

**SATHYA SAI**  
**INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018**

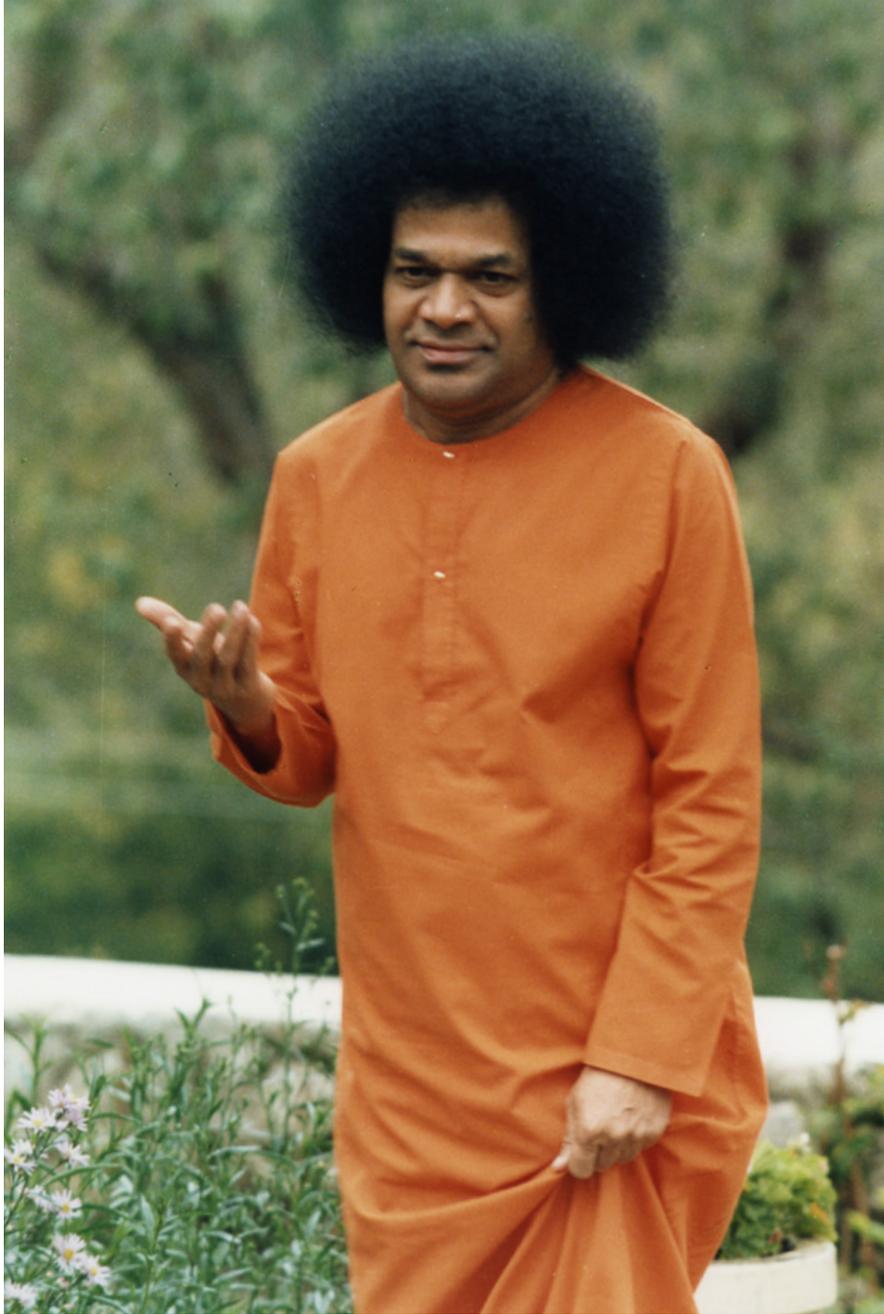


“

Love alone can reveal the Divinity latent in all. Love is God. Live in love. Love lives by giving and forgiving; Self lives by getting and forgetting. Love is selflessness; Selfishness is lovelessness. Do not waste your life pursuing the narrow interests of the self. Love! Love! Become what you truly are—the embodiments of love.

—Sathya Sai Baba, 25 December 1979

”



DEDICATED WITH LOVE AND REVERENCE TO  
**SRI SATHYA SAI BABA**



“ Live in love; love is life. Without loving or being loved, no being can exist on the Earth. Love sustains, love strengthens, love is the urge behind all adventure, all sacrifice, all success.

–Sathya Sai Baba, 1 August 1971”

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**sathyasai.org**

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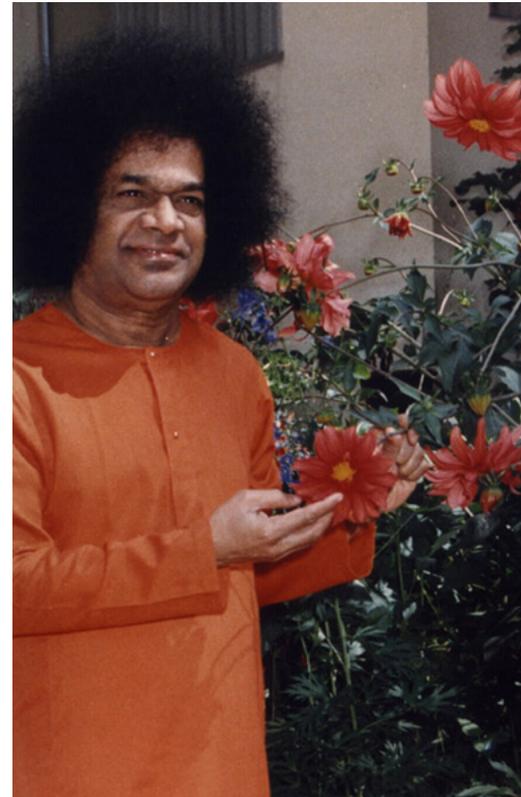


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# FOREWORD

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*Love more and more people, love them more and more intensely; transform the love into service, transform the service into worship; that is the highest spiritual practice.*

–Sathya Sai Baba, 26 March 1965

With love and humility, members of the Sathya Sai International Organisation (SSIO) offer the 2017–18 Annual Report at the divine lotus feet of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba during His Birthday celebrations. We are blessed and fortunate to be contemporaries of the Avatar, whose life, message, ideals and humanitarian works can all be enshrined in one word, *Love*. He gave the universal and eternal message, “Love is the Source, Love is the Path, Love is the Goal” for our redemption, so that we realise our true nature, *Love*. In this day and age, people are caught up in the worldwide web: *www* – wealth, wealth and wealth. Like the earth going around the sun, from dawn to dusk, people are in pursuit of wealth, which is the reason for the afflictions, grief and lack of peace that haunt us. In His infinite love for humanity, Bhagawan has shown the path of WWW: Work (*karma yoga*), Worship (*bhakti yoga*) and Wisdom (*jnana yoga*) to attain freedom, joy and peace.

For the first time in the annals of humankind, the Avatar, Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba has lent His name to this sacred organisation, which functions in 120 countries, offering solace and spiritual guidance to millions of people around the world. Thousands of Sathya Sai Centres and Groups practise the teachings of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba through the principles of work, worship and self-inquiry.

The Sathya Sai Centre and Group members engage in various selfless service activities, such as healthcare for the needy; providing food, water, supplies and shelter, where needed most; and disaster relief efforts following hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, fires, and so on. In addition, SSIO members engage in devotional activities and educational programmes for the purification of the heart and enlightenment. Members of the SSIO not only practise fundamental human values—Sathya (Truth), Dharma (Right Conduct), Shanti (Peace), Prema (Love) and Ahimsa (Nonviolence) but also share these values through various initiatives with members of their communities.

It is always important to remind ourselves that the purpose of all spiritual activities, including service, worship and Self-inquiry is the purification of the heart. Baba said, "Purity is enlightenment", and Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." When we live in Love we experience unity in diversity and oneness of all creation. Swami says, "Unity is Divinity." Then, we realise that every atom, every element, every cell and all creation is permeated by the divine. When we attain this state of oneness, we live in eternal bliss (*Ananda*).

I am happy to see that many young adults have taken leadership roles and have taken His message to heart and serve the community and the Sathya Sai Organisations earnestly through several initiatives.

This Annual Report provides glimpses of the loving, heart-warming, selfless services being rendered by SSIO members. I urge everyone to make the best use of this opportunity to actively participate in the divine mission as instruments of love to sanctify our lives and realise our innate divinity.

I offer my gratitude to Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and fellow members of the SSIO for the blessed opportunity to be part of this divine mission.

Jai Sai Ram.

Narendranath Reddy, M.D.  
Chairman, Prasanthi Council  
Sathya Sai International Organisation

“

Sathya Sai Organisations have been established to enable man to rediscover the path to divinity.

—Sathya Sai Baba, 21 November 1988

”

# SELECTED WEBSITES OF THE SSIO

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This Annual Report gives highlights of SSIO activities for the period April 2017 – March 2018 in 120 countries. Beyond the contents of this report, further information about the programmes of the SSIO may be obtained by visiting the three website links below.

**Sathya Sai International Organisation (SSIO) – <http://sathyasai.org>**

Official central website and directory of the SSIO, containing information on events, special projects, publications, official communications and much more. Links to zonal, regional and country websites of the SSIO are also listed and updated periodically.

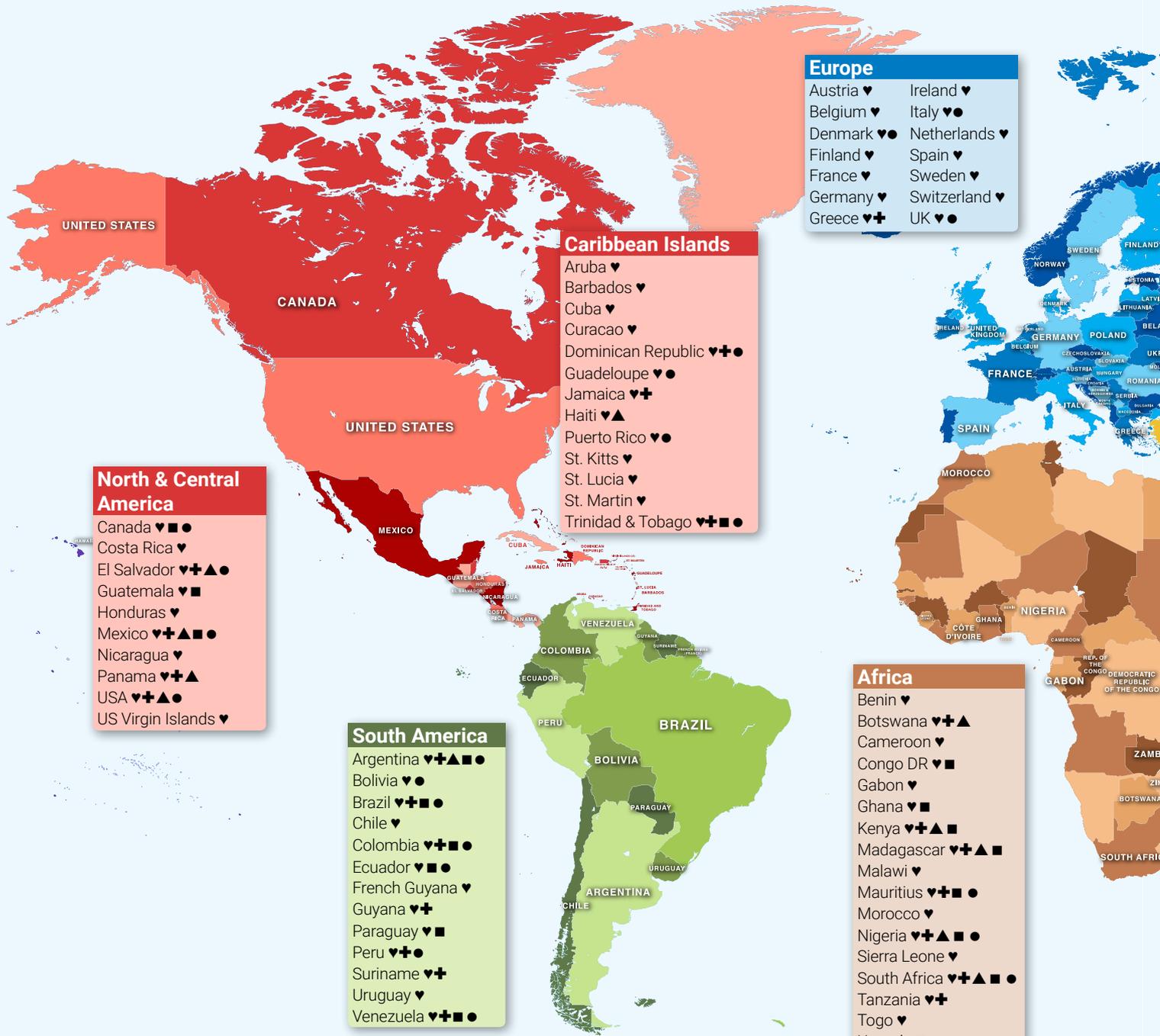
**Sathya Sai Universe – <http://saiuniverse.sathyasai.org>**

Official SSIO website reporting service, educational and spiritual activities from around the world, on an ongoing basis.

**Humanitarian Relief – <http://sathyasaihumanitarianrelief.org>**

Official SSIO website with information on major humanitarian relief service projects supported by the SSIO.

# ACTIVITIES OF THE SATHYA SAI INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION



- ### North & Central America
- Canada ♥■●
  - Costa Rica ♥
  - El Salvador ♥+▲●
  - Guatemala ♥■
  - Honduras ♥
  - Mexico ♥+▲■●
  - Nicaragua ♥
  - Panama ♥+▲
  - USA ♥+▲●
  - US Virgin Islands ♥

- ### South America
- Argentina ♥+▲■●
  - Bolivia ♥●
  - Brazil ♥+■●
  - Chile ♥
  - Colombia ♥+■●
  - Ecuador ♥■●
  - French Guyana ♥
  - Guyana ♥+
  - Paraguay ♥■
  - Peru ♥+●
  - Suriname ♥+
  - Uruguay ♥
  - Venezuela ♥+■●

- ### Caribbean Islands
- Aruba ♥
  - Barbados ♥
  - Cuba ♥
  - Curacao ♥
  - Dominican Republic ♥+●
  - Guadeloupe ♥●
  - Jamaica ♥+
  - Haiti ♥▲
  - Puerto Rico ♥●
  - St. Kitts ♥
  - St. Lucia ♥
  - St. Martin ♥
  - Trinidad & Tobago ♥+■●

- ### Europe
- Austria ♥
  - Belgium ♥
  - Denmark ♥●
  - Finland ♥
  - France ♥
  - Germany ♥
  - Greece ♥+
  - Ireland ♥
  - Italy ♥●
  - Netherlands ♥
  - Spain ♥
  - Sweden ♥
  - Switzerland ♥
  - UK ♥●

- ### Africa
- Benin ♥
  - Botswana ♥+▲
  - Cameroon ♥
  - Congo DR ♥■
  - Gabon ♥
  - Ghana ♥■
  - Kenya ♥+▲■
  - Madagascar ♥+▲■
  - Malawi ♥
  - Mauritius ♥+■●
  - Morocco ♥
  - Nigeria ♥+▲■●
  - Sierra Leone ♥
  - South Africa ♥+▲■●
  - Tanzania ♥+
  - Togo ♥
  - Uganda ♥
  - Zambia ♥+■
  - Zimbabwe ♥

- ### Legend
- + Medical Camp
  - ▲ Medical Clinic, Mobile Clinic, Hospice
  - Institute of Sathya Sai Education
  - Sathya Sai School
  - ♥ Sai Centre/Group, Community Service

### Europe

- Belarus ♥
- Bosnia & Herzegovina ♥
- Croatia ♥+
- Czech Republic ♥
- Estonia ♥
- Hungary ♥
- Latvia ♥
- Lithuania ♥
- Macedonia ♥
- Moldova ♥
- Montenegro ♥
- Poland ♥+
- Romania ♥
- Russia ♥+
- Serbia ♥
- Slovakia ♥
- Slovenia ♥
- Ukraine ♥+

### Asia

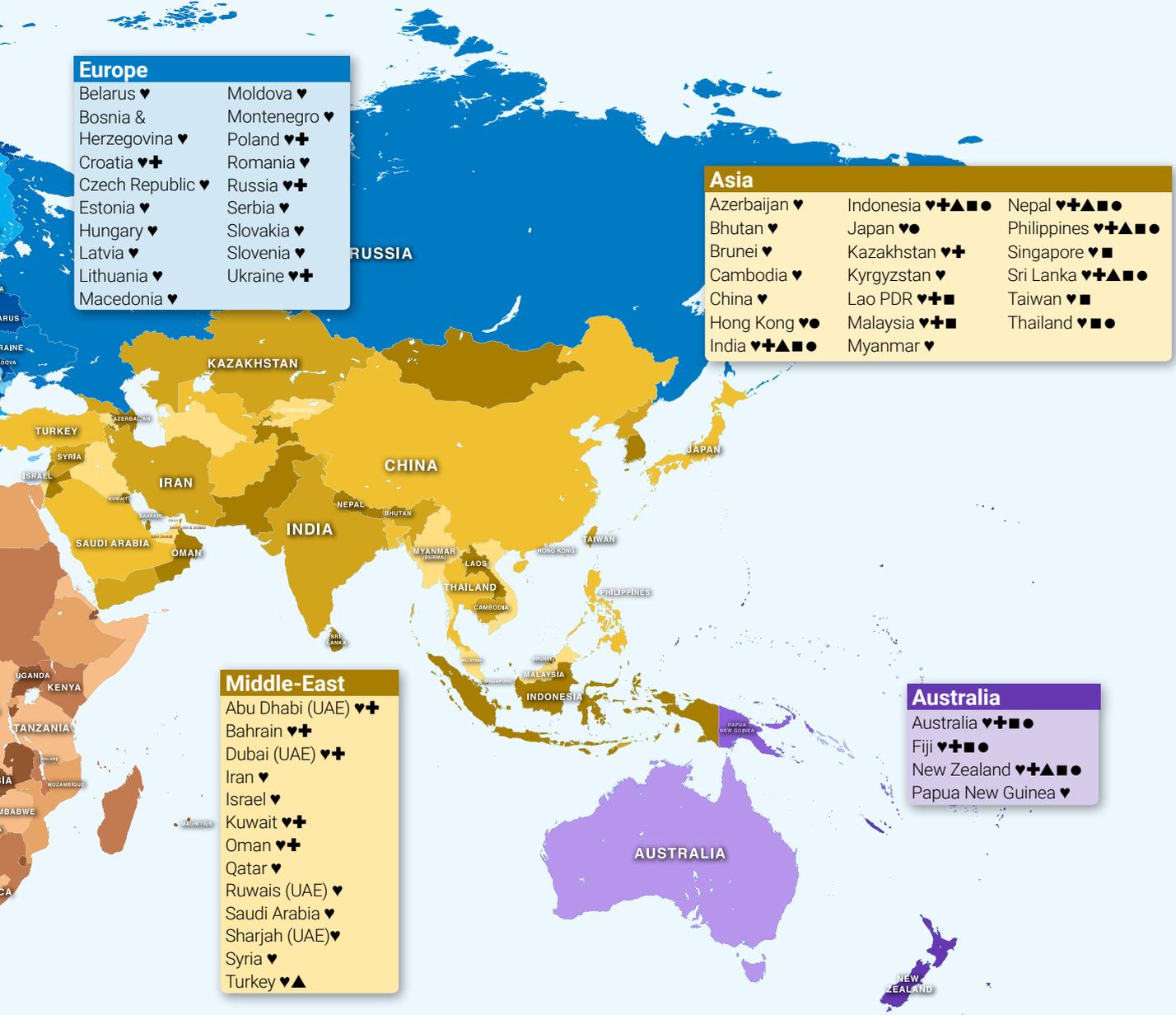
- Azerbaijan ♥
- Bhutan ♥
- Brunei ♥
- Cambodia ♥
- China ♥
- Hong Kong ♥
- India ♥+
- Indonesia ♥+
- Japan ♥
- Kazakhstan ♥+
- Kyrgyzstan ♥
- Lao PDR ♥+
- Malaysia ♥+
- Myanmar ♥
- Nepal ♥+
- Philippines ♥+
- Singapore ♥
- Sri Lanka ♥+
- Taiwan ♥
- Thailand ♥

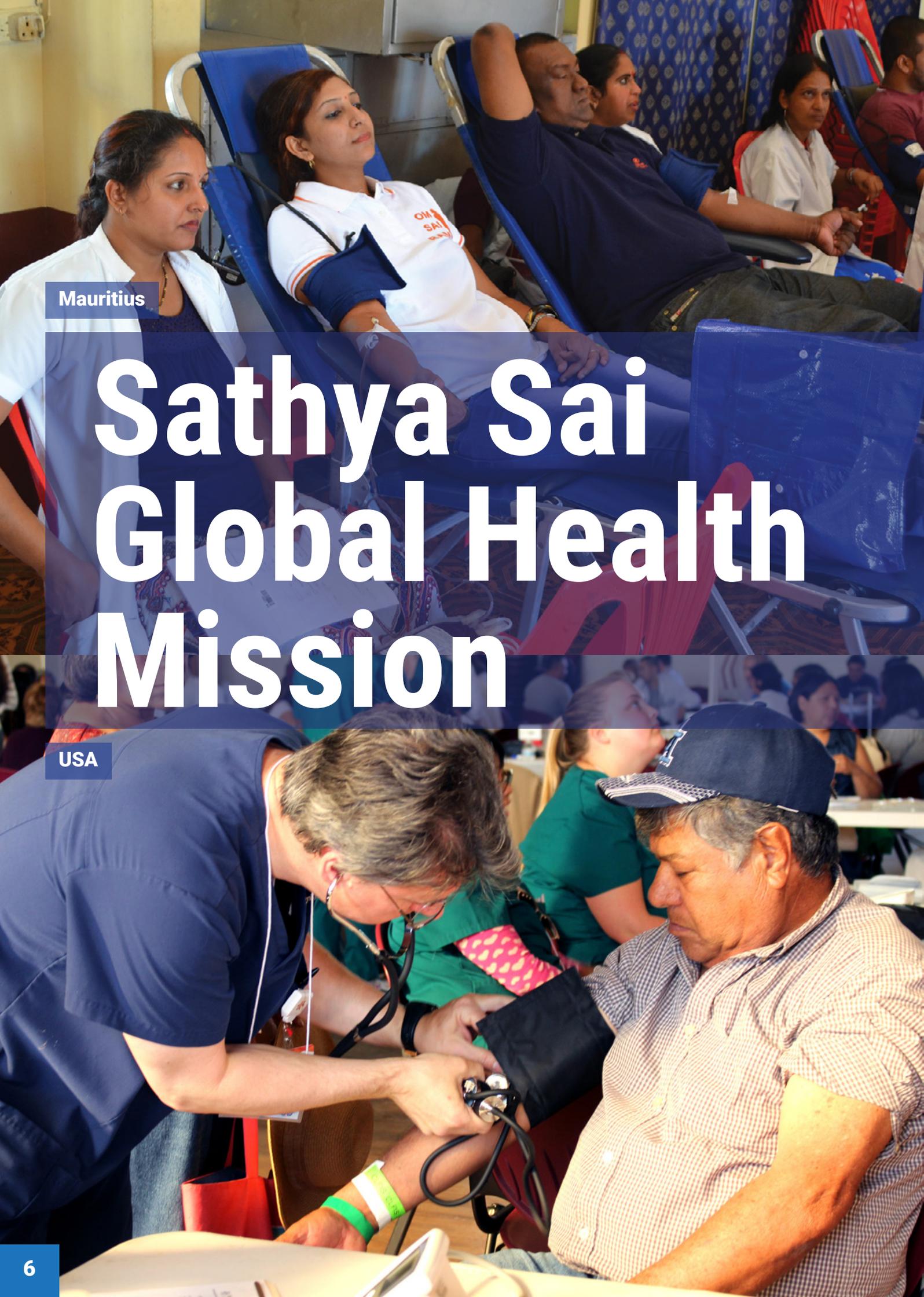
### Middle-East

- Abu Dhabi (UAE) ♥+
- Bahrain ♥+
- Dubai (UAE) ♥+
- Iran ♥
- Israel ♥
- Kuwait ♥+
- Oman ♥+
- Qatar ♥
- Ruwais (UAE) ♥
- Saudi Arabia ♥
- Sharjah (UAE) ♥
- Syria ♥
- Turkey ♥

### Australia

- Australia ♥+
- Fiji ♥+
- New Zealand ♥+
- Papua New Guinea ♥





Mauritius

# Sathya Sai Global Health Mission

USA

# SATHYA SAI GLOBAL HEALTH MISSION

Sathya Sai Ideal Healthcare is based on the six principles of universal, comprehensive, preventive, prompt, free and loving healthcare. SSIO volunteers around the world provide free, high-quality healthcare, adhering strictly to these principles. The organisation undertakes activities to practise, facilitate, continue and promote Sathya Sai Baba's ongoing global healthcare mission and also coordinates humanitarian relief efforts in countries afflicted by natural disasters. Medical service activities include the following eight categories, followed by regional examples of various humanitarian services world-wide.

