00 PM, with *Veda* chanting followed by a scholarly talk by Dr. Krithisri Periera, an aircraft engineer from Sri Lanka. Dwelling on the similarities of the teachings of Buddha and Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the erudite speaker spoke about the loving kindness of both the *Avatars*, who transformed with their love and compassion even those who opposed them. Both of them, he added, exhorted their devotees and followers to perform meritorious deeds, to serve parents and elders, to associate with good people and to avoid bad company.

The last item of the programme was a drama on the theme of the earthquake and tsunami that devastated eastern Japan in March 2011 and caused widespread suffering. While the scenes of the tsunami were depicted on a giant screen, actors performed scenes of the drama in front of it, depicting various incidents of selfless love, mutual help and loving kindness, as taught by Lord Buddha and Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The drama closed appropriately with video scenes of Bhagawan’s love, followed by audio playback of the *bhajan*, “Rama Rama Rama Sita,” sung by Bhagawan.

In his closing remarks at the conclusion of the Buddha Purnima celebrations, Sri V. Srinivasan, All India President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations, appreciated the work of the Japanese volunteers who rendered dedicated service to the victims of the tsunami. Quoting Bhagawan’s teachings, “Love all, Serve all” and “Help ever, Hurt never,” the distinguished speaker observed that Bhagawan is present wherever His work is done.

PILGRIMAGE OF OMAN DEVOTEES

A group of 54 Sathya Sai devotees, including many children from Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, visited Prasanthi Nilayam as part of a week-long pilgrimage in June 2012. On 24th June, SSEHV children along with students of Saraswathi Natyalaya, Muscat presented a dance programme. The programme was based on three compositions, all in Tamil, including *Thiruvachakam* by Manickavacakar, a famous Tamil poet.



Children from Oman

DEVOTIONAL MUSIC CONCERT

A soul-stirring devotional musical presentation was offered on 6th July 2012 by devotees from Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan. The first item of the programme was a choir performance by more than 100 singers and musicians from these countries. The singers and musicians, both ladies and gentlemen, in colourful dress and headgear, began their presentation at 5:00 PM in Sai Kulwant Hall and kept the audience spellbound for nearly 30 minutes with their soulful presentation of 11 devotional songs in Russian. Some of the soul-elevating songs were, “Oh Lord, Please Hear This Song”, “May the Divine News Fly All Over Russia”, “The Soul Is Full of Pure Light”, “May Kindness Be on Earth” and “Pilgrims of Love, Believe in Yourself”. The programme concluded with a sonorous rendition of the Russian national folk song, “Kalinka,” at 5:30 PM.

The programme continued with *bhajans*, beginning with the *bhajan* “*Vinayaka Vinayaka*”. Next, the group sang “*Durge Durge Durge Jai Jai Maa*”, “*Sathyam Jnanam Anantam Brahma*”, “*Salaam Salaam*” and concluded with “*Om Namah Shivaya Shivaya Namah Om*”. The amazing ease and perfection of the rendition of the Hindi *bhajans* by Russian singers earned them the admiration of one and all.



Devotees from Russia



Youth from Zone 4

SPIRITUAL RETREAT OF SAI YOUTH OF INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, THAILAND, SINGAPORE AND NEPAL

Nearly 600 youth from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and Nepal (Zone 4) participated in 2012 Sathya Sai Youth Spiritual Retreat from 5th to 7th July 2012 in Prasanthi Nilayam.

On 7th July 2012, a group of these youth presented a traditional Balinese dance, “Kecak,” in Sai Kulwant Hall. The dance depicted a part of the story of the Ramayana, portraying scenes of the battle between *Lakshmana* and *Meghanath*, the swooning of *Lakshmana* in the battlefield, the bringing of the hill containing the *Sanjivini* herb by Hanuman, the revival of *Lakshmana* and the annihilation of *Meghanath*. The dance showcased not only the valour of Hanuman but also his impeccable devotion to Rama. The climax was reached when out of His immense love for Hanuman, Rama embraced him. Thereafter, Hanuman expressed his joy in a beautiful dance, while the ladies sang the *bhajan*, “*Jai Jai Hanuman Jai Hanuman*”. This Balinese dance was unique in that it was performed without accompaniment of musical instruments except sounds articulated by the actors. The graceful dance of the main actors, Hanuman, Rama and Lakshmana was accompanied by hand gestures of the supporting actors and singers and swaying body movements. From all accounts, the dance was a perfect and superb presentation.