1. Medical and dental rotations of doctors and other healthcare professionals in Sri Sathya Sai hospitals and medical camps in Prasanthi Nilayam.
2. Medical, dental and veterinary camps.
3. Mobile and permanent medical clinics.
4. Specialised procedures and surgeries (including eye, dental, cardiac and gynaecological surgeries, urological and endoscopic procedures).
5. Blood and bone marrow donations drives.
6. Medical relief following natural disasters.
7. Telemedicine – patient care, education and teaching programmes for physicians and other healthcare professionals, including Sri Sathya Sai medical institutes.
8. Medical conferences.



## 01

### **ZONE 1** **Guyana**

Eleven doctors from Guyana and USA, along with local nurses, administrative staff and numerous volunteers conducted 17 fibroid and five urological surgeries at the Berbice Public Hospital in Guyana from 23<sup>rd</sup>–31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 as part of the Fibroid and Urological Surgery Project, an initiative begun in 2013.

### **Trinidad & Tobago**

On 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018, SSIO volunteers in Trinidad & Tobago organised a Health and Wellness Fair at the Dow Village Government Primary School. Approximately 80 individuals received medical and dental check-ups, eye screening, professional counselling services, medicines and advice related to parenting.

### **Canada**

In Canada, 318 volunteers donated 298 units of blood at three clinics.



## 01

### USA

SSIO volunteers in the USA served 2,024 patients at five permanent free medical clinics around the country, including two in California, one in Colorado, one in Florida and one in New Jersey. At an eye camp in St. Petersburg, Florida, 103 patients received vision screening, with 80 patients receiving prescription eyeglasses. At an annual podiatry camp in St. Petersburg on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2017, 209 patients were served. At the Sathya Sai Free Health Check and Education Camp held in the Holy Trinity Church-Parish Center in St. Ann, Missouri, 139 volunteers including 37 healthcare professionals rendered selfless service to 201 people, including 82 children. At the annual Corona-Norco Health Screening Day in Corona, California, 544 needy patients received primary care, vision and dental services. In total, Sathya Sai volunteers served 3,594 needy people at 22 medical, dental, vision and podiatry camps across the USA.

A highlight of the year was a second Sathya Sai International Medical Conference held on 2<sup>nd</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> September 2017 in Anaheim, California. About 400 healthcare professionals, including 150 young adult healthcare professionals, from 21 countries, participated in the conference. Awards were given to many volunteers in recognition of their selfless service in the Sathya Sai Global Health Mission.



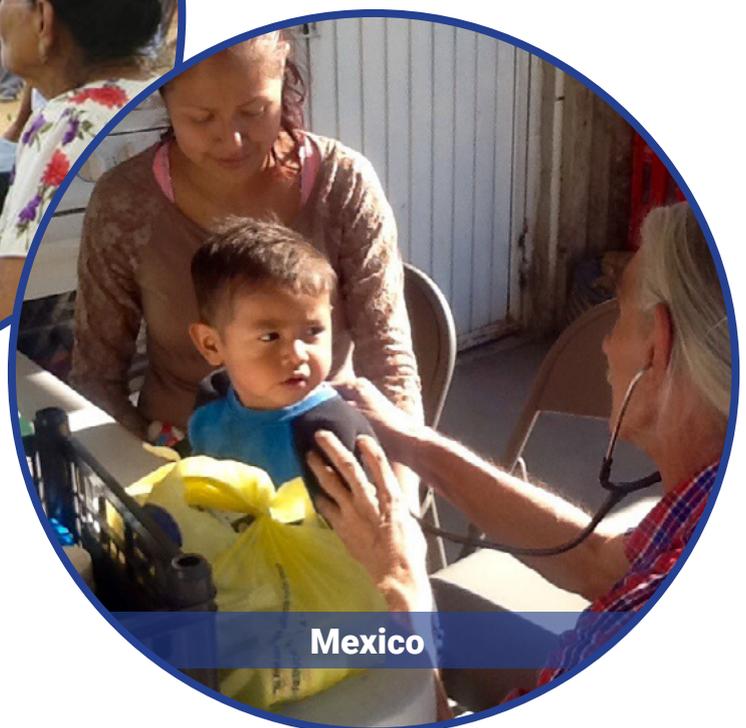
## 2A

### **ZONE 2A El Salvador**

Every Saturday, neurology, cardiology and psychology specialists at the Sathya Sai Health Care Clinic in San Salvador provided free consultations. About 329 needy people were seen during this reporting period.

### **Mexico**

A total of 14 medical camps were conducted around Mexico, serving 434 patients during the year. In addition, a permanent medical clinic operated at the Sathya Sai Community Service Centre in Iztapalapa, benefiting 4,141 patients.



## 2B

### **ZONE 2B** **Argentina**

Permanent medical clinics in González Catán, Florencio Varela, Las Talitas, San Marcos Sierra, Chuña, Los Oleros and Posadas served approximately 2,580 patients during the year.

### **Brazil**

Sathya Sai volunteers organised a medical camp for underprivileged residents of the rural community of Queimadas in northeast Brazil on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Approximately 400 indigent people of all ages from 108 families were screened at the camp, including 50 students from the local municipal school.

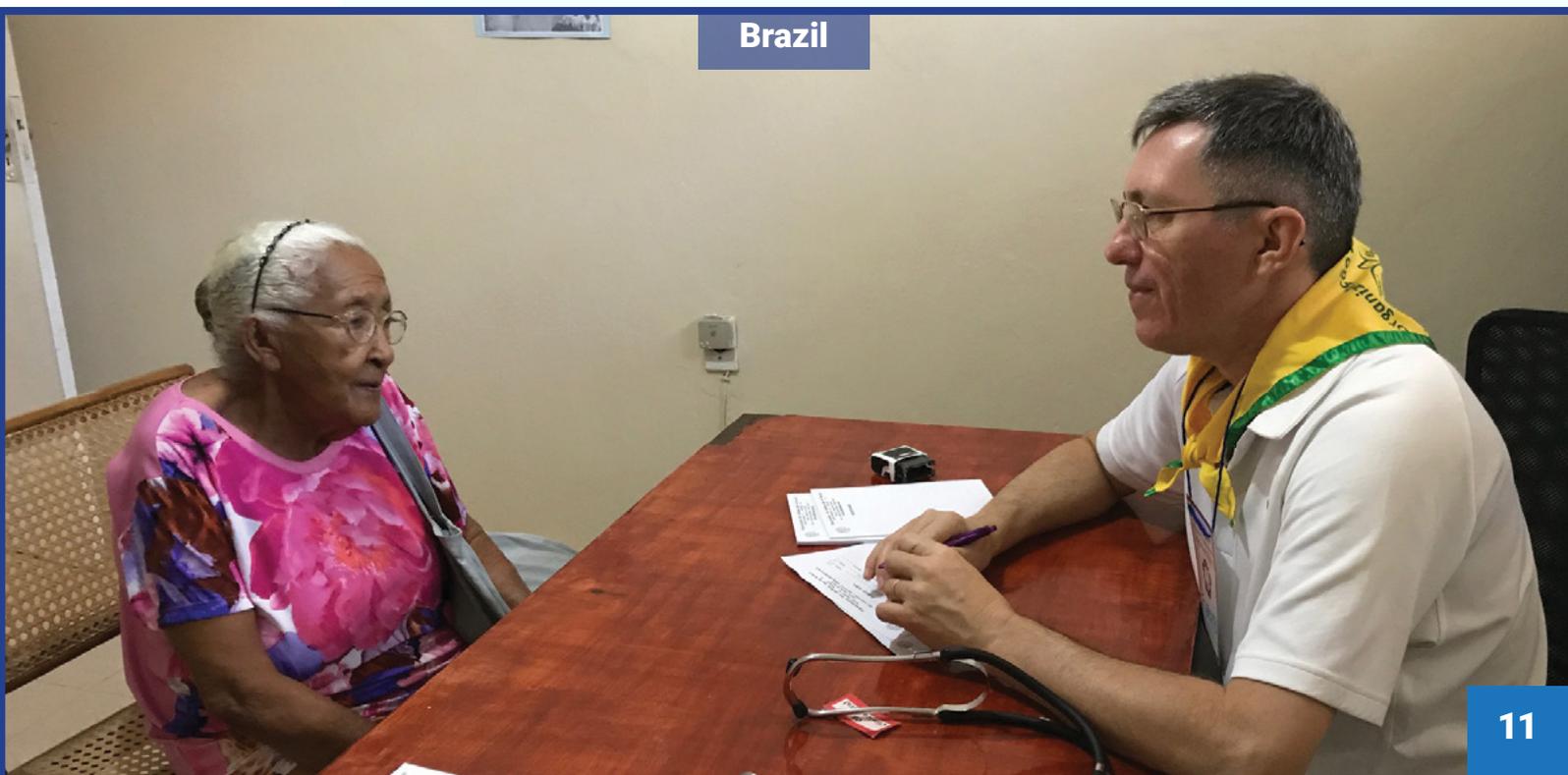
### **Colombia**

Approximately 333 patients received services at the medical clinic in Medellín between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 16<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

### **Peru**

SSIO volunteers in Peru provided healthcare services throughout the year for indigent families from four villages in San Francisco, Villa María del Triunfo, south of Lima. About 175 villagers received services in general medicine, dentistry and psychology, along with vegetarian meals. Workshops on human values were given to the children.

#### **Brazil**



## 03

### ZONE 3 Australia

Senior citizens often suffer from illness due to lack of health awareness. The SSIO of Australia organised a Healthy Ageing Workshop on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017 in Canberra, to promote healthy living for the elderly. These workshops, the first of their kind, drew 106 people, including caregivers and seniors. The workshops provided information on handling age-related health issues effectively and suggested ways that medical professionals, nurses and others could serve elderly patients more efficiently.

In the New South Wales Region East, the Ladies Wing hosted an educational workshop to examine social issues associated with domestic violence, in support of women's mental health. About 35 women attended the workshop and discussed the importance of practising the five human values to counteract violence and promote peace and harmony at home.



## 03

### Fiji

Health services are not readily accessible in Fiji, home to many low-income residents. Between 29<sup>th</sup> April and 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017, 91 healthcare professionals and volunteers provided services to 2,765 patients at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Medical Camp in Fiji. The services included 507 dental examinations and 627 dental extractions. The ophthalmology department served 1,133 patients, providing eyeglasses to 1,002 patients. In addition, medical professionals provided primary and secondary preventive healthcare to patients in health clinics and screened patients for breast cancer, cervical cancer and other noncommunicable diseases.

Between 13<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> August 2017, SSIO volunteers organised medical camps at the Bulileka Sanatan College and Bocalevu Muslim Primary School on the island of Vanua Levu, serving 1,754 patients. In addition, 349 patients received dental care, along with education about oral hygiene. Those who needed additional care were referred to Labasa Dental Hospital for further treatment. A surgical team conducted nine major procedures at two local hospitals. Medical seminars were also organised for local general practitioners, healthcare workers and students at the Sangam Nursing School on 13<sup>th</sup> August and at the Umanand Prasad School of Health Sciences on the island of Viti Levu on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2017.



## 04

### **ZONE 4 Malaysia**

In 2017, the SSIO of Malaysia organised 39 general health screening and medical and dental camps for people who cannot afford or access health-care. In addition, 3,148 pints of blood were collected during a blood donation campaign. The SSIO Malaysia is one of the top three contributors to the National Blood Bank in Malaysia.

### **Nepal**

The Sri Sathya Sai Free Mobile Clinic began operating on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016 and served over 3,224 needy people at five medical clinics around Nepal in 2017. SSIO volunteers also donated 1925 pints of blood at 94 different blood donation camps. Kanti Bal Hospital, the only government hospital for children in Kathmandu, recognised the SSIO of Nepal for providing selfless service.

### **Sri Lanka**

SSIO volunteers in Sri Lanka screened 287 patients in eye care camps in Trincomalee, Mutur and Verugal, with support from the Vision of Love programme of the United Kingdom. SSIO doctors also performed cataract surgeries on 181 patients. The Sri Sathya Sai Suva Sevana Cancer Hospice, in Hanwella near Colombo, has served more than 450 cancer patients since its inception on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2002.



Sri Lanka

## 04

### Vietnam

SSIO doctors and volunteers from Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand hosted a comprehensive three-day medical and dental camp in Hue Province, in central Vietnam, from 9<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> August 2017. The doctors conducted 812 medical consultations and 262 dental procedures, in addition to counselling and performing minor procedures. The volunteers informed local residents about general hygiene, healthy living, oral cancer awareness, dental hygiene and proper techniques of brushing teeth.



Vietnam

Vietnam

# SATHYA SAI GLOBAL HEALTH MISSION

## OVERVIEW OF MEDICAL SERVICES RENDERED IN THE COUNTRIES OF ZONE 4

COUNTRY	PATIENTS IN MEDICAL CAMPS	PATIENTS IN MEDICAL CLINICS	PATIENTS IN MOBILE CLINICS	BLOOD COLLECTION (PINTS)
Indonesia	1,662	16,091	18,691	1,073
Laos	832	405		114
Malaysia	10,325			3,148
Myanmar	804			
Nepal	5,254*	19,150	3,224	1,925
Philippines	2,902	8,854		
Singapore				86
Sri Lanka	3,266**	4,535		58
Vietnam	2,093			

\* Includes 24 in eye and ear camps (11 cataract surgeries)

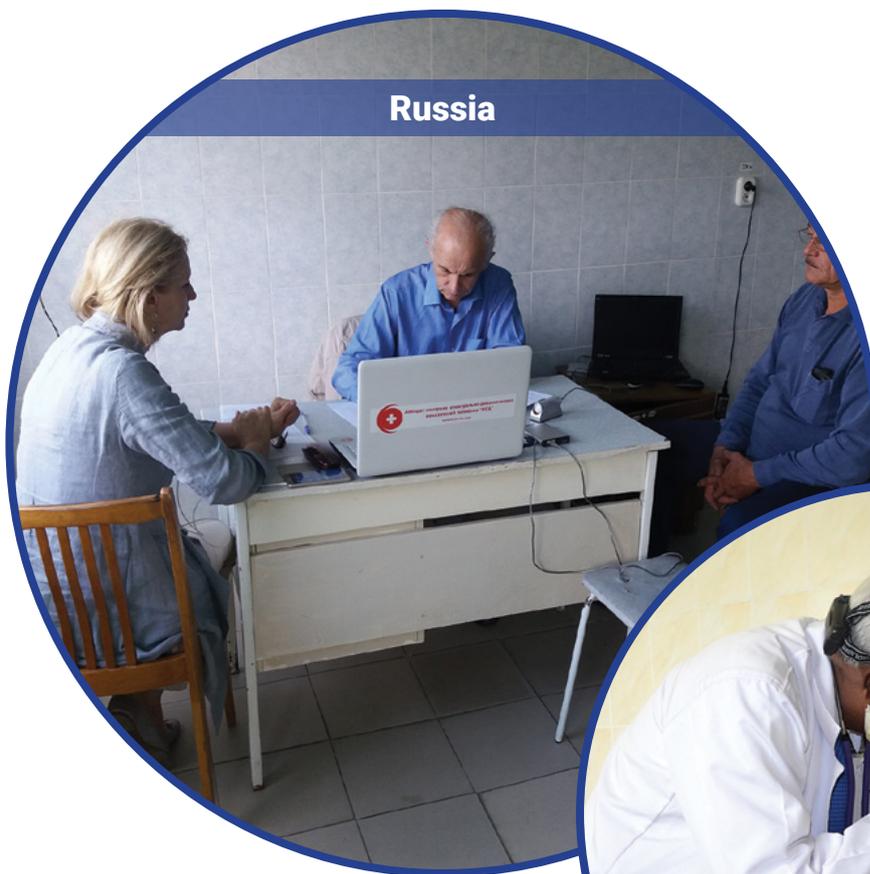
\*\* Includes 287 in eye camps (181 cataract surgeries)



## 08

### ZONE 8 Russia

SSIO volunteers organised three medical camps. In August 2017, 162 SSIO medical professionals and volunteers from five countries provided loving services to about 3,852 patients from seven villages in the Ural region. The 64-member medical team included 25 doctors representing 14 specialties, along with 17 interpreters. Volunteers also distributed three wheelchairs and more than 900 pairs of eyeglasses.



## 9A

### **ZONE 9A Botswana**

The Sathya Sai Clinic in Botswana has served the community of Gaborone for 12 years. On 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017, the clinic launched a public outreach programme. The Honourable Minister of Territory Education was the keynote speaker.

On 25<sup>th</sup> June 2017, 659 students from 10 senior schools in Gaborone were screened at an annual Sathya Sai Student Vision Camp organised by the Sathya Sai Clinic in Botswana – 353 students received eyeglasses and a further 64 were referred for specialist examination. During this year, a team of 21 medical doctors, supported by 50 nonmedical volunteers, provided loving services to 3,346 patients at the clinic.

### **Kenya**

More than 13,000 patients were served at the free medical and dental clinic in Nairobi. SSIO volunteers organised a medical camp in Kisaju, serving 360 patients. In Mombasa, the Sai Vision project provides free cataract surgeries in collaboration with the Lions Medical Centre in Mombasa. This year, 1,063 patients were seen at six vision camps.



## 9A

### **Mauritius**

More than 4,993 pints of blood were collected in 53 blood drives organised by the SSIO in Mauritius. The organisation has been recognised by the Ministry of Health as the front-runner in blood collection in Mauritius, satisfying more than 10% of the need for blood in the country.

### **South Africa**

In South Africa, SSIO volunteers organised 98 medical camps and nine wellness camps during 2017, serving 7,727 patients who received medical, dental and vision care. The SSIO of South Africa also hosted 184 blood donation drives during which 10,038 people donated 8,118 pints of blood. The South Africa National Blood Transfusion Services recognised the SSIO of South Africa as the single largest donor of blood in the nation.

### **Tanzania**

Eighty-three children were screened at a medical camp for blind and physically-challenged children in a school adopted by the Sathya Sai Centre of Tanzania. Eight children regained partial vision with visual aids and were recommended for surgery. In addition, 14 children received medication for vitamin deficiency, eye and ear problems, and a few children were treated with antibiotics for infections.



## 9B

### **ZONE 9B**

SSIO members from Zone 9B donated a 13-seat vehicle to Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Prasanthi Nilayam to facilitate transportation of blood donors to the hospital.

### **Bahrain**

On 21<sup>st</sup> July and 18<sup>th</sup> August 2017, 160 volunteers donated blood at two camps organised by the SSIO.

### **Kuwait**

On 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017, 467 patients were screened and treated by 78 SSIO volunteers under the patronage of the Indian Dental Alliance, Kuwait, and the Indian Doctors Forum, Kuwait. Medical services included blood pressure checks blood tests, and urine tests, followed by consultations with specialists in cardiology, dentistry, medicine, ENT, orthopaedics, surgery, ophthalmology and urology.



## 9B

### Oman

More than 700 patients benefitted from monthly health awareness camps in Oman, and 560 pairs of eyeglasses were distributed to needy patients. In addition to basic health checks and health awareness campaigns, one camp offered dental consultations and check-ups to 49 patients. Six SSIO volunteers periodically visited patients at the Sohar and Khoula hospitals, to help with administrative matters such as insurance claims and communicating with patients' family members for emotional support.

### United Arab Emirates

On 21<sup>st</sup> July and 18<sup>th</sup> August 2017, 92 patients received health awareness presentations and preventive healthcare in two health awareness camps held for labourers in Abu Dhabi. In Dubai, 220 volunteers donated 170 units of blood at quarterly blood donation camps organised by SSIO volunteers at the Sheikh Latifa Hospital.

Oman





## United Kingdom

In partnership with the National Health Service and other national non-profit organisations, SSIO members in the United Kingdom conducted Health Awareness Days on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 9<sup>th</sup> July, 10<sup>th</sup> September and 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017. These events served to raise awareness of commonly occurring illnesses and preventive measures through approximately 1,954 consultations during this reporting period.

## SERVICES IN PRASANTHI NILAYAM

Healthcare professionals from around the world volunteered in medical and dental rotations of doctors at the Sri Sathya Sai hospitals and in medical camps held in Prasanthi Nilayam. The SSIO coordinated medical and dental rotations of overseas doctors and dentists in the Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital and the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences in Whitefield and Puttaparthi, along with conducting medical camps in Prasanthi Nilayam twice a year during Guru Pournima and Birthday celebrations. Volunteers from 12 countries served at a medical camp organised in Puttaparthi between 14<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017 for Guru Pournima, and volunteers from 19 countries rendered services between 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November 2017 to coincide with the annual Birthday Celebrations.

## CONCLUSION

Thousands of SSIO medical professionals and volunteers around the world continue to organise and provide Sathya Sai Ideal Healthcare to the under-served, needy and destitute. Each year, the free services expand to provide more and more people with quality care and to share Sathya Sai Baba's love with all – consistent with the Sathya Sai Global Health Mission.

# SATHYA SAI GLOBAL HEALTH MISSION



Prasanthi Nilayam



United Kingdom



Prasanthi Nilayam



Thailand

# Sathya Sai Education



Fiji

# SATHYA SAI EDUCATION

Based on Sathya Sai Baba's teachings, Sathya Sai Education gives equal importance to spirituality, human values, character and educational achievements. Guided and blessed by Sathya Sai Baba, 44 Sathya Sai Schools and 30 Institutes of Sathya Sai Education (ISSE) now conduct Sathya Sai Education in Human Values (SSEHV) programmes around the world. The Education Committee is working to accredit all Sathya Sai Schools around the world by initiating a self-review process followed by scheduled visits to the schools. This report briefly summarises the educational activities in the SSIO, ISSEs, and Sathya Sai Schools around the world.

Canada



Trinidad & Tobago



## 01

### ZONE 1

**USA:** A National Sai Spiritual Education (SSE) Enrichment programme was launched in the USA, with training and resources offered to SSE teachers and coordinators. SSE students participated in an SSIO International Medical Conference poster exhibition, concurrent with the launch of a Child2Child Health Education programme open to all children. The ISSE-USA introduced a nationwide training model and conducted SSEHV Courses I & II, workshops and online webinars. In coordination with the Public Outreach Committee, ISSE-USA conducted a Human Values Fest, a family-centric festival that drew nearly 500 people, expanding awareness of the five human values and the practice of love and service in the community.

**Canada:** The Sathya Sai School celebrated the opening of a new permanent facility. Educators, SSIO members and government dignitaries attended, along with teachers, volunteers, parents and well-wishers.

**West Indies:** The SSIO School in Trinidad and Tobago won a national non-violence poster competition. ISSE West Indies has developed a life skills programme for teens, young adults and beyond. The Prime Minister of Barbados, Hon. Freundel Stuart, Q.C., P.M., spoke about the outstanding work of the Sathya Sai School in building character and promoting religious tolerance and love in the society.



## 2A & 2B

### ZONE 2A& 2B

**Mexico:** The Sathya Sai School in Chihuahua is nearing completion. Another Sathya Sai School is in Cuernavaca, about 50 km south of the capital.

**Guatemala:** A national volleyball team that trains at the National Sports Centre two blocks from the Sathya Sai School comprises of students exclusively from the Sathya Sai School. The national table tennis champion is also a student of the School.

**El Salvador:** The ISSE in El Salvador printed an album comprising of collected cards on human values. Prizes will be awarded to different schools contributing to the album.

**Haiti:** More than 70 teachers in Haiti participated in an SSEHV training in August 2017. The first training was organised in the capital, Port-au-Prince, with 47 participants, and a second training session was later held in Saint-Marc.

**Venezuela:** The Sathya Sai School has continuously served as an example of love and sacrifice despite the poor economic conditions in the country.

**Peru:** An International Forum on Human Values in Education was held in Lima, attended by about 400 teachers, in the beautiful Peru National Library building. Dr. Dharam Pal Dhall, Co-Chair of the SSIO Education Committee, received a Medal of Honour in recognition of his lifelong contribution to education.

**Bolivia:** The ISSE organised a Latin America Inter-Institute Diploma course, gathering 22 students from eight countries and facilitators from different ISSEs, from Mexico to Argentina.

**Brazil:** SSEHV projects were developed by more than 15 branches of the ISSE, three Sathya Sai Schools, and Sathya Sai Centres and Groups. The Sathya Sai School in Ribeirão Preto inaugurated a cover for its sports arena with special guests from the alumni of Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning in India.

# SATHYA SAI EDUCATION

## 2A

**Paraguay:** A renovation project at the Sathya Sai School, 'Droplets of Light,' is nearing completion. The school has operated since 2002 in Asunción, the capital city.

## &

**Ecuador:** The SSIO educators conducted SSEHV workshops for parents and members of law enforcement, who greatly appreciated it.

## 2B

**Argentina:** The Sathya Sai – Mahatma Gandhi School was recognised for ranking first in the study of Spanish and mathematics among all schools in Buenos Aires.



## 03

### ZONE 3

**Australia:** The Sathya Sai School and ISSE of Australia organised an Education Conference with renowned international speakers. The National SSE programme organised training courses for teachers, parents and children, with a focus on training Sathya Sai Young Adult teachers.

**Fiji:** The Sathya Sai School was accredited by the SSIO Education Committee.

**New Zealand:** The Sathya Sai Pre-School in Auckland was accredited by the SSIO Education Committee.



## 04

### ZONE 4

**Malaysia:** The Sathya Sai Academy for Human Values (Academy) created a programme to prevent Drugs, Alcohol, Relationship issues, Time wastage and Smoking (D.A.R.T.S.) amongst youth and school children. The Academy, University of Malaya, Friendship Group for Inter-Religious Service (FGIS) and Utusan Online, a leading Malay language newspaper, signed a Memorandum of Agreement. On 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017, an estimated 1,000 people participated in a Walk for Values, themed 'Let's Save Mother Earth,' organised by the Sathya Sai Primary School of Malaysia.

**Philippines:** SSE students created and exhibited art pieces inspired by images visualised during silent sitting. Students graduating from the Sathya Sai School won the first prize at the Rizal Private School Association (RIPRISA) Academic Competition.

**Nepal:** Nepal has two Sathya Sai Schools. The Sri Sathya Sai Shiksha Sadan School at Kathmandu and the Sri Sathya Sai Vidyashram School at Pokhara, both of which are being expanded to accommodate more students. Currently, 12,571 SSE students study under the guidance of 1,081 teachers. The ISSE of Nepal has trained 4,000 teachers under the National Centre for Educational Development (NCED) by the Government of Nepal. It has also provided two days of SSEHV trainings to 14,000 school teachers.

**Sri Lanka:** The ISSE of Sri Lanka conducted a diploma course for 26 teachers. A total of 125 teachers have been trained and are integrating human values in different schools. For the last four years, weekly SSEHV classes have been held at a certified school run by the department of Probation and Child Corrections. The Sathya Sai School in Northern Sri Lanka organised an interfaith conference attended by the Chief Minister and the Governor of the Northern Province.

**Thailand:** The Sathya Sai School has 346 students as well as 66 teachers and is self-sufficient in producing its own biodiesel, six tons of organic rice annually, and 40% of vegetables and fruits consumed. The school receives more than 2,000 visitors each year. Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindorn presented the Sathya Sai Secondary School with the Royal School Award, which is the most prestigious award for schools in Thailand.

## 04

**Indonesia:** On invitation from the Stella Maris School, one of the biggest Catholic Affiliation Schools in Tangerang, ISSE trainers had conducted a project called 'Wisata Rumah Ibadah' (Houses of Worship Excursion), introducing tolerance and unity among religions.

**Singapore:** The SSE programme has over 600 students and 130 dedicated teachers. Special parenting and SSEHV certificate training sessions were also conducted. A Human Values Drama Festival was conducted for secondary schools in Singapore. The Sathya Sai KG school has received accreditation.

**Cambodia:** SSE classes are held weekly at the Sathya Sai Centre. Thirty children are given food and taught English along with human values lessons.

**Myanmar:** SSEHV classes have been started for the first time in Myanmar. More than 500 students at a private school are offered a weekly SSEHV course.



## 05

### ZONE 5

**Hong Kong:** The ISSE of Hong Kong introduced SSEHV in Yunnan, a fifth Chinese province. A two-year teachers' training programme for seven schools has commenced with participation from the local university and education bureau personnel.

**China:** Teachers from Guangzhou, China, who possess skills in integrating SSEHV across the curriculum, travelled with the ISSE to Qinghai Province, where they conducted demonstration lessons for local teachers. Postgraduate students from two universities in China attended a three-day advanced training session in SSEHV. Following this, they joined the postgraduate students from two other universities to participate in ongoing monthly training sessions online.

Approximately 200 parents and teachers attended the SSEHV parenting session in Dong Guan, China, held in a kindergarten that has been adopted as a model Sathya Sai kindergarten. Speakers included professors from Chinese universities who have partnered with the ISSE to bring SSEHV to mainland China.





## 07

### ZONE 7

**Austria:** A SSEHV project was organised for refugee families, including an excursion, swimming lessons, a summer festival and homework support for children and their parents.

**Denmark:** The European Sathya Sai Education (ESSE) Institute is headquartered in Denmark. In August 2017 in Stilles Haus, Germany, a celebration was held – to mark its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary to celebrate the outreach of SSEHV in Europe.

**Germany:** The German ESSE Campus offered 11 seminars to train parents, educators and participants from all walks of life. Weekly SSEHV classes were held for refugee children between the ages 3–6, on the theme “Peaceful Behaviour.”

### Poland



## 07

**Hungary:** The ESSE seminars were held in October 2017 and March 2018. It provided a strong inspiration not only to implement human values in one's work, but also to continue self-awareness activities. A SSEHV project titled 'Value Preserving Family Camp and Education Programme' was organised for parents of the local community in Budapest.

**Latvia:** A Human Values Day event held at a public park in Riga attracted 50 adults and 20 children. Additionally, a parenting workshop was conducted to motivate parents to send their children to SSEHV classes.

**Netherlands:** An ongoing SSEHV project, titled "Heart for Each Other Club," with weekly classes, was conducted in a community centre in Amsterdam.

**Poland:** The SSEHV project, "Education through Theatre," is an on-going offering involving 50 children (ages 3–15), divided into five groups. The weekly meetings have been taking place in a cultural centre near Warsaw.



## 08

### ZONE 8

**Kazakhstan:** Two representatives from the ESSE Institute contributed to an international conference, titled “Self-knowledge, the Pedagogy of Love and Creativity,” with more than 800 participants, including the Minister of Education and Science, the Mayor of Almaty, and the First Lady of Kazakhstan.

**Russia:** The 16<sup>th</sup> Zonal Conference on Sathya Sai Education was held between March–April 2018 and attracted more than 80 educators from 28 cities across Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine. The conference provided an opportunity for SSE teachers from across the zone to share their experiences of their work with various educational projects.



## 9A

### ZONE 9A

**South Africa:** The ISSE has trained more than 455 teachers. In addition to the three Sathya Sai Schools, about 50 public schools participate in values-based education programmes.

**Morocco:** Teachers undertook SSEHV introductory certificate training at Les Ecoles L'Union Privees partnership school, conducted in Arabic and French. The President of the country, who was a participant, was inspired to implement a national public outreach programme incorporating SSEHV.

**Kenya:** Inspired by the Kisaju Sathya Sai School and the ISSE teachers training programme, the District Education Officer invited the ISSE to train 220 public school staff at Kisaju School.

**Mauritius:** The Sathya Sai School of Vacoas, Mauritius, underwent a major transformation in infrastructure development.



South Africa

## 9A

**Gabon:** Gabon's first formal SSEHV teachers training was attended by 125 French-speaking university academics, senior educators, and community workers. The SSIO has translated many SSEHV materials into French, catering to the French-speaking countries of Africa.

**Nigeria:** The Sathya Sai School has drawn up plans to develop the infrastructure of the school, under the guidance of the SSIO of Nigeria.

**Ghana:** Initiated by the President of the country and the Principal of the Sathya Sai School, the first formal training was well received by 28 participants. It was held at the Ghana Sathya Sai School in a rural setting outside Accra, the capital city.

**Uganda:** At the SSEHV training conducted by the ISSE in Kampala, an official from the Education Ministry urged public school educators to implement the training programme in their respective schools. Two private schools signed memoranda to implement SSEHV as Sathya Sai partnership schools.



## 9B

### ZONE 9B

SSE children of Zone 9B presented two programmes at Prasanthi Nilayam during their annual pilgrimage. As part of the Serve the Planet initiative, the SSE children participated in poster making, essay writing, photography and video presentations on practising Ceiling on Desires within centres and in the community.

Every week, SSE classes were conducted across the region in UAE (Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah), Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

**Saudi Arabia:** Easwaramma Day celebrations were a highlight across the country. Children of all age groups showcased their talents in music, drama and art in front of a crowd which mainly included parents and active workers.

**Bahrain:** SSE students presented a drama, titled “Sabka Malik Ek,” on the life of Shirdi Sai Baba. ASSE refresher training was provided to all SSE teachers.



Dubai



Nepal

# Sathya Sai Young Adults



Hungary

The Sathya Sai Young Adults Programme encourages young men and women around the world to lead purposeful lives by learning and practising the teachings of Sathya Sai Baba. Thousands of Young Adults (YAs) lovingly participate in a wide range of activities including devotional, educational, community service, and humanitarian relief projects, as highlighted below.

## **Love All Serve All (LASA)**

The LASA project, personally blessed by Sathya Sai Baba in 2007, was designed to ignite the flame of unity across humanity by transcending all barriers of language, race, religion, caste, creed and nationality through the medium of music. Relunched on an international scale in 2016 as a subcommittee, the LASA team maintains a repository of songs propagating the five universal human values (i.e. Truth, Right Conduct, Peace, Love and Non-violence) to cater to the society at large. The team also assists in creating content and video production.



## **Sathya Sai International Leadership Programme (SSILP) for Young Adults**

Established in 2014, the SSILP for Young Adults provides leadership training to YAs worldwide based on Sathya Sai Baba's teachings. The sessions are delivered by subject matter experts through monthly webinars culminating with a residential course at Prasanthi Nilayam.



The course centres on Sathya Sai Baba's life and His teachings on leadership, the overview and structure of Sathya Sai International Organisation (SSIO), and various aspects of leadership. A growing number of YAs graduating from the Programme have taken up leadership roles at various levels in the SSIO.

## **Young Adults Talent Development (YATD)**

The YATD programme is based on a series of monthly workshops that equip YAs with skills applicable to both their personal and professional lives. Based on Sathya Sai Baba's teachings on human values, the YATD programme is available as online workshops to all YAs globally.



## **Sadhana of Love (SOL)**

The SOL has equipped YAs from around the world with tools and information on the practise of daily sadhana. The various initiatives include study circle guides that assist YAs in exploring Sathya Sai Baba's four steps to Self-realisation. This programme has reached over 20 countries and continues to expand globally encouraging all YAs to share their personal experiences.



# SATHYA SAI YOUNG ADULTS

## Serve the Planet (STP)

The STP initiative was developed in 2013 to honour the Avatar Declaration Day on 20<sup>th</sup> October, when Sri Sathya Sai Baba declared His divine mission in 1940. The STP theme for 2017 and 2018 has been 'Protect the Planet', which focuses on applying the concept of Ceiling on Desires (COD) by reducing the usage of plastic, conserving water, and advocating the consumption of nourishing and wholesome food for healthy living and spiritual growth. In 2018, the emphasis has been on conservation of energy. An STP for Sai Spiritual Education (SSE) initiative, 'Heal the Environment, Love the Planet' (H.E.L.P.), was also launched in 2017, inviting children from around the world to protect Mother Earth by practising COD.



### Ghana



## 01

### ZONE 1

YAs from Zone 1 distributed food and care kits to the needy, tutored children, sang carols at senior centres, organised a sports and service day with Syrian refugee families, and built houses for the deprived in the Dominican Republic.

More than 200 YAs came together to host a Canadian Young Adults Festival, under the theme 'Celebrate, Explore, Unite.' The festival also marked the launch of several resolutions, including a 'Heart-2-Heart Connection' programme.

The global STP initiative inspired YAs to engage in beach clean ups, plant trees, and volunteer at community gardens. Walk for Values events were also held in various locations, with YAs leading key roles.



## 2A

### ZONE 2A

YAs of Panama lovingly sang songs, played games, and distributed gifts to 100 patients at a local children's hospital. The gifts of love included grooming products and activities that left the recipients feeling happy and invigorated.

In Mexico, YAs offered medical services to needy patients in the form of consultations, medicine, and hygiene kits. In addition, the YAs shared knowledge on first aid. They worked with senior members and visited a shelter for the elderly, sharing love and laughter through music, after which the SSIO of Mexico decided to adopt the shelter.

YAs from Guatemala, El Salvador, Panama, Venezuela, and Mexico all came together at a Zone 2A Young Adults retreat, wherein they shared stories and experiences.



Mexico

# SATHYA SAI YOUNG ADULTS

## 2B

### ZONE 2B

In Zone 2B, YAs of South America engaged in various service activities including distribution of more than 750 food packs per month in Venezuela. YAs also conducted SSEHV lessons for children, adolescents and the homeless in several cities, spreading the teachings of Sathya Sai Baba through stories, songs, films and inspiring activities.

In Argentina, YAs formed a devotional music group called Laudate, whose repertoire includes devotional songs from different religions.

YAs also undertook active roles in the first - SSE retreat held in Brazil, an international retreat in Chile, and the first Education in Human Values Camp in Argentina. The global STP initiative motivated YAs to lead study circles on more conscious use of plastic, food, and water, and encouraged them to engage in environmental awareness activities.



Venezuela



Argentina

# SATHYA SAI YOUNG ADULTS

## 03

### ZONE 3

In Australia, 135 YAs congregated at a National Young Adults retreat to immerse themselves in study circles, devotional singing, sports, and enjoying nature. An annual blood donation drive saw an overwhelming participation by YAs and which facilitated the creation of an innovative marketing video. The Red Cross ranked the SSIO fourth in blood donations received and the agency also shared the YAs video to raise further awareness about the cause.

In keeping with the theme of STP, YAs from New Zealand along with inter-faith groups, planted more than 230 native trees in Auckland, cleaned the surrounding reserves, and performed landscaping to make way for new seedlings.

While the islands of Fiji are blessed with pristine waters and sandy beaches, the metropolitan areas have become increasingly polluted. This sparked an environmental initiative by YAs to organise an energising spiritual session at sunrise, followed by an extensive clean-up of surrounding beaches, which also fostered environmental awareness in the community.

More than 200 YAs from across the zone participated in a 'Beyond 2020' festival in New Zealand. The resolutions shared demonstrated the YAs' commitment to enrich, express, and expand love to all through a variety of initiatives.



## 04

### ZONE 4

YAs of Zone 4 enthusiastically organised and participated in the Nepal Integrated Service Project, Vietnam Medical Camp, Laos Village Improvement Initiative, as well as the Myanmar Medical Camp and School Refurbishment project, with help from the Zone 4 media team. YAs across the zone engaged in spiritual development through sadhana camps and leadership retreats. National and regional camps were held in Nepal, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

YAs of Malaysia initiated a D.A.R.T.S. project, a national initiative for the prevention of issues associated with Drug and Alcohol use, Relationships, Time wastage, and Smoking.

In Sri Lanka, YAs assisted with distributing school supplies to encourage children's educational progress in Mortuwa.





## 06

### ZONE 6

Several YAs from across the zone participated in the first European Sai Young Adults Camp, held in Athens, Greece. In Spain, YAs led a tree-planting activity as part of the STP initiative. More than 100 participants attended an event in the Canary Islands, in collaboration with the local township and two environmental NGOs.

In September 2017, YAs submitted a Human Values song to the LASA programme. They also prepared a beautiful video on the theme 'Protect the Planet.'

Finally, 20 YAs in France, Greece, Italy, and Spain provided food and clothing to the needy, and regularly visited homes of seniors, as well as physically and mentally challenged children.



## 07

### ZONE 7

To observe Earth Day and commemorate Avatar Declaration Day, YAs in the Krkonose Mountains, Czech Republic, organised a forest clean-up activity and restored a natural monument.

YAs in Hungary organised several events including regional meetings, and Earth Day public meetings, where the life and teachings of Sathya Sai and the work of the SSIO were presented. YAs donated several items to the residents of a mothers' home, served food to the homeless, organised a cultural programme for the elderly in Piliscsaba, and held an Easter meeting for people with special needs.

In Latvia, YAs participated in a Christmas service at a women's shelter; led study circles on conscious use of water, plastic and food; and conducted a children's workshop for Human Values Day.

As part of Sathya Sai's birthday celebrations, Lithuanian YAs wrote and directed a drama based on the principle of keeping good company, while Dutch YAs assisted with the catering and sound system.

In Poland, YAs participated in a drama and led workshops during a national meeting in Spala.



Czech Republic

## 08

### ZONE 8

Twenty-five YAs participated in a Zone 8 YA Conference in Russia, and various other national and regional conferences, meetings and study circles. As part of the STP initiative, several YAs conducted study circles, held discussions with children, and engaged in service projects such as tree planting, and cleaning of forests and rivers. YAs served hot meals to the needy across the zone and organised a Sai Olympics in Russia based on the Sadhana of Love programme. YAs from Zone 8 also participated in an International Volunteer Camp in Russia, where they assisted with educational and medical tasks, providing care to those in need. In addition, a national health project initiated in 2016 continued in 2017.