SPIRITUAL RETREAT OF DEVOTEES FROM THE GULF AND MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES

More than 250 Sathya Sai devotees from Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Oman, Sharjah, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Syria and Iran went on a pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam and participated in a spiritual retreat from 6th to 12th July 2012.

A group of these devotees presented a captivating music programme titled “*Sarva Dharma Swaroopa Sai*” on 10th July 2012 in Sai Kulwant Hall. Beginning their presentation at 5:00 PM with the song “Allah Allah”, the singers and musicians, both



ladies and gentlemen in traditional dress, kept the audience spellbound for nearly 40 minutes with sonorous and soulful renditions of Arabic songs on the five human values of *Sathya, Dharma, Shanti, Prema* and *Ahimsa*, as taught by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Each song was preceded by meaningful commentary highlighting how these five human values form the core of the teachings of Islam as propounded in the Holy Quran and are, in fact, fundamental to the teachings of all religions. The melodious rendition along with the sweetness of its expression captured each heart.

PILGRIMAGE OF U.K. DEVOTEES

A group of UK devotees went on a pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam in October 2012. The group presented two devotional music programmes in Sai Kulwant Hall on 11th and 12th October 2012. Imbued with the light of Bhagawan's love, these devotees, calling themselves Sai *Jyoti* pilgrims, paid soulful musical tribute to Bhagawan through their presentations.

SAI ANANDAM - A CLASSICAL MUSIC PRESENTATION

The first presentation, titled "*Sai Anandam*", was presented by renowned musician Ms. Roopa Panesar and party, on 11th October 2012. The instruments *sitar, tar shehnai, tabla* and *santoor* were used. Surcharged with the love of Bhagawan, the artists suffused the entire milieu with deep devotional fervour. The programme, which began at 5:00 PM with a prayer to the Guru, kept the audience spellbound for nearly one hour. The deep devotional mood of the artists created heavenly music. The presentation included the vocals "*Antar Jyoti Jalao Sai*", "*Hum Sab Milkar Mangal Gayen*" and "*Om Hari Hari Om*" set to various *ragas* (tunes), including *Rag Yaman Kalyan, Rag Megh* and *Rag Bahar*. This highly elevating musical presentation concluded at 6:00 PM and the musicians were greeted with loud and prolonged applause. The grand finale of this beautiful concert was the *bhajan*, "*Madhura Madhura Murali Ghanashyama*," in Bhagawan's golden voice.

A DEVOTIONAL MEDLEY OF SONGS

The U.K. devotees presented a second programme of devotional music on 12th October 2012. Beginning this devotional music presentation at 5:15 PM with a classical instrumental composition, the musicians regaled the audience with five musical pieces and Hindi, Punjabi and English songs, including a *Gurbani* (verses from the holy Guru Granth) and English devotional songs such as "Why Fear When I am Here", "In Every Moment of My Life Please Be with Me...Baba, Sai Baba" and so on. They concluded their presentation with the *bhajan*, "*Sathyam Jnanam Anantam Brahma*."

DEVOTIONAL MUSIC BY U.K. DEVOTEES

The programme on 17th October 2012 began at 4:30 PM with *Veda* chanting, in which students of Prasanthi Nilayam and devotees from the UK took part. After *Veda* chanting, noted musician from the UK, Ms. Roopa Panesar, made an excellent presentation of sitar music consisting mainly of *bhajans* that included, “*Hara Siva Sankara*”, “*Sankara Siva Sankara*” and “*Bolo Bolo Sab Mil Bolo Om Namah Sivaya*”. The sterling performance earned the artist the loud applause of the devotees. This was followed by a *bhajan* medley by UK devotees, who showcased their devotional fervour, to the delight of all.



Ladies Day Performance

UK devotees presented another programme on 25th October 2012 in the form of a beautiful musical medley. Beginning their programme with *Veda* chanting, they presented instrumental compositions and group songs in Telugu and Hindi including “*Tu Hi Bhagawan Paramatma*”, “*Humko Tumse Pyar Kitna*”. This was followed by *bhajans*, also led by UK devotees.

INTERNATIONAL DEVOTEES PERFORMANCE ON LADIES DAY

TALKS BY TWO SPEAKERS

On 19th November 2012, Ladies Day, overseas devotees offered speakers and musical presentations. The first speaker was Ms. Marianne Meyer, Member, Prasanthi Council. Referring to Bhagawan as the embodiment of love, the distinguished speaker narrated her personal experiences in how Bhagawan taught her to expand her love in order to experience the love of God. She exhorted one and all to respond to the call from within and inspire others to follow Bhagawan’s teachings. The second speaker, Ms. Kayoko Hira of Japan, referred to the disastrous earthquake and tsunami in Japan in March 2011 and narrated how Bhagawan’s unseen hand was witnessed in the rescue and relief operations undertaken by the Sathya Sai Organisation of Japan.