Ukraine



Russia

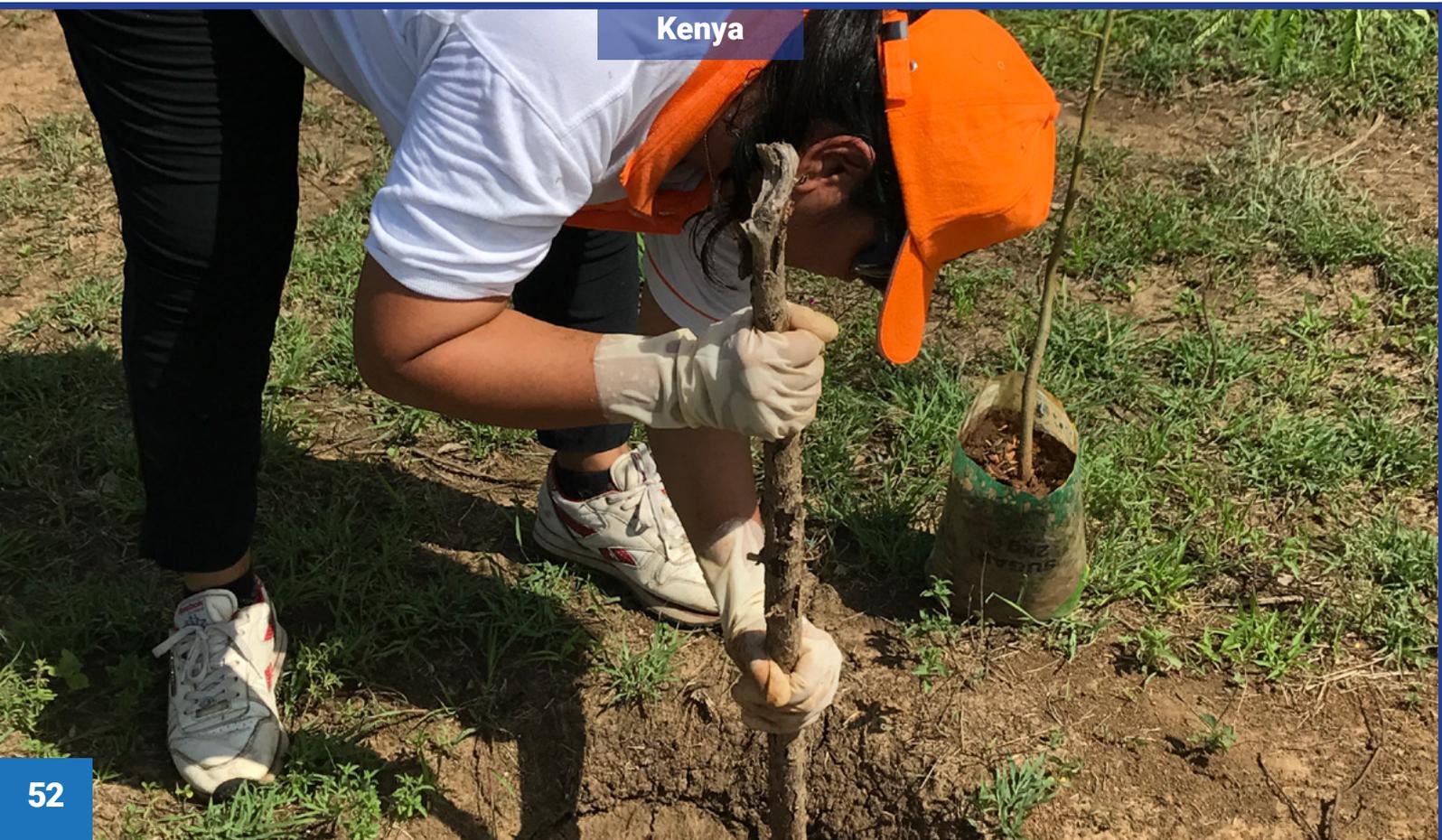
## 9A

### ZONE 9A

In Kenya, close to 1,000 trees were planted as a part of the STP initiative. YAs also installed a borehole nearby to supply water, which helps with the sustainability of this project. In addition to this, volunteers lovingly distributed 1,200 hygiene and stationery packs.

The island of Mauritius is a true paradise of love reflected in clean-up, tree-planting, and mural projects initiated by the YAs. In addition to this, YAs engaged in educational hikes that inspired all those who participated.

YAs of Zone 9A worked with teen youth and educated the younger generation on the importance of Cyber Safety, and Stress Management through a series of workshops. The SATHYA (Sai Archives of Truth and Harmony for Young Adults) newsletter was initiated in South Africa, sparking an interest in YA activities. YAs collected and distributed blankets to local hospitals and organised a National YA Day Festival.



Kenya

## 9B

### ZONE 9B

Every month in Abu Dhabi, YAs distributed food packs to more than 500 labourers. They also helped organise a 'Sai Retreat' attended by 300 people.

In Dubai, YAs distributed 160 hygiene hampers and 70 ration packs at a Ladies Camp. They also helped organise an Annual Sai Sports Day, attracting more than 300 SSE children, parents, and volunteers. YAs from UAE also attended a spiritual retreat in Dubai, titled 'Back to Sai Within' on the topic of self-awareness.

Every week, approximately 60 YAs and adults from Bahrain and the UAE served refreshments to nearly 2,000 workers at construction sites.

YAs in Oman organised a free eye check-up and supplied spectacles to about 75 individuals. YAs in Oman and Bahrain held weekly sessions for families that have children with special needs. These sessions included talks by specialists, skills development, sports, and interaction with other family members.



# SATHYA SAI YOUNG ADULTS

# UK

## UNITED KINGDOM

YAs facilitated STP initiatives at all Sathya Sai Centres and Groups.

At the National Easwamma Day celebrations, YAs presented Sathya Sai's eternal message to respect the environment and natural resources.

Easter celebrations saw more than 3,000 Easter eggs collected in the spirit of ceiling on desires and delivered to children and the elderly at hospitals across the UK.

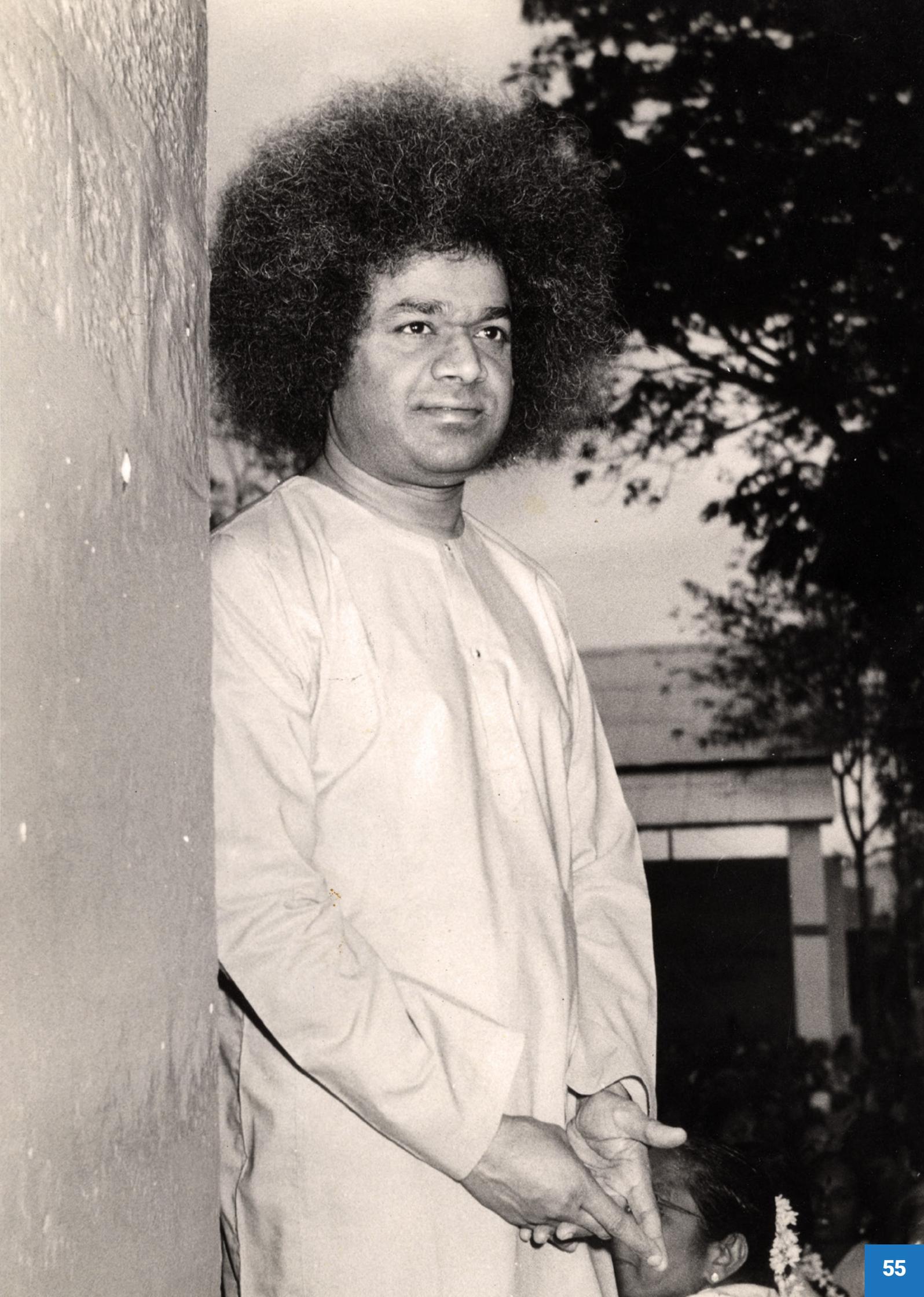
Other notable service projects have included national tree-planting days, with more than 1,000 trees being planted to date, bi-monthly food service in most UK regions, as well as renovation and painting of rundown buildings used to house refugees.

Global Human Values Day was celebrated with a grand Walk for Values through Leicester. YAs were integral in the planning and execution of the event, which attracted hundreds of participants to walk with banners on human values, depicting Sathya Sai Baba's teachings. The event ended with a multifaith music concert in the city centre based on human values with a performance by the famous UK group, 'Acappella'.

YAs were also invited to perform at the Birmingham Art Gallery as part of 'Faiths in Tune,' an international interfaith music festival.

## United Kingdom







# Awards and Honours

# AWARDS AND HONOURS

## Belarus

Children's Social Shelter in the village of Beryozka in the Gomel region presented a letter of appreciation to SSIO volunteers for selfless service at the shelter on 24<sup>th</sup>–25<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

## Canada

On 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017, the Government of Canada, following the example of 90 cities and towns across the country, formally proclaimed 24<sup>th</sup> April as World Human Values Day. The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, also acknowledged Human Values Day in a congratulatory message to the SSIO of Canada.

## Dubai

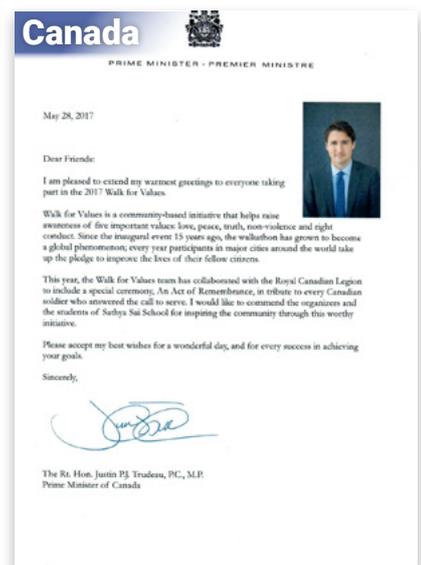
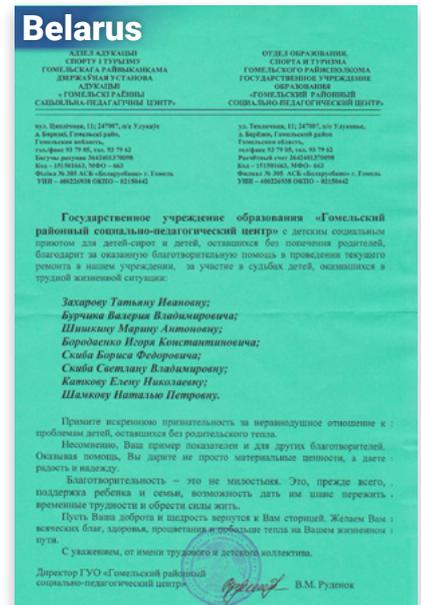
The Dubai Health Authority presented a certificate of appreciation to the SSIO in recognition of quarterly blood donation camps organised at Sheikha Latifa hospital in Dubai.

## Greece

On 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018, officials from the Ministry of Labour, Social Insurance, and Social Solidarity awarded a plaque to the SSIO of Greece. The honour recognises the selfless service of SSIO members at the Medical Centre for Chronic Diseases in Agia Varvara, Athens, and the Recovery & Rehabilitation Centre of Children with Disabilities in Voula, Attica.

## Jamaica

The St. James Parish Council of Jamaica gave an award to the SSIO for selfless services rendered by the Montego Bay Sathya Sai Centre in September 2017.



# AWARDS AND HONOURS

## Nepal



## Malaysia

On 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017, the National Medical Association of Malaysia recognised the SSIO of Malaysia with an award of excellence for its continued nation-building and public outreach through medical services. The award was presented in the presence of the Deputy King of Malaysia, Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah.

On 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017, the National Blood Bank of Malaysia along with the Ministry of Health recognised the SSIO of Malaysia as one of the largest blood donors in the country. The SSIO of Malaysia has received this recognition continuously since 2010.

## Nepal

The SSIO of Nepal received a Running Shield Award for the fourth year in a row, from the Blood Donors Association of Nepal, for blood donations collected.

## Oman

A school in Oman presented SSIO volunteers with a certificate of appreciation for presenting information on human values to teachers and students.

## Russia

SSIO volunteers from the Lotus Centre in the North-West region of Russia visited the local Veterans' House every month, serving the residents as part of the Days of Mercy service project. In recognition, the city administration presented a letter of appreciation to the SSIO volunteers.

SSIO volunteers also received a letter of appreciation from the head of the district at a ceremony celebrating City Day in Mikhailovsk, in the Sverdlovsk region.

## Thailand

In 2017, Sathya Sai Secondary School in Thailand received the Royal School award, the highest and most prestigious award presented to schools in Thailand.

## Russia



# AWARDS AND HONOURS



## Ukraine

The Director of the Rehabilitation Centre for the Blind in the village of Motovilovka in the Kiev region presented letters of gratitude to the SSIO of Ukraine for organising a service camp for the villagers.

## USA

On 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017, the Mayor of the City of Huntington Park, California, presented a certificate of appreciation to the SSIO for its commitment and dedication in serving the community during an annual medical camp on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2017.

On 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018, the SSIO received certificates of recognition from the California State Assembly and Senate for medical services rendered to the Corona and Norco communities at the 2018 Sri Sathya Sai Corona-Norco Free Health Screening camp, held on the same date.





# Zone 1

Moraine Lake, Canada

# ZONE 1 HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRIES	CENTRES/ GROUPS	SSIO MEMBERS	SSE STUDENTS	ISSE	SATHYA SAI SCHOOLS
Aruba	1	57	45		
Barbados	1	37	12		
Canada	54	5,996	1,873	1	1
Curacao	1	16			
Guyana	14	474	78		
Jamaica	3	35	50		
St. Kitts	1	5			
St. Lucia	1	14			
St. Martin	1	30	10		
Suriname	3	158	52		
Trinidad & Tobago	42	1,568	176	1	5
USA/Virgin Islands	214	12,831	3,200	1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>21,221</b>	<b>5,496</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>



# ZONE 1 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



## Barbados

Chaired by the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Barbados, Freundel Stuart, the SSIO hosted a major celebration honouring Sathya Sai Baba's birthday in 2017. This devotional and public outreach initiative saw many new faces introduced to the SSIO's message of love, service and peace. The Prime Minister also emphasised this message in his address, expounding "love as the answer."



## Canada

Embracing a national sentiment of volunteerism in the year of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, SSIO members across the country undertook novel initiatives in service and devotion. The environment was a key focus: as part of Earth Day celebrations around 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017, volunteers helped plant about 800 trees, and in the town of Markham, a team of volunteers adopted the litter-strewn Featherstone Park to help restore its natural beauty. Numerous other activities, ranging from prayer chants, flag raisings and wheelchair cleanings to serving those less-fortunate, heralded a renewed emphasis on service this year.

In the small town of Cooksville, volunteers commenced an innovative programme offering music therapy for local seniors. They have since continued monthly and also organised special programmes for holidays. The SSIO sprang into action in the city of Montreal when record snowfall and heavy rains caused flash flooding



# ZONE 1 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

and a state of emergency in the early weeks of May 2017. Volunteers worked in teams to fill and stack sandbags to divert rising waters; they also consoled and aided displaced families.

Countless efforts of the SSIO around the country were recognised on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 by the Government of Canada, who proclaimed the date as Human Values Day by act of Parliament. Since then, 90 towns and cities, as well as several provinces have followed suit, setting apart the day for the recognition of human values.



## Guyana

Volunteers in Guyana served more than 7,000 meals and bottles of water to the homeless throughout the year. This sustained effort brought relief to some of Guyana's most needy residents.



## Jamaica

Residents of St. James Infirmary received a visit from a team of volunteers of the Montego Bay Sai Centre on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017. As part of broader Aradhana Mahotsavam celebrations, SSIO members served cake and drinks to more than 60 residents; the children of the Centre also made greeting cards for every resident, wishing them well.

## Canada



# ZONE 1

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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### Suriname

The SSIO of Suriname achieved new heights in its commitment to service and public outreach. On 21<sup>st</sup> October 2017, young adults organised a green-themed Walk for Values, highlighting the integral association between the environment and human values. The 4.1-kilometre walk concluded with an inspiring concert and an afternoon of games and fun. SSE children also received a lesson in serving the planet at the Paramaribo Zoo on 10<sup>th</sup> August, where they were taught the dangers of pollutants to local fauna.

To help ensure that children across Suriname receive quality education, on 18<sup>th</sup> August and again on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2017, the SSIO distributed more than 100 packages of school supplies in the Groningen and Commewijne districts.

Later in the year, Sathya Sai volunteers organised a spirited Christmas party for residents of a mental health care facility on 18<sup>th</sup> December, wherein they joined with the residents in holiday joy and merriment.



### Trinidad & Tobago

SSIO leaders from around the world gathered in Trinidad and Tobago for an international leadership conference from 22<sup>nd</sup>–24<sup>th</sup> September 2017. The event brought together current and emerging leaders from six countries, providing a



Suriname

# ZONE 1 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

forum to discuss communication, training and management strategies. These lessons were tested as Hurricane Maria raged through the region. Though parts of Trinidad and Tobago were heavily damaged, SSIO volunteers knew that the neighbouring island of Dominica had been overwhelmed by the storm. On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017, Sathya Sai volunteers shipped more than 5,000 boxes brimming with food and toiletries, along with at least 200 pallets of food and construction materials, fresh water and mattresses, on a chartered ship. The materials were distributed by five trucks to the hardest hit villages. Hearing of this extraordinary feat, the President of Dominica personally met with the SSIO members in his office to thank them.

In February 2018, Dominica relief efforts resumed, when 19 houses were constructed in a mere three days for families rendered homeless in the wake of the hurricane. The building team from Trinidad consisted of about 100 volunteers, half of whom were from the general public. In 2018, more than 30 houses have been constructed so far, providing shelter to dozens of families.

Volunteers also undertook to feed the homeless on the streets of Trinidad for 365 consecutive days. Inspired by this marathon of loving service, members of the public, including a former Miss Universe, assisted them. The combined efforts allowed 100–200 boxes of hot meals and bottled water to be distributed nightly.



Trinidad & Tobago



Trinidad & Tobago

# ZONE 1

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



### United States of America

To practise human values is good, but the SSIO of the United States took awareness of human values one step further by organising the mammoth “Human Values Fest” celebration on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2017, in Austin, Texas. The event attracted hundreds of attendees and featured human values–themed art, music and writing. The day concluded with a rousing concert, with international stars and an award ceremony recognising the tireless work of the children involved.

Human values were also brought to the forefront in Memphis, when SSIO volunteers participated in a holiday parade. The event evolved into an impromptu Walk for Values, and members received a roaring reception as they joined in the 1.2-mile parade, waving banners extolling the values.

At the Santa Fe and Albuquerque Sathya Sai Centres, SSIO members have a 35-year-long tradition of devoting their Labour Day weekends to a retreat that includes loving service. This year, they again met at the Bodhi Manda Center for Zen Buddhism, where up to 90 volunteers helped clean and beautify the surrounding grounds.

The SSIO of Northern California similarly served nearby communities when devastating wildfires – among the largest in the state’s history – took 40 lives, dis-



# ZONE 1 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

placed more than 50,000 residents and destroyed thousands of homes. Throughout October 2017, the SSIO brought supplies, meals and thousands of treats to the displaced. Volunteers further sought to elevate people's spirits by singing songs and giving out personalised messages of hope and encouragement.

A myriad of similar initiatives took place across the states. In Ann Arbor, Michigan, elders of the city's Sai Centre lovingly knitted 100 woollen items, including hats and scarves, for the city's homeless. Likewise, in New Jersey, on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2017, volunteers organised book drives and sent homemade gifts to displaced refugees in the Middle East.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2017, Sathya Sai Young Adults from Southern California, with the help of more than 20 volunteers, coordinated a day trip for the developmentally disabled to Mother's Beach in Long Beach, California. This annual day of fun at the beach brought joy to 30 children and adults, ages 10 to 20, from Ability First, a day programme serving individuals with special needs.

About 14 SSIO volunteers participated in training courses in late January 2018 to become part of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in Southeast Denver, Colorado. CERT allows community members to be trained as volunteers to assist professional first-responders during disasters.





# Zone 2a

Poas Volcano, Costa Rica

# ZONE 2A HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRIES	CENTRES/ GROUPS	SSIO MEMBERS	SSE STUDENTS	ISSE	SATHYA SAI SCHOOLS
Costa Rica	1	12			
Cuba	7	152			
Dominican Republic	6	188	3	1	1
El Salvador	11	121	8	1	
Guadeloupe	1	12			
Guatemala	5	93	7		1
Haiti	2	88			
Honduras	1	10			
Mexico	39	557	61	1	2
Nicaragua	1	4			
Panama	3	140	79		
Puerto Rico	2	36	5	1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>1,413</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>



# ZONE 2A COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



## Costa Rica

The SSIO of Costa Rica welcomed 25 new members at a public meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2017. The newcomers, aided by current members, received an introduction to Sathya Sai Baba's teachings in an intimate setting, with many learning of His work for the first time.



## El Salvador

Over the past 28 years, SSIO volunteers in El Salvador have joined in a weekly service programme that began originally with visits to a group of disabled boys living in a dilapidated house. Eventually, with the help of the national Sathya Sai Foundation, the volunteers purchased and renovated a larger home capable of housing 22 people with more amenities. The facility now includes a Sathya Sai Centre and a venue to conduct SSE classes. On 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017, the group celebrated this home's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary by screening two short videos. In March 2018, SSIO volunteers delivered a new water filter for the residents. Over the years the programme has provided numerous disabled young people with opportunities to study, work and find new meaning to life. Elsewhere, in El Amatal, La Libertad, volunteers continued a five-year stream of service to residents of a senior care facility, offering a monthly breakfast and distributing clothing and hygiene products.



# ZONE 2A

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

For the past three years, SSEHV classes for children have been held in El Salvador, and have brought about remarkable changes in the behaviour of the young students. On Valentine's Day, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018, the children and their SSEHV teachers celebrated Friendship Day.

More than 100 participants from seven countries attended a Central American Retreat during Holy Week, which was held at a farmhouse in San Salvador, 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. The programme included meditation, devotional singing, and service activities.



### Guatemala

Sathya Sai Young Adults from Guatemala recognised that service to the planet entails more than service to the environment alone. Noting that animals too need their love and care, they organised an ongoing service project, "You Understand My Silence," at a shelter that rescues sick and injured stray dogs. The volunteers donated food and cleaning supplies and lovingly helped walk, bathe and care for dozens of dogs at the shelter.

SSIO members in the city of Antigua also continued a longstanding partnership with the House of Mother Mary, a nursing home sheltering 85 elders who either have been abandoned or have no family to speak of. Each month, volunteers serve food and provide loving company to the orphaned elders.



# ZONE 2A COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



## Haiti

The SSIO continues to provide humanitarian relief on the island of Haiti since the devastating 2010 earthquake. Regular relief efforts, including distributing food and supplies throughout the island continue as regions needing assistance are identified. This year brought a new emphasis on education and the fostering of human values, with the inception of the country's first ever human values committee. The committee aims specifically to promote education in human values, both in planning events and training educators.

In August 2017, 45 teachers and students were trained in a five-day SSEHV programme in the capital, Port-au-Prince. A further 27 teachers and students participated in another introductory course in the town of Saint-Marc. The sessions include hands-on activities, presentations, written assignments, and evaluations, laying a foundation for continued education and development in coming years.



Haiti

# ZONE 2A COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



## Mexico

The SSIO of Mexico hosted an international gathering of 130 SSIO members from El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Peru, Brazil, Panama, and Venezuela for a three-day forum on Leadership in Latin America, starting on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2017. The meeting recognised the SSIO as an ideal platform for Self-realisation and helped develop key leadership skills among delegates toward serving their communities and the SSIO.

In keeping with these lessons, Sathya Sai Centres in Guadalajara, Torreón, Monterrey, and Piloto reinvigorated their service and outreach initiatives, hosting numerous lectures and community works. On 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017, the Monterrey Centre held a Walk for Values in the city's central Alameda park.

Going beyond their local communities, volunteers from Chihuahua, in partnership with a regional University, held a medical camp in the city of El Paso del Norte on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017. The marginalised community received supplies and haircuts and were educated about preventive health strategies. Simultaneously, children of the community were given a crash-course in human values. SSIO members in Veracruz similarly volunteered their time at the city's general hospital, serving food to patients on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017.



# ZONE 2A COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



## Puerto Rico

Hurricane Maria ravaged the island of Puerto Rico on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017, leaving huge sectors of the island without access to water or electricity. The SSIO, both locally and in the USA, set to work almost immediately. Volunteers in Miami dispatched a charter flight carrying supplies of food, personal hygiene items, and torchlights for 100 people. With support from the Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation, more than 1,400 portable water filtration units were sent and distributed throughout the island. Volunteers on the ground in Puerto Rico trained recipients on how to use and maintain the equipment to ensure its safe operation. The work was inspired by Sathya Sai Baba's water projects in India and Africa, which continue to serve millions daily.

“

To secure the grace of the Divine, it is not necessary to seek knowledge, wealth, power or position. Purity of mind alone is enough.

–Sathya Sai Baba, 31 December 1983

”



Puerto Rico

# ZONE 2A COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



**El Salvador**



**Puerto Rico**



**Mexico**



# Zone 2b

Rainbow Mountains, Peru

# ZONE 2B HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRIES	CENTRES/ GROUPS	SSIO MEMBERS	SSE STUDENTS	ISSE	SATHYA SAI SCHOOLS
Argentina	27	670	100	1	1
Bolivia	4	33		1	
Brazil	51	678	127	1	3
Chile	3	40	5		
Colombia	11	141	41	1	1
Ecuador	4	82	5	1	2
Paraguay	1	42	15		1
Peru	5	131	33	1	
Uruguay	1	38	6		
Venezuela	17	234	9	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>2,089</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>



# ZONE 2B

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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### Argentina

Young adults in Argentina, joined by children in Merendero Belén, organised an array of devotional and service activities throughout the year. These included devotional singing, regular meetings and trips to feed the hungry and the homeless. In Buenos Aires, similar service was rendered weekly in December 2017, serving more than 120 persons in need.

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### Brazil

SSIO volunteers inaugurated a “Love in Action” project in the rural community of Queimadas, in north-eastern Brazil on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Proving no one is beyond the reach of love, more than 60 medical professionals and general volunteers provided healthcare services and consultations. They further distributed free medicines, oral hygiene products and food packets to the needy. Likewise, Sathya Sai volunteers organised a free health clinic for under-served residents in Palmeiras in Bahia on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017. The villagers received not only general medical care but specialist consultations in otorhinolaryngology, neurology, paediatrics, orthopaedics, dentistry, radiology, gynaecology, psychology and physiotherapy.



# ZONE 2B

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

In June 2017, the Sathya Sai School of Ribeirão Preto, in the state of São Paulo, celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The school has established itself as a pillar of values-based education and was recognised by the president of the local government, who specifically cited the human values in the school's syllabus as a tool to build the character of students.



### Chile

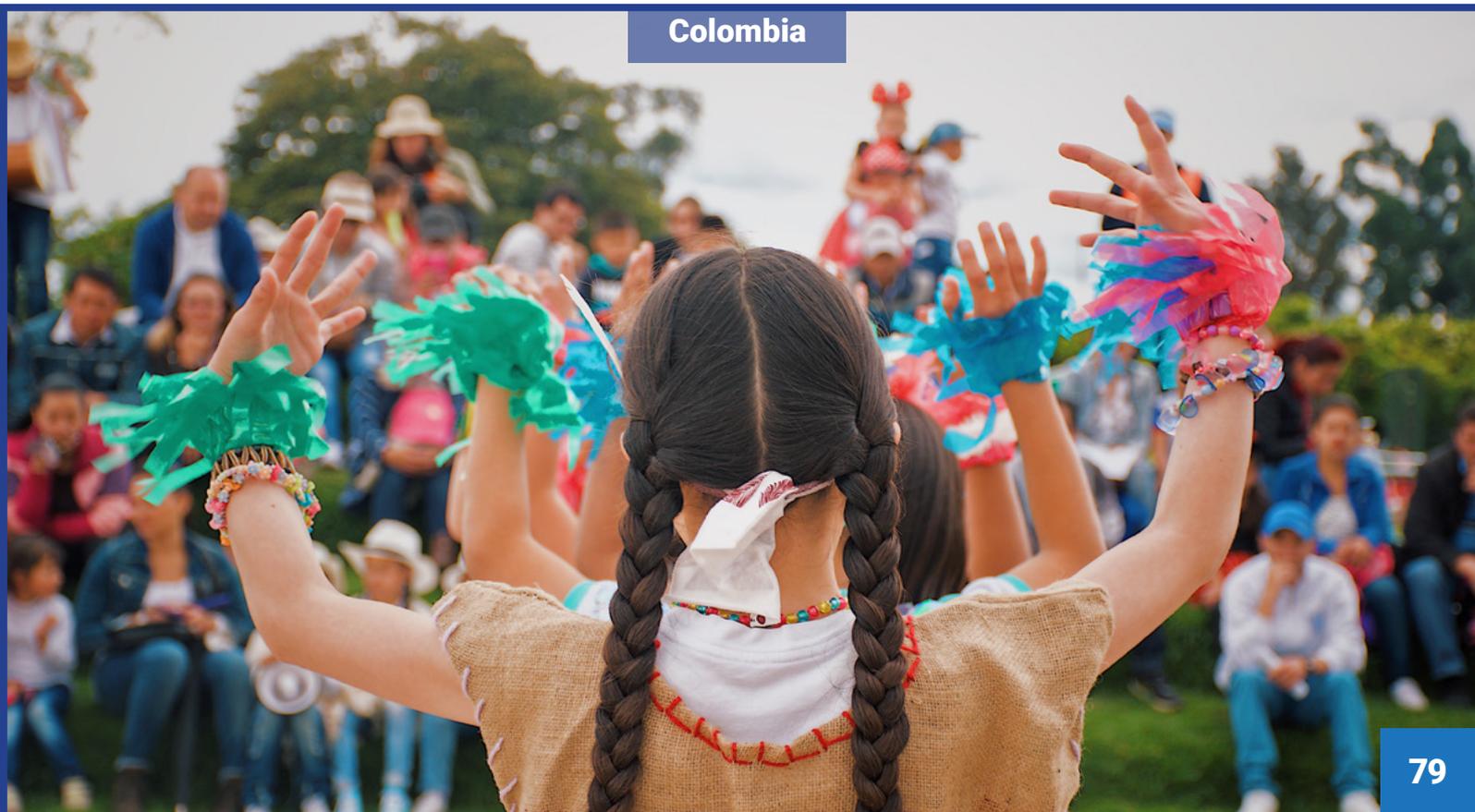
Young adults in Santiago added to the growing repertoire of service conducted by youth across the zone through hosting a SSEHV workshop. Another workshop held later in the year, emphasised the importance of nutrition and ways to acquire healthy eating habits.



### Colombia

Nearly 100 children, parents, teachers, volunteers and guests took to the streets of Funza for an enthusiastic Walk for Human Values on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The children made an exceptional effort, leading the walk with singing, dancing and other performances. Their presentations underscored the need to protect the environment in keeping with the eternal message of practising human values.

### Colombia



# ZONE 2B

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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The students put their message into practise on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018 when they, along with their teachers and parents, organised a beach cleaning drive along the Tunjuelo River in the rural community of Usme. Inspired by the students' example, a total of more than 200 participants across Colombia attended several interactive and informative conferences focused on protecting the planet. The conferences promoted the practice of human values as a tool to protect the environment and the importance of placing a ceiling on desires to benefit oneself, the environment and society.



### Ecuador

Hundreds have fled violence in Venezuela and sought refuge in Ecuador since the beginning of 2018. Appreciating the suffering of their neighbours, SSIO volunteers have served meals and beverages to more than 300 migrants in the Carcelen Terminal in Quito every Sunday since February 2018. Volunteers also distributed clothes, medicine and hygiene kits to destitute families.

A powerful earthquake had damaged the Sathya Sai School of Bahía de Caráquez in April 2016. Since then, SSIO volunteers have helped rebuild the school along with the homes of teachers, parents and students. Despite the hardship, the school has continued to thrive, winning accolades from the local government for its positive impact on students and the community.

### El Salvador



# ZONE 2B COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Human values were again emphasised in a public conference on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017, attended by more than 300 people. The Human Values Institute of Ecuador also organised a 12-week SSEHV programme in Guayaquil. Inspired by this work, a private school in the Los Ríos province formally adopted the SSEHV curriculum, offering a new crop of students the chance to learn, develop character and benefit from the quintessential SSEHV programme.



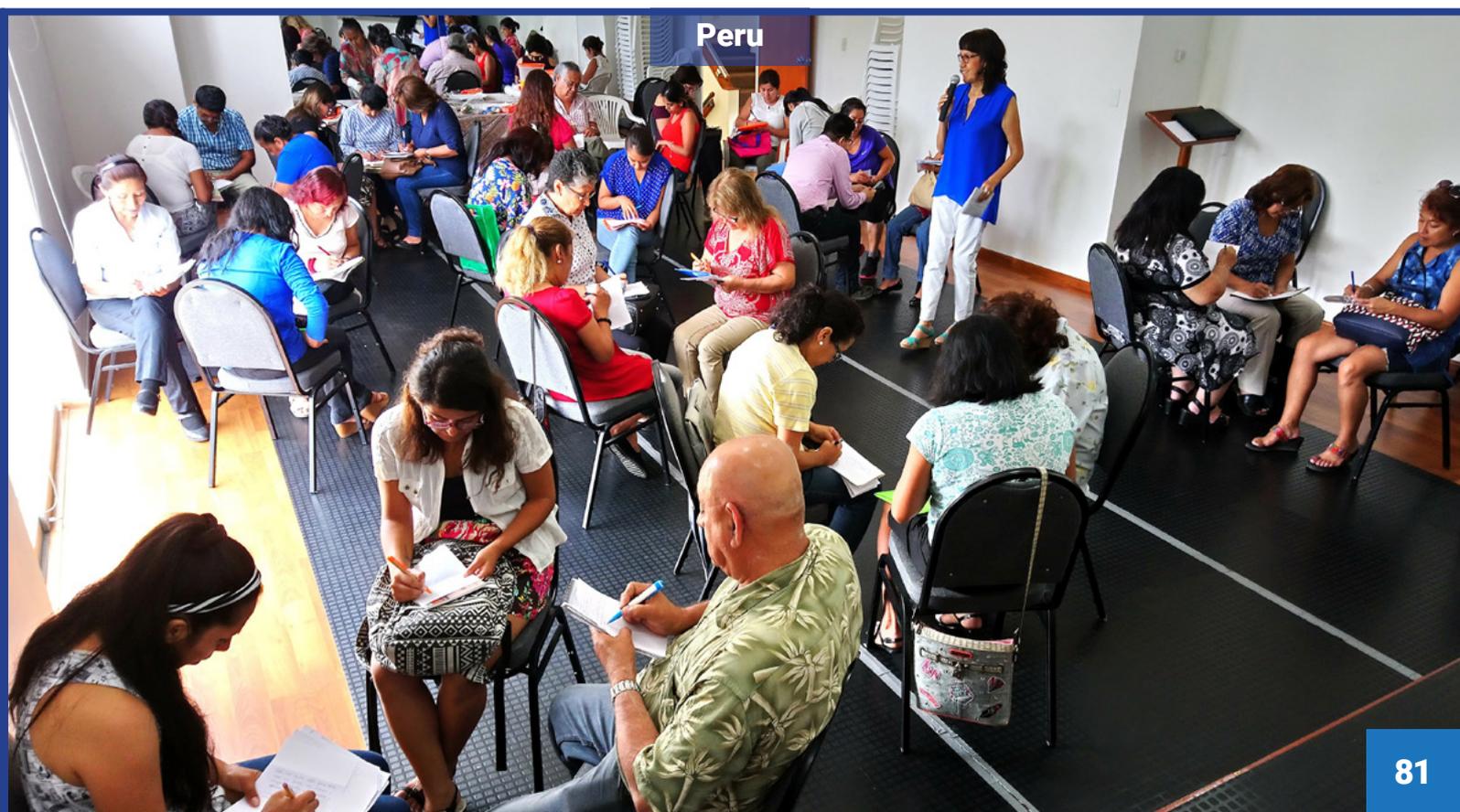
## Paraguay

After flooding of the Tebicuary River left many in dire need of assistance, SSIO volunteers delivered warm clothing such as coats, trousers, socks, blankets and footwear to more than 500 families, including 200 children, in Villa Florida, on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2017.



## Peru

Hundreds of needy and isolated families across Peru received assistance ranging from warm clothes, shoes and groceries to packages of school supplies to health-care and medicines, from SSIO volunteers in 2017. Travelling far into remote communities such as Cullcuy, Pango and Cerro San Francisco, the volunteers offered villagers vital supplies to help face Peru's challenging climate.



# ZONE 2B

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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In the city of Cajamarca, SSIO Young Adults took this work a step further, conceiving a project called “The Values Box.” They provide ongoing support to 25 kindergarten students by providing supplies and their expertise, taking a hands-on approach to human values-based learning. Young adults in San José de Cotto-lengo made a similarly distinct outreach effort, distributing supplies and playing games with 30 children and youth with disabilities. Their effort was received with great joy by the children.

The Institute of Sathya Sai Education of Peru also conducted trainings with an emphasis on providing guidance to educators. Their work included a two-day workshop on Sathya Sai Education, starting 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017, for 18 teachers and administrators from the national school at the town of Tantamayo. Educators from the Institute also participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Forum for Teachers held in the capital, Lima, from 26<sup>th</sup>–27<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The forum brought together educators from around the world for conferences and workshops on a range of relevant topics.



### **Venezuela**

In yet another novel human values education programme, the SSIO working with the María Pereira Initial Education Center in Daza Barquisimeto, initiated a project titled “Hands-to-Sow,” for the 2017–2018 school year. As part of the programme, 25 preschool children stepped out of the classroom to sow seeds and cultivate plants including scallions, cilantro and paprika. The produce was eventually harvested and served in the school canteen, but more important, the act of sowing and nurturing the plants strengthened lessons in human values and respect for the environment.

In September 2017, 6<sup>th</sup> grade children from the Dr. Raúl Leoni School in Mariara, Carabobo, also applied their lessons in values outside the classroom by participating in a Walk for Values dedicated specifically to peaceful coexistence.

# ZONE 2B COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



Colombia



Venezuela



# Zone 3

Uluru Rock, Australia

# ZONE 3 HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRIES	CENTRES/ GROUPS	SSIO MEMBERS	SSE STUDENTS	ISSE	SATHYA SAI SCHOOLS
Australia/PNG	80	3,408	563	1	1
Fiji	9	354	176	1	1
New Zealand	26	1,020	141	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>4,782</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>



# ZONE 3 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



## Australia

The SSIO of Australia made health and wellness a cynosure of their service and engagement activities. Over the past 5 years, SSIO volunteers in Canberra prepared more than 1,700 birthing kits for underprivileged mothers in developing regions. The kits offered vital medical supplies to assist with delivery and protect the mother and child afterwards. Presently, they are being distributed around the developing world.

Wellness was again a focus of the Sai Care project – aimed specifically at helping the elderly, for which a healthy ageing workshop was hosted for elders and their caregivers on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017. It offered practical tips for preventing illness rather than just treating disease. These and many other Sai Care projects were recognised with the prestigious Volunteer of the Year Award, specifically acknowledging the SSIO's contributions towards seniors.

Another major community served by the SSIO's global outreach is those with mental illness. Australia was no exception, with SSEHV students taking the lead in preparing fun and engaging activities for students at the Woodbury Autism Education and Research school on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017. A similar outreach effort was made to Australia's aboriginal communities via Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation. The collaboration allowed SSIO members to share in the activities



Australia



Australia

# ZONE 3

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

and celebrations of these communities, bringing together the wisdom of diverse yet universal social and cultural values.

The ideal of oneness was again reiterated in a multicultural, multifaith community programme in Sydney in August 2017. More than 400 guests including faith and community leaders attended the joyful event, featuring insightful discourse and a diverse array of heart-warming performances by children. Ideals were put into practice in the town of Murwillumbah, New South Wales, when severe floods forced widescale evacuations. Fortunately, the town is home to Australia's national Sathya Sai School – where students and faculty worked together to prepare hampers of food and other necessities for the community throughout March and April of 2017.



### **New Zealand**

Volunteers in New Zealand also undertook major projects under the banner of the global Serve The Planet initiative. This included a novel initiative not just to combat environmental degradation but to understand it at a practical level. Sathya Sai Young Adults coordinated a series of workshops, including one held at the Auckland Botanical Gardens, where amongst other lessons, the challenges of dealing with plastics in the environment was witnessed first-hand. The young adults then instituted these lessons into a “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Refuse”

### **Australia**



# ZONE 3

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

campaign seeking to reduce the impact of plastics in day-to-day life. Some 20 volunteers from the Sathya Sai Centre of Hamilton continued this effort by planting 600 New Zealand flax saplings along the banks of Lake Magellan in celebration of Guru Poornima, observed on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

Also, during Guru Poornima festivities in Auckland, SSIO members hosted an interfaith seminar celebrating Teachers' Day. Some of the distinguished speakers included guests from the Islamic Ahlulbayt Foundation and the Sikh faith, all of whom emphasised the importance of the spiritual teacher in the shaping and development of character. Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the universal teacher, was honoured also during Mahasamadhi Day observations on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The programme, "Form to Formless," opened with prayers and a melodious Maori chanting of Te Aroha. After a moment of silence acknowledging the sacrifices of veterans, the assembly was treated to a play by the SSE children, a stirring musical performance by Sai Young Adults incorporating both Eastern and Western melodies, and a series of immersive panel discussions.

In another project, inspired partly by the work of the SSIO of Australia, volunteers from the Sathya Sai Centres of Hamilton and Whangarei assembled 226 clean birthing kits. These kits are distributed around the world to facilitate safe birth deliveries in the coming years.



# ZONE 3 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



## Fiji

About 80 people joined in a Walk for Values event in Suva, Fiji, on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2017. Local Sathya Sai Centres and the University of the South Pacific Sai Young Adult Group organised the walk to increase awareness of human values. The leading banner and human values placards were artfully decorated in English and Fijian languages to reflect the Pacific nation's heritage. After the one-hour walk, participants enjoyed another hour of festive songs, talks, and activities on the importance of practising human values in communities and society.

During late September 2017, Dr. Narendranath Reddy, Chairman of the Prasanthi Council, along with other senior SSIO leaders met with the staff and students of the Sathya Sai School and Institute of Human Values Education at Drasa, home to more than 100 students. Dr. Reddy inaugurated a new building for the Institute and laid the foundation for a school library.