After these two talks, the students of Sathya Sai School, Thailand, performed a Thai dance to the tune of a sweet song with flowers in hand. The nimble footwork of the girls and their graceful movements delighted one and all.



A SOULFUL DEVOTIONAL MUSIC PRESENTATION

The last programme of the morning was a devotional music presentation by devotees of the Dominican Republic. With hearts full of devotion for Bhagawan, the singers saturated the entire milieu with devotional fervour by their spellbinding and soul-stirring rendition of devotional songs dedicated to Bhagawan.

DEVOTIONAL MUSIC BY OVERSEAS LADIES

After this speech, Ms. Maria Jory presented a piano concert to the accompaniment of devotional songs by Ms. Radha Botofasina. While Ms. Botofasina's first song was related to an inner experience of 1995, the second song was dedicated to Prema Sai. Finally, she sang an enrapturing song, "Where is God?"

BHAGAWAN'S 87TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

On 23rd November 2012, Dr. Phil Gosselin from USA shared memories of earlier years of Bhagawan's Birthday celebrations. He then outlined various service activities of the SSIO, mentioning especially the activities of serving disabled children in Belarus, SSEHV Schools in Ecuador and medical camps in various parts of the world. In conclusion, the distinguished speaker observed that Bhagawan is not restricted by time and space and is present everywhere.

DANCE BY THAILAND SATHYA SAI SCHOOL CHILDREN

An enrapturing dance was presented by the Sathya Sai School children of Thailand on 20th November 2012 as part of Bhagawan's 87th Birthday celebrations. Beginning their dance at 5:00 PM, the children presented a traditional dance from the central plains of Thailand dedicated to the goddess Kwan Eim, titled, "*Chern Phra Kwan*", inviting the goddess to free humankind from the harmful effects of evil and to help all to become good human beings.

A GRAIN OF RICE – A DANCE DRAMA

After the Thai dance, *Bal Vikas* children of Bali, Indonesia, presented a dance drama titled "A Grain of Rice", which emphasised Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's teaching that one should not waste food. The teaching unfolded through a story about a student who wasted food and did not pay heed to the wise counsel of his teacher. The teacher took the class to a rice field and showed the students how hard it was to produce food. The student, while returning home, witnessed a poor family without food, which made him sad. At night, Bhagawan appeared in his dream, showed him a parched field and advised him not to waste food, which had a transforming effect on the student. The simple story, colourful costumes, excellent acting and thrilling dances of the children made the drama an impressive presentation.



“A Grain of Rice” dance drama by children from Indonesia

A GARLAND OF DEVOTIONAL SONGS

The last item of the programme on 20th November 2012 was a garland of devotional songs offered to Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba by devotees of the Dominican Republic. Starting their presentation with a song dedicated to Lord Ganesha, the devotees poured out their hearts in soul-stirring devotional songs that included “*Sadguru Sathya Sai*”, “*Namah Shivaya Om Namah Shivaya*”, “*Jaya Guru Omkara*” and a number of songs in Spanish. They brought their programme to a close with the song, “*Sathya Sathya Sai, Sathya Sathya Sai, Sathya Narayana, Sathya Sathya Sai*”. The entire presentation was full of deep devotional feeling, which suffused the entire milieu with devotional fervour and transported listeners to a divine plane. This was followed by *bhajans*, concluding with a video screening of the *bhajan*, “*Sathyam Jnanam Anantam Brahma*”, by Bhagawan, which the devotees followed in chorus with deep devotion.

Presenting a blend of eastern music with western music renowned musical couple *Pundits* Shubendra Rao and Saskia Rao - de Haans presented a scintillating musical offering on the evening of November 21st, fourth day of the 87th Birthday celebrations in Prasanthi Nilayam. *Pundit* Shubendra Rao, a direct disciple of *Pundit* Ravi Shankar is an exponent of Indian Classical *Sitar* and Saskia Rao of Netherlands is credited with introducing the cello to Indian Music. The concert titled “East Marries West” was a perfect blend of North Indian classical music of India with western music.

CULTURAL PROGRAMMES BY JAPANESE AND MALAYSIAN DEVOTEES

On 24th November 2012, the final day of Bhagawan’s seven-day-long Birthday celebrations, devotees from Japan and Malaysia presented an enrapturing cultural programme.