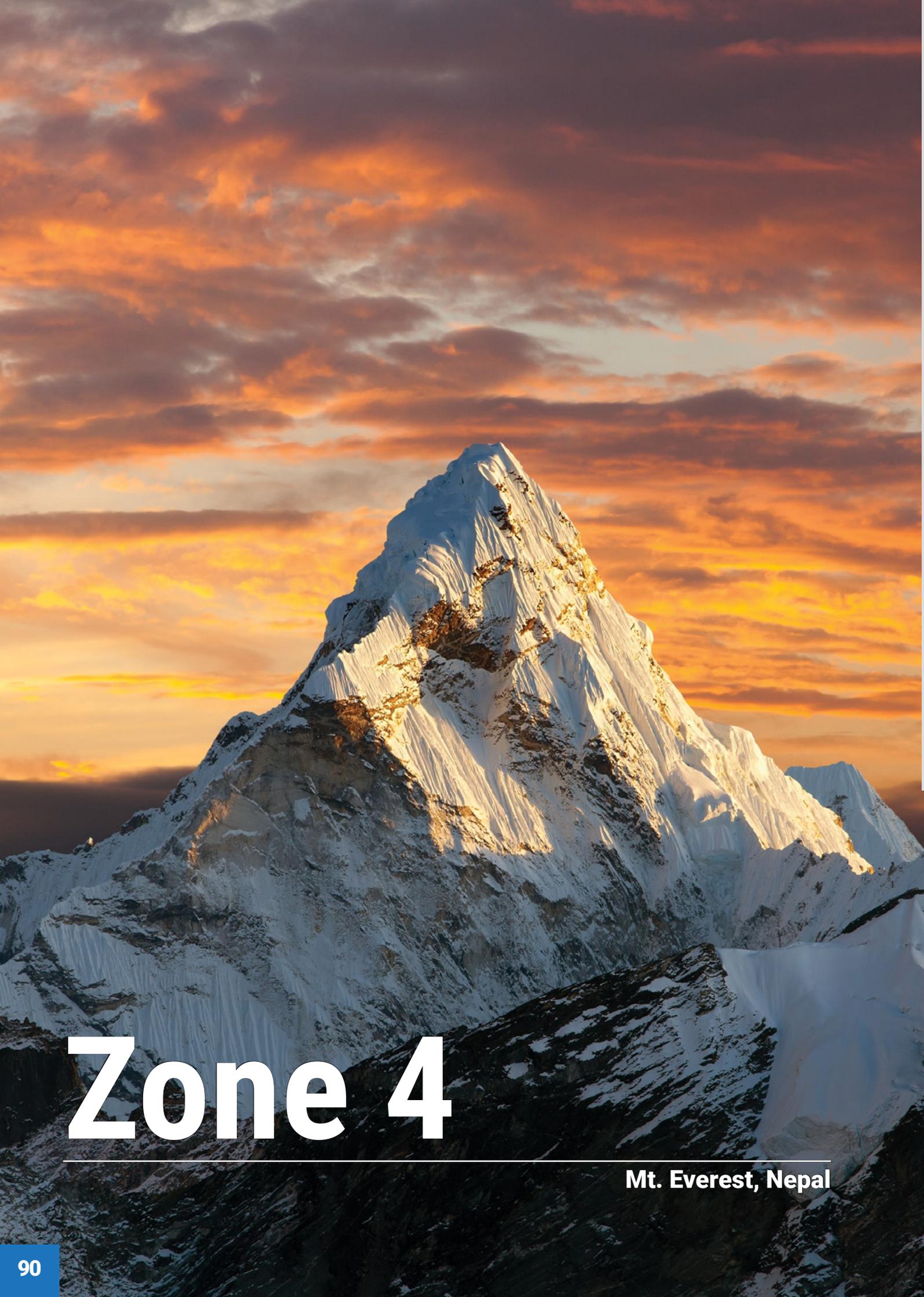
Spiritual topics and service projects were also discussed at Fiji's Annual Sathya Sai Convention, held 23<sup>rd</sup>–24<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Two government ministers joined in discussions on the topic, "Building a Harmonious and Compassionate Society." The event included an interfaith service, cultural programmes, and an outstanding musical performance. Members of the iTaukei group also participated in the convention, underscoring Baba's message of unity of all faiths and the universality of the human values.



Fiji



Fiji



# Zone 4

Mt. Everest, Nepal

# ZONE 4 HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRIES	CENTRES/ GROUPS	SSIO MEMBERS	SSE STUDENTS	ISSE	SATHYA SAI SCHOOLS
Bhutan	2	120	25		
Brunei	1	95			
Cambodia	1	39	30		
Indonesia	87	4,236	1,127	1	2
Lao PDR	4	197	127		1
Malaysia	71	6,317	3,610		1
Myanmar	1	91			
Nepal	214	32,326	9,718	1	2
Philippines	3	149	25	1	1
Singapore	19	1,506	611		1
Sri Lanka	79	9,223	2,050	1	1
Thailand	8	199	61	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>54,498</b>	<b>17,384</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>



# ZONE 4

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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### **Bhutan**

SSIO members in Bhutan partnered with local Buddhist organisations to volunteer in various service activities throughout the year.

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### **Brunei**

The small sultanate of Brunei is home to a single Sathya Sai Centre that conducts numerous service and devotional activities. During Shivaratri, observed on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017, children from the Centre put on a drama with dance performances. SSIO members regularly offer food packets and other rations to foreign workers.

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### **Cambodia**

Moved by the plight of Cambodia's disadvantaged children, a local solicitor began a programme to feed children living on the streets. His work soon evolved into Cambodia's Sai Meals programme, which currently provides food each week for about 100 of Cambodia's most vulnerable and marginalised children.



# ZONE 4 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



## Indonesia

After months of rumbling, Mount Agung in Bali erupted on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017. Under the guidance of Indonesia's National Search and Rescue Agency, the SSIO disaster relief arm of Bali, aptly named Sai Rescue Bali, began evacuating residents, animals and livestock from the area. Once the immediate danger passed, volunteers started rebuilding and restoration efforts, including the setting up of sanitation works, installing of water tanks complete with filtration systems, constructing temporary housing, distributing dry rations and other tasks. The team is working with the Sai Young Adults and Ladies Wings to distribute food, build tents, move residents and set up communal kitchens and clinics. Amidst all this activity, SSIO members also found an opportunity to start a SSEHV programme for the children.

The Bandung Sathya Sai Centre has been leading a Disability Care service programme as part of their community adoption work. For more than six years, they have helped maintain wheelchairs, train caregivers and distribute necessities monthly. Volunteers also serve food for children with disabilities regularly at various parts of the city. Their work attracted commendations by the Governor and Vice Governor of the city, citing the sustained support and volunteerism of the SSIO, on the International Day of People with Disabilities, in December 2017.



# ZONE 4

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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### Lao PDR

The Lao capital of Vientiane is now home to a new Sai medical clinic. Like others around the world, it provides consultations as well as medicines and dental procedures, free of charge. A mobile medical camp along with several blood donation camps further served more than 1,000 Lao citizens.

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### Malaysia

The SSIO of Malaysia organised a national service initiative, encouraging all 85 Sathya Sai Centres and Groups in the country to serve the needy in the month of April 2017. The call was answered in spades, as 500 volunteers served an estimated 5,000 people in all. SSIO members in Malaysia also undertook a period of introspection and devotion, wherein for 40 days between March and April, they earnestly practised the teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, with a focus on human values.

Volunteers initiated a massive public outreach initiative, the “Bhakti Revolution,” fostering collaborations with local religious groups to provide a forum to convey teachings on human values and the universality of all faiths. The programme has involved more than 4,500 participants so far, and plans are underway to bring in 13 additional faith groups, through reaching out to the Indian, Chinese and Malay communities.



Malaysia

# ZONE 4 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



## Myanmar

Volunteers across Myanmar made health services a priority activity, ranging from individual volunteer services to larger medical camps. The latter included trips to visit an orphanage and a school for the blind in Yangon; later, the volunteers who visited the school were so moved that they started a project to improve the facilities at the institution.

SSIO volunteers of Myanmar distributed food to patients at the San Pya Hospital on a routine basis and supported a major housing project for displaced families in Rakhine State.



## Nepal

Determined to serve even the most remote communities, a group of 15 Sathya Sai Young Adults embarked on a perilous journey to the mountainous villages of Sapreni, Jaithali, and Kol Bhanjyang on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and lovingly served food and distributed warm clothing to dozens of needy families.

In November 2017, senior SSIO leaders inaugurated a series of infrastructure projects, including more than 50 newly constructed homes, community drinking water programmes, an Institute of Sathya Sai Education building and an orphanage. These efforts come on the heels of disaster relief projects undertaken since



# ZONE 4

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

the earthquake of 2015. Despite the progress, however, access to safe drinking water remains a challenge in Nepal. This year, the SSIO initiated a new project to bring water to 150 households of the disadvantaged Chepangs community. Several deep-water wells, commissioned this year, will provide water to an additional 200 households.

SSIO volunteers also provided educational materials for some 1,500 students, including desks and chairs.



### Philippines

The SSIO of Philippines welcomed four new Sathya Sai Centres this year. The ever-growing membership also hosted nine medical, dental and vision camps, serving more than 2,900 patients. The Ladies Wing conducted 12 projects to feed the hungry, and their tireless advocacy introduced more than 100 students to Sathya Sai Education this year.

In observance of Aradhana Mahotsavam, on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017, SSIO members served a sumptuous meal at Casa del Niño Science High School in San Pedro, to about 300 students and adults. Volunteers further distributed household groceries and clothing to 350 families. Simultaneously, Sathya Sai Young Adults organised a programme to share their spiritual journeys and experiences in service. This proved so successful they returned a week later to continue their discussions.



Philippines

# ZONE 4 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



## Singapore

Students of the Sathya Sai Kindergarten of Singapore have become regular visitors to the Chinatown Senior Activity Centre. Once more, 45 students along with their teachers returned to the Centre for an entertaining cultural performance on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The students also served 70 seniors with handmade paper fans as mementos of their visit.

SSIO members from Singapore participate in various international service projects, including medicals camps in Myanmar and Laos, and contribute monthly to public service initiatives.



## Sri Lanka

In May 2017, Cyclone Mora brought extreme rains, flooding and landslides to this island nation. In response, the SSIO of Sri Lanka immediately set to work. In Colombo alone, 1,600 meals were served, along with 5,000 litres of bottled water. Supplies provided by the SSIO were airlifted by the national Air Force and distributed in the hardest hit and most inaccessible regions.

The SSIO has consistently aimed to serve Sri Lanka's impoverished communities. The long-running Village Improvement Programme (VIP) continued to expand this year, and on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017 formally brought the villages of Inpacholai and Selvapuram into the existing service platforms. Villagers at these sites re-



Singapore



Sri Lanka

# ZONE 4 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

ceived education in human values, along with housing/water infrastructure and community development tools through the programme.

Other initiatives commenced this year include a fresh water project, to supply more than 2,000 litres of clean water daily to the villagers of Visvamadu, and a new senior care facility housing 40 underprivileged elders in the suburban town of Meegoda. Sri Lanka's hospice centre serving patients with various forms of cancer for many years celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, having brought comfort to hundreds.

Sri Lanka's Walk for Values on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 brought the theme of service once again to the forefront of national consciousness, attracting more than 800 participants in the heart of Colombo. The walk gained national media attention, along with the participation of several senior government ministers.



## Thailand

The SSIO of Thailand undertook a mission to care for some of the nation's most isolated villages. After initial surveys on 27<sup>th</sup> January and 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017, devotees identified residents of multiple villages in the Lam Narai and Baan Daan Chaan regions as most in need of assistance. Food and personal care products were supplied, in addition to a commitment to adopt the villages as a permanent service initiative.



# ZONE 4 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Similarly, on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017, SSIO members travelled to a facility in a small community north of Bangkok that houses orphans diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. Young Adults from the Sathya Sai School entertained the children with games and activities, while others distributed personal effects and learning supplies.

Children began participating in this year's SSIO service initiatives. They joined adults in distributing supplies to the Pakkret Babies Home on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2017, which cares for some 100 infants. Later, on 17<sup>th</sup> December, they performed in a Christmas carol and dance concert to herald in the festive Christmas holiday season. More than 80 children also took part in the now-famous sports day held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Divided into three teams, the students participated in a series of enthralling sports ranging from cricket to hula-hooping.

Other projects undertaken this year include a collaboration with the Good Shepherd Sister's Home on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017, where nearly 30 SSIO members helped care for at-risk teenage girls housed in the facility.

At a green initiative on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> November 2017, Sathya Sai volunteers handed out more than 900 reusable cloth bags to discourage the use of harmful plastic products.



Thailand



Thailand



# Zone 5

Stone Forest National Park, China

# ZONE 5 HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRIES	CENTRES/ GROUPS	SSIO MEMBERS	SSE STUDENTS	ISSE	SATHYA SAI SCHOOLS
China	2	35			
Hong Kong	2	493	218	1	
Japan	27	341	31	1	
Taiwan	2	106	58		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>2</b>	



# ZONE 5

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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### China

In collaboration with Chinese authorities, the SSIO implemented its values-based education programme. The Education Bureau enthusiastically welcomed these efforts, beginning formally in April 2017 with a “Train the Trainers” session, where teachers from three provinces were trained over four days. Other sessions in Yunnan and Qinghai provinces similarly trained educators ranging from college professors to aspiring teachers. These efforts are now being systematised and monitored empirically with data and surveys. The work is attracting academic inquiry with several dissertations and publications being written on the pedagogical achievements of Sathya Sai Education in China.

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### Hong Kong

SSIO members in Hong Kong conducted numerous educational and service projects year-round. Grappling with increasing environmental issues, volunteers recently focused their efforts on protecting the environment. This included taking 100 students and teachers on a field trip to an organic farm in April 2017, hosting an interfaith gathering to discuss the role of religion in preserving the planet in June 2017, conducting interactive study circles on the importance of water in September 2017 and publishing a storybook on the virtues of protecting the planet in November 2017.

Sathya Sai volunteers made continued efforts to reach out to their neighbours and share their love and goodwill. They hosted various events, such as a yoga



# ZONE 5 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

session in March 2018, a Christmas party for adults living with mental illness in December 2017 and a talk on health awareness in May 2018.

On a local radio channel, SSIO volunteers, as guests, spoke of Sathya Sai Baba's teachings in English and Cantonese, followed by singing of melodious bhajans.

In September 2017, the SSIO of Hong Kong welcomed 100 Nepali SSIO members to collaborate in a Sadhana Camp.



## Japan

Torrential rainfall in Northern Kyushu wrought heavy damage on the region in July 2017. SSIO volunteers joined existing volunteer programmes in support of relief efforts. Over the ensuing three months, their efforts brought aid and assistance to countless victims of the rainfall and subsequent flooding.

Volunteers again partnered with a major national organisation, Japan's Red Cross, to organise a blood drive in Kanto. The collaborative spirit extended beyond Japan, as nine students and a professor from the Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning in India participated in the prestigious SAKURA exchange programme in the sciences.

SSE children enthusiastically participated in a Walk for Values during the National Camp at Sai-no-Sato.



Japan

# ZONE 5

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

The Ladies' Wing produced a daily calendar titled "Gems of Wisdom," featuring brief messages of Sathya Sai Baba on human values, in both English and Japanese. Volunteers also continued long-standing service efforts, such as feeding the needy and serving at local senior care homes.



### Taiwan

The SSIO of Taiwan continued to help shape education throughout the region by training future teachers. Through workshops, talks and special lectures at several universities – including an address at Taiwan's National University on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017 – experts in SSEHV curriculum introduced the fundamental principles of values-based education to parents, teachers, volunteers and students.

More than 100 students showed their grasp and appreciation of this training in an inspiring cultural programme on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2017, performing dramas and songs illustrating the role of human values in daily life. The event also reflected the principle of serving the planet.

Human values were again featured in a unique role-reversing Educare event, 20<sup>th</sup>–21<sup>st</sup> October 2017, wherein, among other activities, teachers and parents performed a skit demonstrating the dangers of litter to wildlife.



# ZONE 5 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Volunteers have thereafter put their lessons into regular practice, with 80 volunteers gathering to clean up a beach on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and 46 households participating in earth hour on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018 by turning off electricity and power sources for one hour. Students also resolved to be more resource-aware and to eliminate waste by recycling household items. They pooled their efforts on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018 by hosting a crafts session to “upcycle” household discarded material, such as used clothing and milk cartons, into useful products such as flower pots or organisers.

They also participated in a charity bazaar on 8<sup>th</sup> April. Led by no fewer than 85 Sathya Sai students, the group sold arts and crafts and a selection of delectable vegetarian foods to the public. They donated the proceeds to the Happy Mount Children’s Home, which caters to persons with handicaps. The Happy Mount Children’s Home recognized the SSIO with a certificate of appreciation.





# Zone 6

Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia

# ZONE 6 HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRIES	CENTRES/ GROUPS	SSIO MEMBERS	SSE STUDENTS	ISSE	SATHYA SAI SCHOOLS
Bosnia/Herzegovina	2	23			
Croatia	13	111			
France	4	66			
Greece	6	135	16		
Israel	2	47			
Italy	36	544	47	1	
Macedonia	2	13			
Romania	1	5			
Serbia/Montenegro	4	24			
Slovenia	2	40			
Spain	6	229	93		
Switzerland	11	295	61		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>1,532</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>1</b>	



# ZONE 6

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



### Bosnia & Herzegovina

On 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017, an interfaith gathering themed “Peace and Reconciliation” was held. Organised by the Franciscan order of Christian monks in Sarajevo, representatives of different faiths, including the SSIO, addressed the gathering, establishing collaborative dialogue between different faith groups.



### Croatia

Volunteers in Bjelovar introduced an element of fun into lessons on human values. Rather than restrict themselves to didactic instruction, SSIO educators organised a series of puppet shows to enhance values-based storytelling to an audience of about 100 students. They presented “Wakie-Wakie Stories,” highlighting truth, right conduct, peace and nonviolence in their narratives.

A Walk for Values, marking international Human Values Day on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017, was similarly accompanied by an innovative touch. Rather than carry signs, students walked with colourful balloons for 2.5 km, from their classroom to a community hall. There, they observed an entertaining program enshrining lessons on the values. The event was so appealing that it gained publicity in the local newspapers. In Rijeka, Human Values Day was marked with a lecture on the importance of food for nourishment and spirituality.

These themes were also featured in a zonal retreat from 13<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> October 2017, which brought together SSIO members from Croatia and Slovenia. In an idyllic natural setting, participants engaged in discussions on spiritual topics.



# ZONE 6

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



### France

Cities across France were a final destination for many migrants who fled violence and hardship in their homelands. Touched by their suffering and the harrowing journeys many undertook to reach safety, SSIO volunteers made regular visits to a camp near Calais, which houses a distribution centre and a large, makeshift housing area. Thus far, the volunteers have distributed several truckloads of supplies, including food, clothing and hygiene items. Since the inception of this project, some 9,000 kgs of material has been collected and delivered to the facility. Volunteers also assisted in preparing up to a thousand meals each day, and on one occasion they joined in a rousing game of football with children in the camp.

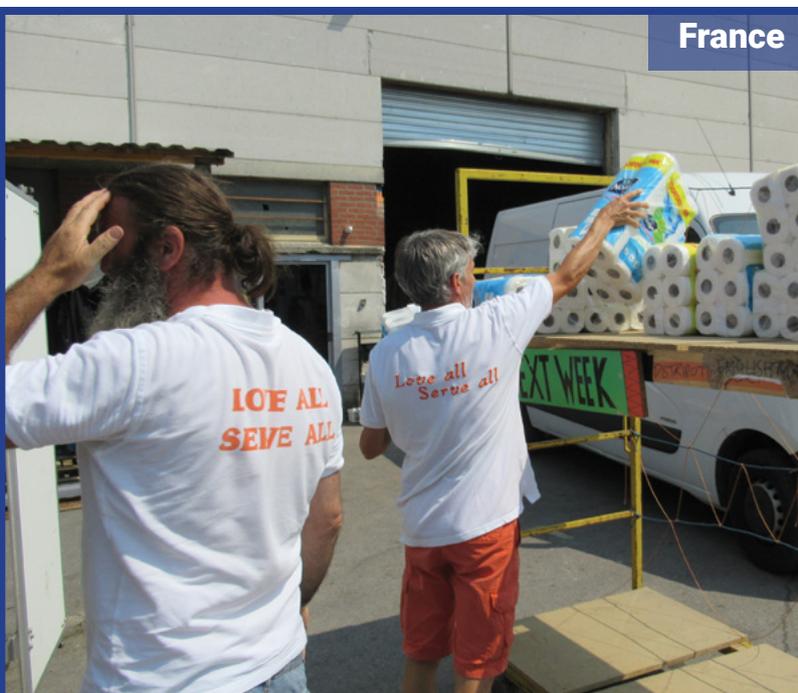
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### Greece

Volunteers in Greece devoted many hours of service to the Medical Centre for Chronic Diseases in Agia Varvara. Their selfless service was acknowledged with an honorary plaque by the Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018. In her acceptance speech, the President of the Sathya Sai Centre of Athens remarked, "Every one of our volunteers has a common goal: to love, serve, and respect every being. It is our duty to meet the needs of the distressed and alleviate their pain, regardless of religion, race or colour."

These inspiring words set the tone for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Europe-wide Service Camp, 21<sup>st</sup>–30<sup>th</sup> July 2017, in Athens. Forty SSIO members gathered from Austria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Germany, Italy, Poland, Slovenia and Greece to immerse themselves in 10 days of devotional and service activities. The various days' programmes also included dynamic workshops, dramas and devotional singing.



France



Greece

# ZONE 6

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



### Italy

Every Wednesday, for the past five years, Venice Square in Rome has seen SSIO volunteers deliver food, drinks, essential clothing and hygiene products to the city's destitute population. Working in three groups, volunteers scour the nearby area looking for those in need, offering not only supplies but their love in a heart-to-heart connection.

On 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017, volunteers participated in the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Peace Run in Rome, to promote peace as an inner awareness and not simply as an antidote to war. The SSIO of Italy joined this annual event to raise public awareness on the importance of inner peace.

Volunteers also turned out in force to commemorate Human Values Day, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017, across Italy. In Cagliari, members of the local Sathya Sai Centre cleaned up a famed archaeological site known as the Tomb of the Giants.

Elsewhere, SSIO members from Emilia-Romagna, Marche and Toscana helped needy families in their communities and entertained them with devotional songs. In Faenza, nearly 300 packets of food and hygiene products were handed out to the needy, and 120 people were served a hot meal freshly prepared by the volunteers.



Italy

# ZONE 6

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



### Serbia

SSIO volunteers organised a workshop on friendship and goodness at the Sunshine School in Belgrade on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2017. Two SSIO educators, along with three teachers from the school, guided 16 energetic children through the workshop. Various fun activities emphasised the values of cooperation and friendship and helped the children understand the consequences of their actions.





# Zone 7

Horseshoe Bend, Vltava River, Czech Republic

# ZONE 7 HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRIES	CENTRES/ GROUPS	SSIO MEMBERS	SSE STUDENTS	ISSE	SATHYA SAI SCHOOLS
Austria	8	51	1		
Belgium	7	81	22		
Czech Republic	3	29			
Denmark	6	65	1	1	
Estonia	1	7	5		
Finland	1	9	25		
Germany	28	303	18		
Hungary	4	67			
Latvia	2	30	9		
Lithuania	3	58	37		
Netherlands	22	328	6		
Poland	13	127			
Slovakia	1	4			
Sweden	2	43			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>1,202</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>1</b>	



# ZONE 7

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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### **Austria**

A team of ten SSIO volunteers came together in support of refugee children in the small village of Walchsee, in the Kufstein district. They visited the refugees between May and July 2017, incorporating SSEHV in educational activities such as teaching German. The volunteers also helped the children with homework and organised entertaining activities, including storytelling, singing, dancing and painting, with the help of the parents.

The series of visits by Sathya Sai volunteers inspired the children to participate in the class with interest and discipline. The children also joined in organised activities incorporating human values themes, such as musical experiments with a sound-bowl, role-playing, drawing, paper crafts and a memory game created by the European Sathya Sai Education (ESSE) Institute.

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### **Czech Republic**

About 30 SSIO members attended the 2017 national meeting of the SSIO of the Czech Republic, 10<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> June 2017, in Prague. The event was marked by devotional songs, group activities, and a talk by Mr. Manfred Müller-Gransee from Germany, who emphasised seeing the world with love.



# ZONE 7

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



### Estonia

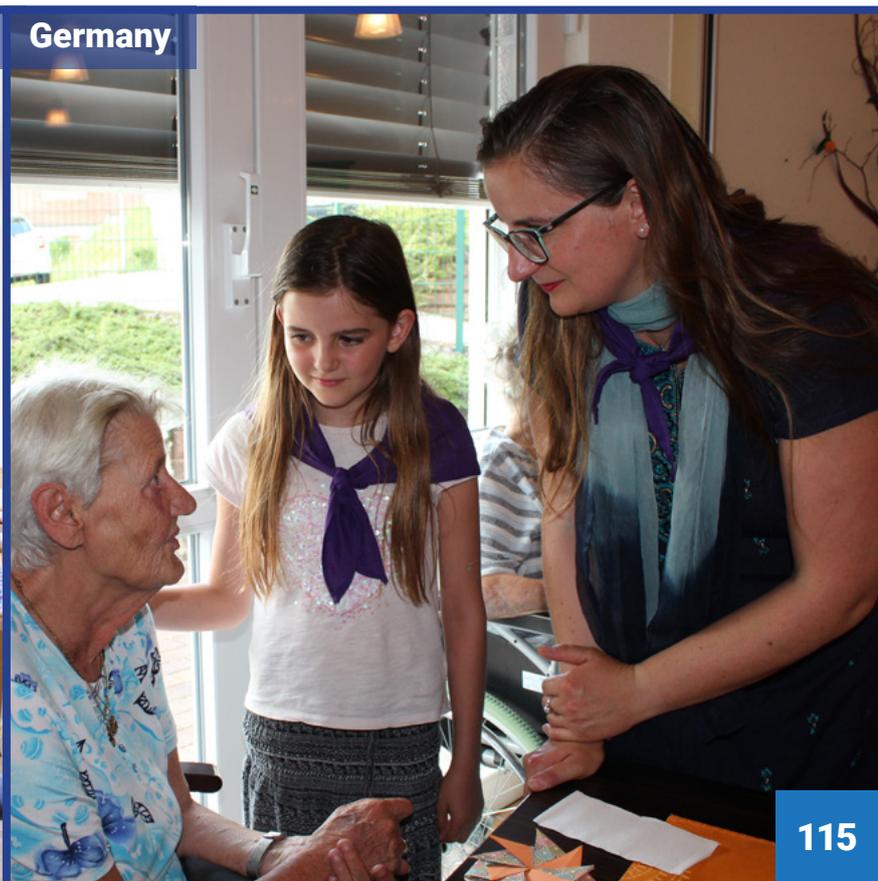
On 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017, members of a local Sathya Sai Group and several newcomers engaged in a course on meditation in the town of Pärnu. They received basic information on meditation as a tool for spiritual advancement and watched a video on meditation. The SSIO presented a similar programme on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 in the central Estonian town of Viljandi.

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### Germany

A regional retreat, themed “God–Man–Nature,” took place in the picturesque surroundings of Wartaweil, near Lake Ammersee, 12<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> May 2017. About 90 SSIO members participated in the event, which featured in-depth study circles on a variety of environmental topics. Attendees discussed Sathya Sai’s teachings on how nature serves mankind selflessly and in an exemplary manner. They also studied a German translation of the Bhagavad Gita and composed a song based on the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Gita, which was subsequently presented at the retreat. Putting into practice their love for nature, volunteers cleaned a nearby lake, built habitats for smaller insects and collected seedlings of oak trees to plant at home.



# ZONE 7

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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The retreat concluded with a musical programme showcasing Indian classical dance, a cello concerto and devotional songs based on world religions.

During 26<sup>th</sup>–27<sup>th</sup> August 2017, 60 SSIO members in Germany celebrated the Silver Jubilee (25 years) of the landmark facility, Stilles Haus (“House of Silence”). They also celebrated several other milestones: 30 years of the ESSE Institute; 35 years of the publishing house, Sathya Sai Vereinigung, and the magazine, *Sathya Sai Briefe*; 40 years of the first German Sathya Sai Centre at Nuremberg; and 10 years of the German edition of Radio Sai and the online magazine *Heart2Heart (H2H)*.

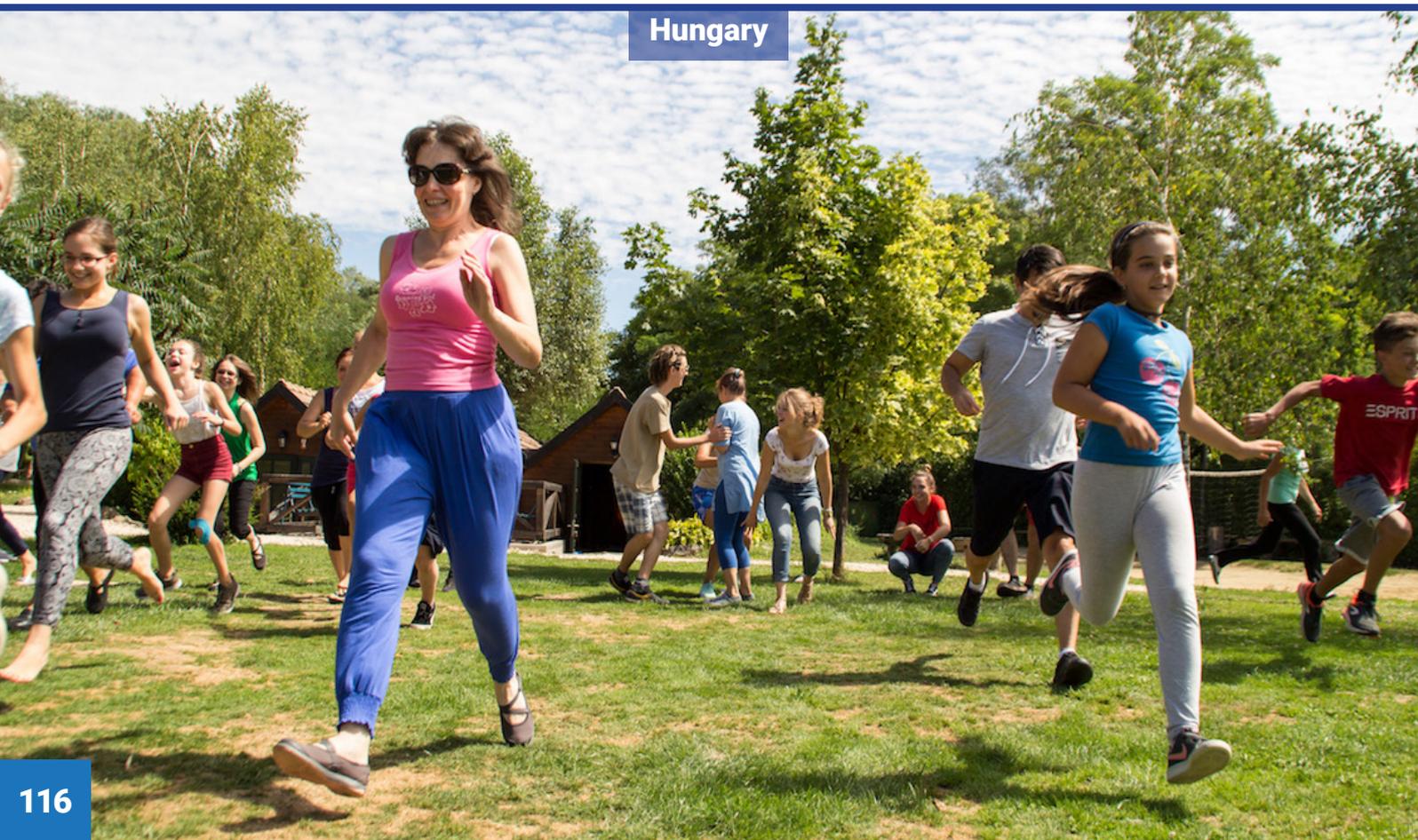
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### Hungary

Members of the SSIO and the local community attended a regional public meeting in the southern Hungarian city of Szeged, including an introduction to the life, teachings and mission of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Thirty people congregated on 16<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> September 2017 to sing devotional songs from different faiths and serve the local community. The participants also cleaned the kitchen and dining area of a community kitchen at a Franciscan monastery. The Sathya Sai Centre of Szeged has had a long-standing relationship with this monastery in serving meals to the homeless.

Hungary



# ZONE 7

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

On Earth Day, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017, the SSIO of Hungary presented a lecture in the city of Kaposvár, titled “Our Planet and the Universal Human Values.” The programme began with a comprehensive overview of the life, teachings and works of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, as well as the activities of the SSIO at national and international levels with respect to nature. SSIO musicians presented an uplifting musical programme, combining elements of all major world religions.

Members of the SSIO of Hungary organised the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Sai Summer Retreat, 29<sup>th</sup> July – 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017, at Angel Garden Camp, in the scenic Cserhát Mountains. Thirty participants of all ages and walks of life spent four days at the camp in spiritual rejuvenation. A cultural programme, “Theatre of Human Values,” showcased theatrical skills while extolling the power of truth, right action, peace, love and nonviolence.

On 25<sup>th</sup> November 2017, 110 members of the SSIO in Hungary celebrated the 92<sup>nd</sup> Birthday of Sathya Sai with a national meeting, including colourful programmes and devotional singing. The meeting highlighted the importance of the environment and included a drama depicting the selfless love offered by nature and all life on earth. The next day, 14 volunteers from the Sathya Sai Centre of Budapest visited a nursing home to entertain the senior residents, bringing holiday cheer by



# ZONE 7

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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singing heart-warming Hungarian songs and reciting poems and short stories. The volunteers also served homemade desserts and fresh fruits to the elderly, who expressed heartfelt gratitude for the loving service.

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### Latvia



About 50 SSIO volunteers from Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia participated in a human values day in Sigulda on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2017, themed “Nature Is Our Teacher.” Young adults organised study circles on reducing food and plastic waste and conserving water.

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### Netherlands



More than 40 SSIO volunteers in the Netherlands, organised in groups, rendered selfless service 20<sup>th</sup>–24<sup>th</sup> April 2017, in honour of Sathya Sai Aradhana Mahotsavam. One team helped the elderly and disabled people with their gardening, embellishing 13 gardens with flowering plants. Another group of volunteers visited lonely and abandoned people to bring them love and cheer. A third volunteer team escorted 15 wheelchair-bound residents of a retirement home to a park for an outing.

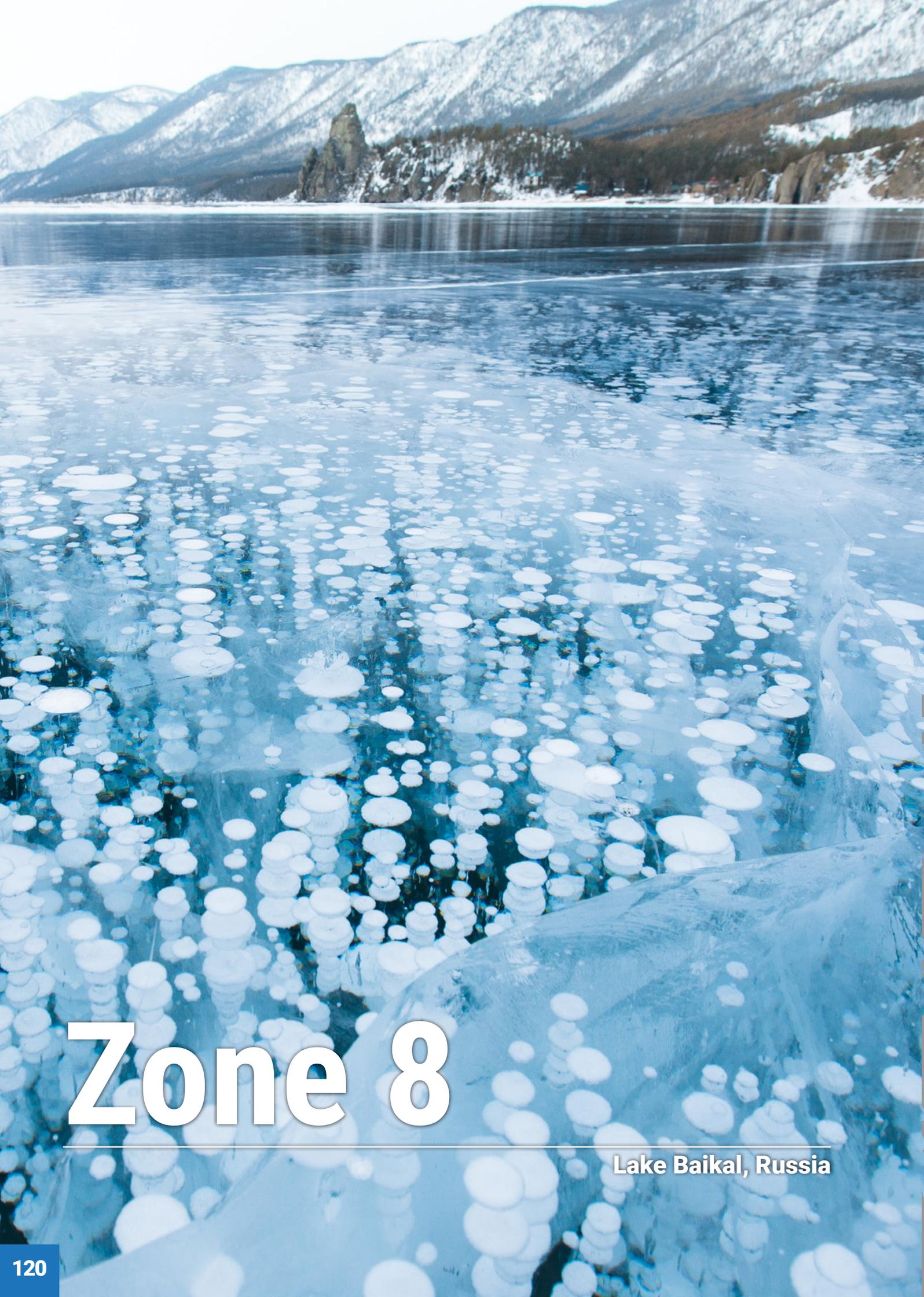


# ZONE 7 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

In another instance, SSIO volunteers cooked dinner for the needy at a shelter, while others engaged in a game of bingo at the request of a group of elderly people living near their Sathya Sai Centre.

Some volunteers took families with children, living in a shelter, to a petting farm, to lift their spirits. In another community, children participated in arts and crafts activities, based on human values. Volunteers of the Sathya Sai Centre of Rotterdam invited elderly guests to attend a bhajan session and served them dinner.





# Zone 8

Lake Baikal, Russia

# ZONE 8 HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRIES	CENTRES/ GROUPS	SSIO MEMBERS	SSE STUDENTS	ISSE	SATHYA SAI SCHOOLS
Azerbaijan	3	20	4		
Belarus	5	34	4		
Kazakhstan	10	81	18		
Kyrgyzstan	1	7	2		
Moldova	1	6			
Russia	67	533	198		
Ukraine	11	77	7		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>233</b>		



# ZONE 8 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

## Zonal Activities

SSIO members of Zone 8 continued to serve and work together beyond international borders with love and unity.

In October 2017, nearly 300 volunteers across 55 cities served food to more than 1,300 people in need and likewise to some animals. Every autumn and spring, the SSIO members from Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan pledge this undertaking, despite many challenges. Likewise, hundreds attended a series of public meetings organised by 250 volunteers from 50 Sathya Sai Centres. These meetings addressed a broad range of topics, including the teachings of Sathya Sai Baba, SSIO programmes and conservation of the environment, tailored to the needs of each country. For example, in Belarus, SSIO volunteers organised a “Sai Café,” where participants joined in a rousing discussion on the role of language in emotions. In Kazakhstan, the environment was a key focus, reflecting the nation’s emphasis on preserving the natural beauty of the country. In Ukraine, a film was screened, highlighting the relevance of spirituality and family values in daily life.





## Azerbaijan

The holidays can be a poignant season for young orphans. In recognition of this, volunteers from three Sathya Sai Centres in Azerbaijan brought festive cheer to orphaned children just before Christmas 2017. They presented gift bags with fruits, sweets, snacks and a toy to 36 children. The volunteers also helped the younger children prepare gifts for their friends, while the older children were treated to a seminar on appreciating the beauty of nature and seeing the inner beauty in each person.

On Earth Day, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2018, SSIO volunteers planted a variety of seedlings to help restore some of nature's beauty.



## Belarus

In an unbroken tradition spanning the last 20 years, SSIO members across Belarus gathered for their flagship conference both to celebrate their work and define the SSIO's outlook for the coming year. Surrounded by picturesque lakes and forests, more than 30 delegates attended a two-day conference near Vitebsk. The event was highlighted by cultural programmes, interactive sessions, poems, songs and a special dramatization of the famous fairy tale, "Repka," all of which added a distinctive touch to the conference.

Belarus



# ZONE 8

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Vitebsk further hosted the Belarussian National Family Camp in June/July 2017, bringing together SSIO members and children from across the country. The “Five Ds” (devotion, duty, discipline, discrimination, and determination) were a focus, underpinning many of the fun activities, including constructing a shelter, cooking on a bonfire and participating in Sai Olympics as well as classes and seminars for the families.

The essence of these five virtues was again harnessed only weeks later when volunteers gathered in the Gomel Region for a national initiative to repair an orphanage for abandoned orphan children.



### Kazakhstan

The SSIO of Kazakhstan joined international celebrations of Earth Day and used the occasion to clean homes, workplaces, beaches and amusement parks around the country. Together with local residents and children, Sathya Sai volunteers also planted trees and flower seedlings to beautify the surroundings.

Later, during the national family camp, nature was again brought to the forefront, as more than 50 SSIO members and children celebrated the theme, “Happiness Is Our True Nature.” Amidst a serene glade surrounded by snow-white birch trees, the children received daily lessons on human values and took part in creative workshops, games, sports and other activities. The group also participated in a



Kazakhstan



Kazakhstan

# ZONE 8

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

20-km walk through the spectacular Tsar's Path, near Yalta, where they cleaned a heavily littered section of coastline along the Black Sea. A local official, pleased and impressed with the service, urged the SSIO to return next year.

These and other service and devotional initiatives were discussed in the national conference during October 2017, where representatives from 12 cities shared their work and discussed future opportunities. The conference also included a seminar on pedagogy, featuring a guest speaker from the Russian Academy of Sciences.

In another programme, 14 children from an orphanage were given an educational seminar based on human values and enjoyed a drama based on the fairy tale, "Tilimilitrymadia."



### **Kyrgyzstan**

In partnership with a Kyrgyzstani public foundation, a small group of SSIO volunteers organised a celebration of friendship and kindness for the children of Bishkek. A total of 77 visitors, of whom more than 85 percent were children, visited the Centre for Social Adaptation, where the epic of Er-Toshtuk was brought to life. Having studied the story earlier, the children watched videos and recited passages featuring the heroism and love of the titular protagonist. Love for nature was another message – not lost on the children in attendance.

Kyrgyzstan



# ZONE 8

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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### Moldova

Tree planting has been a long-standing staple of the SSIO's Serve the Planet initiative. SSIO volunteers of Moldova introduced a novel application of this programme by planting 200 seedlings in a region prone to landslides. They and their partners from the Zelenstroy Company not only beautified the region but performed a public service to help keep the area safe for years to come.

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### Russia

The vast expanse of Russia has long been a challenge for national service initiatives. Nonetheless, Sathya Sai volunteers, inspired by love and devotion, organised a sizeable medical and education camp. An international volunteer task-force of 162, including 65 doctors and nurses in 17 specialties, served more than 3,800 villagers in the region. The volunteers also distributed medical supplies, including 900 pairs of eyeglasses. Simultaneously, a human values-based education programme engaged more than 130 children over five days. SSIO volunteers further renovated two schools and presented sets of supplies, clothing, linens and household appliances to more than 60 needy families. The spectacular camp concluded with a rousing concert enjoyed by an audience of about 500.



# ZONE 8 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

In October 2017, SSIO members from 13 Russian cities hosted a national gathering in the rugged Urals region of Russia. The conference, focusing on health and well-being, featured a programme of dance, music and poetry, as well as a unique Kazakh choir. This came on the heels of a zonal conference, held in St. Petersburg, which brought together the SSIO leadership of Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Belarus, Azerbaijan and Moldova.

For years, the SSIO of Russia has pioneered family camps, offering children and their families an opportunity to unwind amidst an atmosphere of love and devotion. Several camps were organised again, this year. Attendees met in places such as the banks of the Katun River or in sunny Dagestan. The international network of Sathya Sai volunteers re-enacted fairy tales, organised sporting events, participated in creative workshops, presented concerts and enjoyed games and activities.