First, devotees from Japan presented a solo musical performance on the *shakuhachi*, a traditional Japanese flute made from bamboo. The song rendered on it was *Sakura*, named after a flower loved by the Japanese.

This was followed by a Japanese classical dance by a Japanese dancer. She performed an exceedingly beautiful dance to the tune, “*Gion no Yozakura*,” which means “The night-time cherry blossoms of Gion”. Finally, eight Japanese dancers performed a joyous traditional dance to the tune of the song, “*Sakura Sakura*”. Donning flowers in their hats, they offered their flowers of devotion to Bhagawan.

Thereafter, devotees from Malaysia enacted a drama, “The Greatest Legacy”, depicting how Bhagawan’s teachings of love, self-sacrifice, respect for parents and selfless service were uniting families and people of different faiths, ushering in a world of unity by strengthening the bond of love. The story unfolded through dialogues between five friends belonging to five different religions but united in their love for Bhagawan. They wanted to make a presentation on Bhagawan’s 87th Birthday, but they were confused as to what constituted Bhagawan’s true legacy. Ultimately they understood that His true legacy is His devotees.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Grandeur and festivity marked the celebration of Christmas at Prasanthi Nilayam in which a large number of devotees from many countries participated. All of Prasanthi Nilayam bore a festive look with various types of Christmas decorations, including beautiful decorations in Sai Kulwant Hall, the venue of the celebrations, and the Yajur Mandir, the abode of Bhagawan. Beautiful and colourful lights on these and other buildings at night presented an enchanting scene. A nativity scene, the colourful display of a lighted Christmas tree and other decorations on the lawns of the Western Canteen were objects of great attraction.

INTERNATIONAL ADULT’S CHOIR

The three-day Christmas programmes began with an enrapturing presentation of Christmas carols and devotional songs by the International Adults Choir on 24th December 2012. The choir, with more than 250 ladies and about 100 gentleman, including musicians from overseas countries, began their presentation at 5:00 PM in Sai Kulwant Hall with a prayer to Lord Ganesha. What followed was a soulful rendition of 18 Christmas carols and devotional songs, which enlivened the Christmas spirit. Befittingly, the final composition was a Sanskrit verse, “*Sarva Rupa Dharam Santham*” and the inspiring words, “Always be happy, happy,” in the golden voice of Bhagawan. *Bhajans* came to a close with a video screening of Bhagawan singing “*Prema Mudita Manase Kaho*”.



International Adult's Choir at Christmas



INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The afternoon programme on Christmas Day started at 5:00 PM with a presentation of Christmas carols by the International Children's Choir, in which about 70 children from various overseas countries took part. The children expressed their devout feelings by singing carols accompanied by sweet music for nearly 30 minutes.

TALKS BY DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

After the presentation of Christmas carols, three distinguished speakers addressed the gathering. The first speaker was Ms. Petra von Kalinowski from Germany. Referring to Prasanthi Nilayam as the true home of all, she observed that this was the hallowed place on earth where men and women from all cultures, religions and nationalities come together to celebrate their festivals in joyful unity. The second speaker, Dr. Deborah Ellens from USA narrated a unique experience of how during a *darshan* session, Bhagawan walked straight toward her, and His form kept changing from Baba to Jesus and Jesus to Baba, convincing her of the oneness of Bhagawan and Jesus. The last speaker was Sri V. Srinivasan, All-India President, Sathya Sai Seva Organisations. Sri Srinivasan exhorted one and all to come to Prasanthi Nilayam again and again as this was their home.

CHRISTMAS WITH GOGO – A DRAMA

On the third and final day of the three-day Christmas celebrations, children from South Africa presented a drama entitled "Christmas with Gogo (Granny)" on 26th December 2012.

The story was narrated by a grandmother under a giant baobab tree, which served as a beautiful backdrop for enacting various scenes of the drama. The drama showcased the similarities of teachings of different religions, the unconditional love of Jesus and Bhagawan and the unity of all creation, through the sweet songs and thrilling dances of children in colourful costumes and excellent



Chinese New Year



Chinese New Year

make-up. In conclusion, the drama offered tributes to Bhagawan, who expounded to the world the values of *Sathya*, *Dharma*, *Shanti*, *Prema* and *Ahimsa* and taught by His example, “God is Love, Live in Love”. The prolonged loud applause of the devotees spoke volumes about the excellent quality of the performance. Following the drama was a brief session of *bhajans* and the video screening of the *bhajan*, “*Om Shivaya Om Shivaya*,” sung by Bhagawan.

SAI VISION: A DEVOTIONAL MUSIC PRESENTATION

A group of devotees called LASA (Love All, Serve All), from European countries – Austria, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Germany – made an excellent musical presentation “Sai Vision,” on 30th December 2012. Commencing their programme with the song, “We Are Here to Call You, Swami,” the singers presented 11 songs in English, German, Greek, Polish and Hindi, saturating the entire venue with spiritual vibrations. After enthraling the devotees for about one hour, they brought the programme to a close with the song, “Sai Avatar”. A brief session of *bhajans* followed and the programme concluded with the video screening of the *bhajan*, “*Sathyam Jnanam Anantham Brahma*,” sung by Bhagawan.

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Chinese New Year was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam with great devotion and enthusiasm, with the participation of more than 300 Chinese devotees from Hong Kong, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia. The theme of this year’s celebrations was “Honour Our Parents Everyday (HOPE)”. Celebrations spread over two days, viz., 15th and 16th February 2013, were held in Sai Kulwant Hall, which was nicely decorated for the festive occasion.

The programme on 15th February 2013 began at 4:30 PM. with *Veda* chanting by a group of Chinese devotees from Malaysia. This was followed by an offering of Chinese delicacies at the *Mahasamadhi* of Bhagawan by children from Indonesia

and Malaysia. The chanting of Tibetan Buddhist *mantras* by Malaysian devotees followed this offering. Thereafter, the 2013 Chinese New Year Celebrations coordinator, Mr. Billy Fong, addressed the gathering. Dwelling on the theme of the celebrations, Mr. Fong observed that filial piety was a basic tenet of Chinese society and fundamental to Chinese heritage. A beautiful presentation by the children of Malaysia, in traditional attire and carrying bamboo scrolls and school bags, followed Mr. Billy Fong's speech. The highlight of the evening programme was an enrapturing presentation of devotional songs by the Chinese devotees. Beginning their programme with the *mantra*, "Om Mani Padme Hung," the singers rendered melodious songs in Chinese and English, hailing the New Year and depicting the glory of Bhagawan. One of the most brilliant items of this programme was a classical Carnatic music composition, rendered eminently by a Chinese youth from Malaysia, Mr. Chiu Sen.

The second day's programme began with a colourful spring dance by Chinese children to welcome the dawn of the New Year. Ten auspicious offerings at the *Mahasamadhi* of Bhagawan by Malaysian devotees followed including flowers, fruits, incense, oil and tea. After this, Indonesian devotees sang traditional Buddhist *mantras* and devotional songs dedicated to Lord Buddha and Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, followed by two speakers addressing the gathering. The first speaker was Ms. Ong Phaik Suan, Chairperson, Sathya Sai Baba Centre, Penang (Malaysia), who narrated how Bhagawan came mysteriously into her life, strengthened her faith in His Divinity and blessed her to become a part of the SSIO of Malaysia. The next speaker was Mr. Tony Bong from Malaysia, who narrated how Bhagawan proved His omnipresence and provided instant relief to him when once he had suffered from an excruciating chest pain. The grand finale of the Chinese New Year celebrations was a thrilling dance presentation entitled "Kung Fu Master Dance," by the Sai Study Group and Nanyang Zhi Hui School, Medan, Indonesia. After these dances by boys and girls, the Chinese devotees sang melodious *bhajans*.

– Sathya Sai International Organisation





“Love is God, live in love. The door of the heart cannot be opened with any other key. To get this key of love, you have to have unity. Hate none. You should be averse to none. Place love in your heart. Share it freely with others.”

**–Sri Sathya Sai Baba
26th September 2000**



Trinidad & Tobago



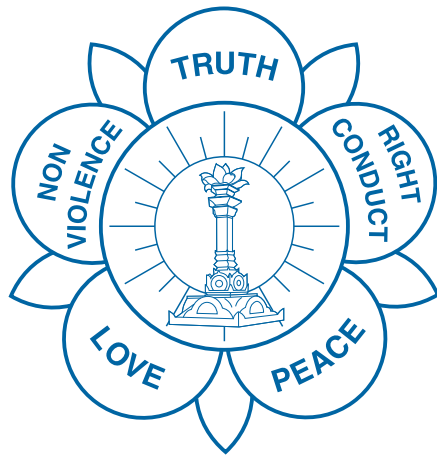
Italy



Indonesia



Germany



Love All - Serve All