## Ukraine

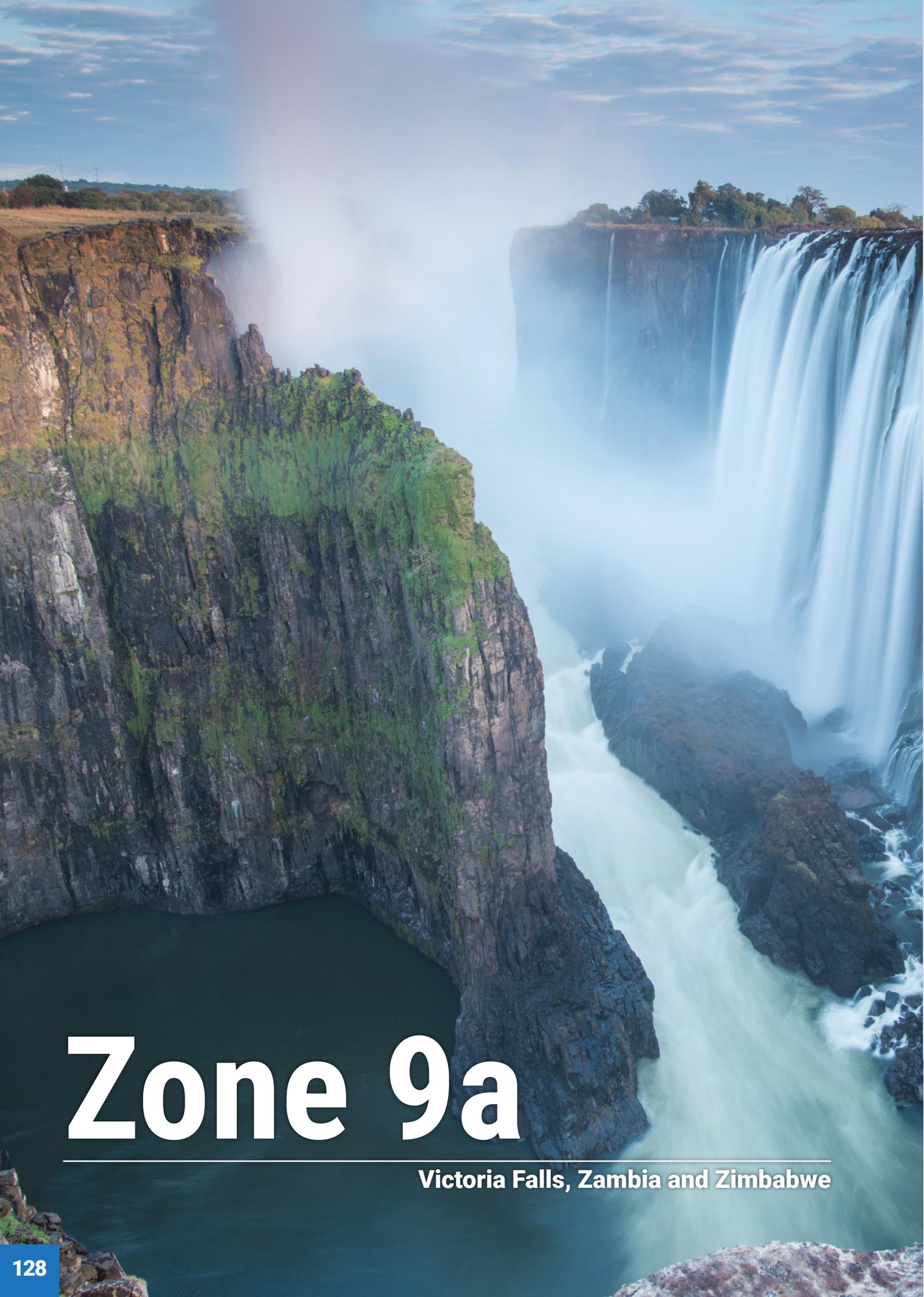
On the shores of the Black Sea, the SSIO of Ukraine organised a family camp attended by 34 people, some hailing from as far as Russia and Moldova. The campers participated in creative workshops daily, even presenting human values-themed tales written by themselves. The camp further included a round-table discussion on spirituality, as well as melodious devotional singing.



Russia



Ukraine



# Zone 9a

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Victoria Falls, Zambia and Zimbabwe

# ZONE 9A HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRIES	CENTRES/ GROUPS	SSIO MEMBERS	SSE STUDENTS	ISSE	SATHYA SAI SCHOOLS
Benin	2	149			
Botswana	2	239	130		
Cameroon	1	85	10		
Congo DR	18	119	6		1
Gabon	2	14	20		
Ghana	1	75			1
Kenya	2	233	11		2
Madagascar	1	70	70		1
Malawi	1	6			
Mauritius	94	4,769	994	1	1
Morocco	1	24	6		
Nigeria	8	191			1
South Africa	122	7,050	1,656	1	3
Tanzania	1	31	30		
Togo	1	42	5		
Uganda	1	49			
Zambia	2	171		1	2
Zimbabwe	2	23			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>13,340</b>	<b>2,938</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>



True love is pure, selfless, free from pride, and is full of bliss. Such love can be got only through love. All worldly attachments are not real love at all. They are transient. The everlasting, pure love arises from the heart.

–Sathya Sai Baba, 27 July 1996



# ZONE 9A

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



### **Benin**

As part of Serve the Planet initiative, SSIO volunteers in Benin hosted numerous clean-ups throughout the year. They not only swept and tidied streets but also separated refuse, removing nonbiodegradable products and disposing of them safely. The volunteers also planted trees.

In another well-established programme, SSIO volunteers hosted SSEHV classes for more than 50 children weekly, providing lessons in human values and helping the students develop life skills based on the teachings of Sathya Sai.

# ZONE 9A

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



### Botswana

In service to the ill and the ailing, the SSIO of Botswana organised two separate blood drives, on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2017 and 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018, in all collecting nearly 75 pints of blood. The SSIO further operated a free medical clinic, offering weekly access to a specialised team of doctors, opticians and nurses. The clinic also repeated its annual vision care programme, in which hundreds of school children from surrounding regions are given eyesight screenings. This year, 400 students from 8 schools were welcome recipients of this service.

SSIO members further conducted 47 events in service of the Old Naledi Tuberculosis and Cancer Centre this year. This facility cares for 300 ill as well as 70 orphaned children, and the SSIO's regular visits provided vital medical supplies, toiletries and various useful items. More than 100 students were also given lessons in human values.



### Ghana

The SSIO of Ghana sponsored several major service initiatives. This included a blood drive on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2017, wherein more than 50 volunteers collected 40 pints of blood and participating in an autism walk on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to raise public awareness about autism.

On 28<sup>th</sup> October 2017, more than 100 young adults came together to clean up Ghana's beachfront. Unregulated dumping and littering had ruined the otherwise picturesque beach and rendered it hazardous. The youth, equipped with rakes, shovels and other hand tools, spent the day cleaning and tidying the shore front. A group of volunteers also served breakfast and lunch to local fishermen and needy children.



Botswana



Ghana

# ZONE 9A

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



### Kenya

In one of the largest humanitarian relief programmes undertaken by the SSIO of Kenya, volunteers brought relief supplies to the drought-ridden region of Kilifi in South Kenya. The SSIO supplied desperately needed food and clothing to seven villages with a combined population of nearly 10,000 affected people. In addition, Sathya Sai Young Adults planted about 2,000 trees in water catchment areas in November 2017 to reduce the impact of droughts in the future.

In Nairobi, volunteers continued to provide an estimated 1,200 children with food, water, clothing and other necessities every Sunday. The children also received SSEHV lessons.

Since its inception in 2001, the Sathya Sai School of Kisaju has excelled in education and service programmes. In celebration of Guru Poornima on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2017, the school hosted a daylong festival featuring indigenous Maasai dancing and skits on human values. On 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017, to commemorate Avatar Declaration Day, the school inaugurated a medical clinic to serve the nearby community. On this day, about 100 elderly and destitute villagers were served a hearty meal, treated to a cultural programme by the students and received hampers of supplies and food, some of which was grown in the school garden. In January 2018, another medical camp was held at the school, serving more than 200 children.

The Sathya Sai Centre of Mombasa continued to offer vision care, working with the Lions Sight First Eye Hospital and performing 108 cataract surgeries.



Kenya



Kenya

# ZONE 9A

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



### Mauritius

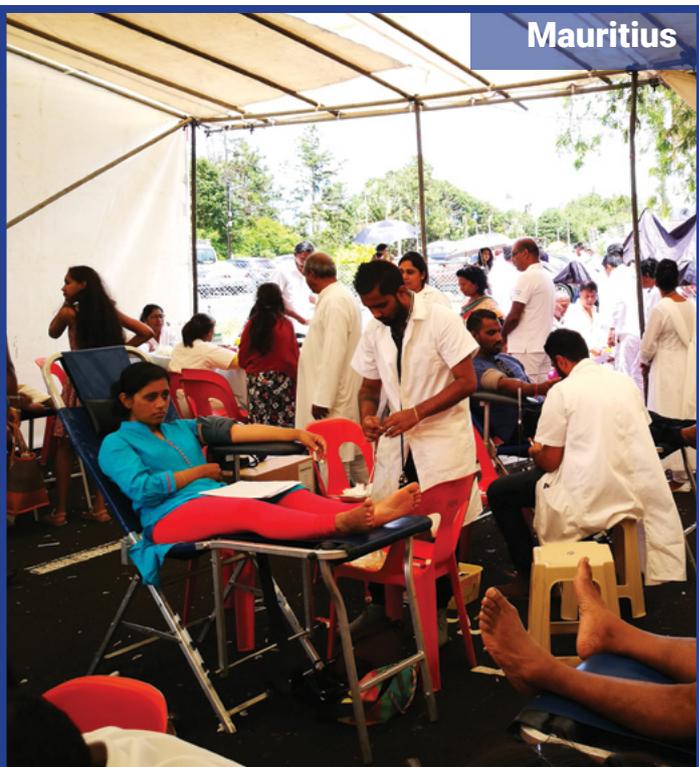
In April 2017, the SSIO of Mauritius held a series of large devotional gatherings across the country. On 25<sup>th</sup> April, SSEHV students presented a medley of songs at a memorial for venerated Mauritian freedom fighters at the District Council of Quartier Militaire.

In January 2018, Cyclone Berguitta brought devastating floods to much of the island. The SSIO immediately set to work, and between 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> January supplied home-cooked meals and utility and toiletry items to 400 individuals displaced by the flood.

Blood donation campaigns met with an overwhelmingly positive response in Mauritius, with 53 blood drives bringing in almost 5,000 pints of blood. In addition, more than 800 patients at four major hospitals around the country were supplied with sanitary products, clothing and medicine.

SSIO volunteers in Mauritius also undertook programmes to beautify their island as part of the global SSIO Serve the Planet initiative, including painting colourful murals. Young adults and elders also planted flowers and saplings to beautify the Renganaden Seeneevassen School.

Sathya Sai youth undertook several education initiatives. On 16<sup>th</sup> July 2017, they worked with the Mauritian Police Force to host an interactive workshop on cyber-crime, at the Sathya Sai Centre of Curepipe.



Mauritius



Mauritius

# ZONE 9A

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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### Morocco

SSIO volunteers in Morocco have initiated a three-way rotating service roster. On the first Thursday of each month, they serve meals to 110 children at the Lalla Hasna Orphanage. On the second Thursday, the volunteers serve 80 children under the care of the Moroccan Association of Children with Special Needs. Finally, on the third Thursday monthly, the SSIO serves food to 60 elderly residents at a home for the destitute.

Morocco's SSEHV outreach programme continued to blossom, training 12 teachers and 344 primary school students in human values and values-based education. At the Union Privees school in Casablanca, 200 students received SSEHV lessons in a multilingual English and Arabic programme.

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### Nigeria

Every week, SSIO members served home-cooked meals to 200 senior citizens at the Ajah Center in Lagos and supplied them with useful items to take away. A monthly service of this type also takes place in the Sangotedo village in Lagos, where food is distributed to approximately 300 villagers. The Sathya Sai Centres at Port Harcourt, Ibadan and Abuja undertook similar service activities regularly.

The Sathya Sai School at Lagos imparted values-based education to 189 children, supported by a faculty of 16 teachers and 5 staff.



# ZONE 9A

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



### South Africa

SSIO members in South Africa undertook a breath-taking array of service activities, highlighted by 107 medical and wellness camps held in Estcourt, Kenville, Ambo, Malagazi, Khayalitsha, Kinross, Kempton Park, Springs, Chatsworth, Umhlanga, Palm Ridge and Tongaat. These camps together served more than 7,700 patients and led to the creation of a national database to facilitate future programmes. Likewise, a Blood Donation Campaign attracted more than 10,000 participants and collected more than 8,000 pints of desperately needed blood, constituting the single largest contribution to South Africa's National Blood Transfusion Service.

Continuing a record of stellar achievement, students of the Sathya Sai School in Chatsworth excelled in South Africa's national matriculation examination, securing a 100% pass rate. The feat is a rare honour, achieved only by very few schools.

Other projects undertaken this year included donating 90,000 large bottles of water to communities in the Western Cape that were suffering from prolonged drought, distributing sanitary kits to vulnerable youth in informal housing settlements and distributing blankets – some of which were handmade by volunteers – to mothers and children in need across the provinces of KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape.

### South Africa



# ZONE 9A

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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### **Tanzania**

More than 100 students with visual and mental disabilities at the Uhuru Mchanganyiko Primary School were served lovingly by members of the SSIO of Tanzania. Throughout the year, volunteers regularly provided meals to the students, assisted in maintaining dormitories and dining facilities and supplied academic material. Building off this experience, the SSIO initiated a Meals on Wheels programme, fortnightly. Another school, the government-run Kigali Primary School, received beneficial services from the SSIO of Tanzania. The school lacked hygienic bathroom facilities. The SSIO constructed a complex of sanitary bathrooms, with 25 toilets. The faculty and students, as well as the Government of Tanzania, were grateful to the SSIO members.

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### **Togo**

Volunteers routinely served about 50 children in a local orphanage and also initiated a major SSEHV programme at the same facility. SSIO members continued to visit public hospitals, bringing supplies to needy patients.

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### **Uganda**

SSIO members in Uganda continued their tradition of service to the needy, including three programmes supplying food and drinking water monthly to 500 needy children and regular distribution of fruit-bearing plants to help provide food for the future.

SSIO members also joined neighbouring countries in blood drives, donating 32 pints of blood.

When the maternity ward of the Mulango Hospital needed mattresses, SSIO volunteers donated 45 new mattresses for the benefit of new mothers.

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### **Zambia**

SSIO members in Zambia have sponsored nearly 70 students in Lusaka, covering not only their school fees but also providing them with daily lunch. Periodic SSEHV classes are also conducted.

# ZONE 9A COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



Photo from Sathya Sai Baba's 1968 visit to East Africa

Do not make distinctions between your people and other people. Consider everybody as a member of the universal Divine family. Experience bliss by cultivating the spirit of unity. Do not give scope for any differences whatsoever. Treat each body as a temple and offer your salutations. Have the firm conviction that God is present in all. When you cultivate such noble thoughts, God will certainly become manifest to you.

—Sathya Sai Baba, 19 April 1998



# UK & Ireland

Seven Sisters Coastline, UK

# UK & IRELAND HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRIES	CENTRES/ GROUPS	SSIO MEMBERS	SSE STUDENTS	ISSE	SATHYA SAI SCHOOLS
UK	78	4,249	1,205		
Ireland	2	45	15		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>4,294</b>	<b>1,220</b>		



# UK & IRELAND COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



## United Kingdom

Hundreds of SSIO members took time to show gratitude to their elders in a gathering at Hatsfield, London, on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2017. The occasion, coinciding with Avatar Declaration Day, honoured elders who have contributed to the SSIO and the new generation of its members. Children also paid respect to their parents, recognising the many sacrifices made for their benefit. More broadly, the SSIO showed its gratitude to numerous collaborating organisations who facilitate its ongoing service projects, including the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Refuge UK, the British Red Cross, Royal Mail, and the Food Bank of Hatfield.

On 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017, members of the SSIO of UK from South West England and Wales met for annual National Christmas Celebrations at the iconic Princess Hall, Cheltenham Ladies College. The event, "Harmony: the Hallmark of Humanity," began with a Christmas service following the traditional Festival of Nine Lessons and Christmas carols. Before the festivities, volunteers made donations in support of regional food banks, and their local chapter of the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association). Readings from the Holy Bible were beautifully intertwined with the carols, together relating the joyful story of Lord Jesus. The magical and uplifting ambience in the hall during the service crescendoed into the final carol, "O Come, All Ye Faithful."



UK

# UK & IRELAND COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Every month, for the past four years, Sai Young Adults from various parts of London have served food to the needy in Central London. On 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018, the National Service Wing and Sai Young Adults served hot food to about 85 people at The Strand, Charing Cross. The recipients were also given dry packed lunches to take away, prepared by Sathya Sai volunteers.



## Ireland

A historic castle hosted 35 SSIO members for the Irish Sathya Sai Summer Retreat from the 16<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> June 2017. The event included transformational group workshops based on Sathya Sai's teachings, as well as music programmes. The event concluded with the participants gathering in the castle's dungeon, lit only by candle-light, to symbolise overcoming fear and adversities.



# Prasanthi Events

Chinese New Year



# PRASANTHI EVENTS

## Chinese New Year

About 500 SSIO members from Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Thailand and Japan gathered in Prasanthi Nilayam on 22<sup>nd</sup>–23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018 to celebrate Chinese New Year. The theme of celebrations was “Honour Our Parents Every Day.” The event was highlighted by a talk about the teachings of Confucius on filial piety and its resonance with Sathya Sai Baba’s teachings to revere and respect one’s parents.

Additionally, there were instrumental performances on the GuZheng, a traditional plucked string instrument and the Er Hu, a Chinese two-stringed fiddle, and a mesmerising presentation of the ancient Chinese dramatic art of mask changing. Three shorts skits, titled “The Cornerstone of Chinese Civilisation,” depicted how parents should be respected and revered.

## Buddha Poonnima Celebrations

On 10<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> May 2017, more than 400 Sathya Sai devotees from Nepal, Lao PDR, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei participated in Buddha Poonnima celebrations in Prasanthi Nilayam. The celebrations included Buddhist chanting, lighting of sacred lamps, speeches and devotional singing. SSE children from Nepal enacted a touching musical skit, while SSE students and youth from Lao PDR, Nepal and Thailand performed colourful cultural dances.



# PRASANTHI EVENTS

## Christmas Celebrations

From 24<sup>th</sup>–26<sup>th</sup> December 2017, in Prasanthi Nilayam, SSIO members took part in festive Christmas celebrations under the theme, “God Is Love, God Is Light; Live in Love and Light.” On Christmas Eve, an International Christmas Choir of 82 men from 26 countries and 240 women from 35 countries suffused the entire milieu with soulful Christmas carols and beautiful songs. The guest speaker, a diplomat from Colombia, shared his experiences of Sathya Sai Baba. An International Children’s Choir of 50 boys and girls from 12 countries sang heart-touching songs. The celebrations wrapped up with an enthralling violin concert and a moving drama performed by SSE students from Australia.



# PRASANTHI EVENTS



# PRASANTHI EVENTS

## Sathya Sai International Leadership Programme (SSILP)

At the Third Annual Graduation Ceremony of the SSILP for Young Adults at Prasanthi Nilayam on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017, certificates were awarded to 456 graduates from 59 countries. The programme included talks by young adults on the impact of the leadership programme, a short video by young adults and children of Thailand with a video song titled “Our Love,” and a mellifluous musical offering.

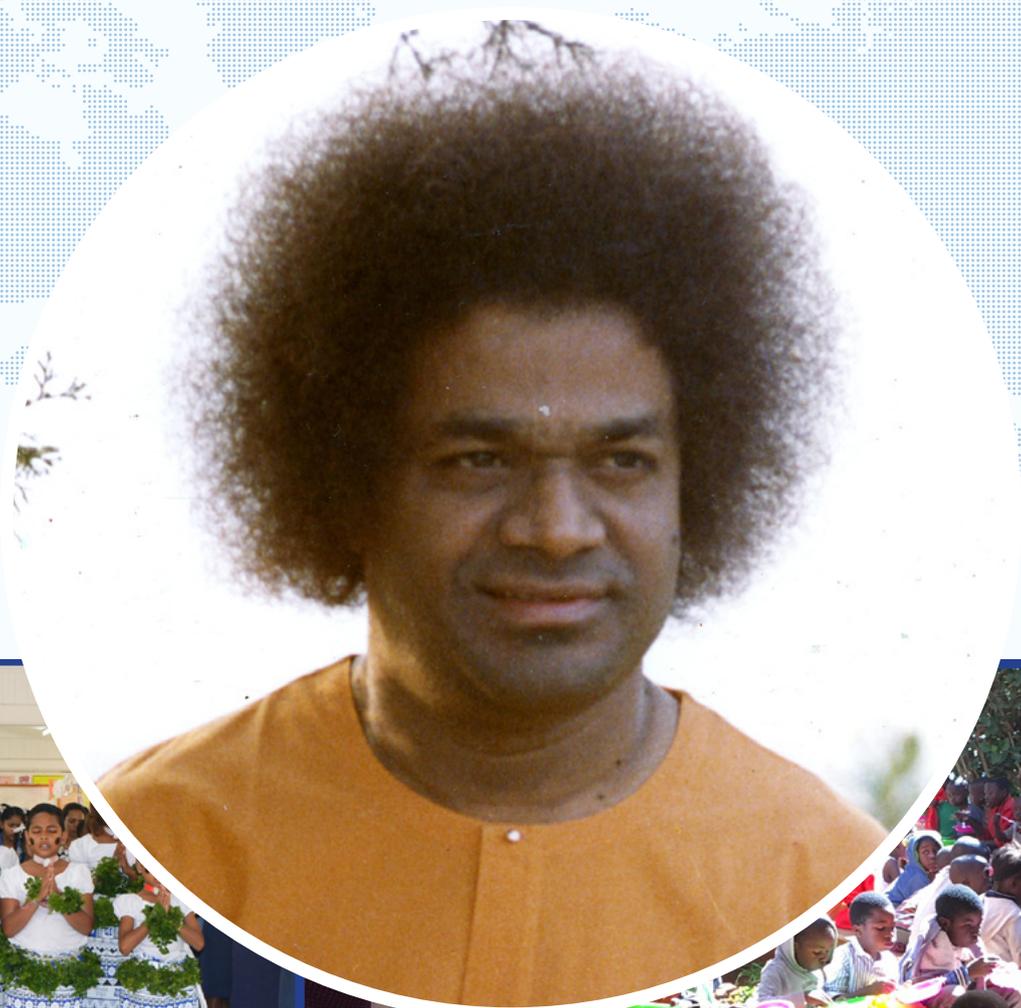
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Love exists for love and nothing else. It is spontaneous and imparts delight. Everything is permeated by love. Love sees with the heart and not the eyes. It listens not through the ears but by the tranquility of the heart. It speaks not with the tongue but out of compassion.

—Sathya Sai Baba, 25 December 1995

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**Fiji**



**Taiwan**



**Kenya**



**Cambodia**



**Russia**



**Kazakhstan**

