

Muni Seva Ashram

Newsletter

April-May, 2018



CONTENT

- Adding New Members to the Family - Tie-up with Amazon Smile Foundation and Sunrise Concentrated Solar Power
- Expanding the Family - Fundraising Event in the U.S.A & Canada
- Cherishing Memories - Bal Mandir, Day-Care Centre
- Celebrating Birthdays - Parivar mandir, Orphanage for Girls
- Our Contribution to the World and Your Meals! - Bhagini Mandir, Home for Mentally Challenged Women
- Making Us Proud - Eklavya Model Residential School
- Experiences of the Experienced - Vanprastha Mandir, Retirement Homes
- Keeping Water Clean and Pure - School of Nursing

[Ashram Website Link](#)

Dear Well-Wisher,

Jai Shree Krushn!

Hoping that you're doing well!

We, at Muni Seva Ashram, have decided to send you monthly newsletters to keep you informed of all that is happening here. Being part of the same family, we need to be informed of our successes and failures, strengths and weaknesses and needs and requirements, so that we can multiply our joys and celebrate them while working together to strengthen our weaknesses.

I will also request you to share your recent past experiences at the Ashram or about it, if you have any, with all of us. To do so, please send your article (not more than 250 words), with a title and some pictures at newsletter@greenashram.org.

To add someone you know to our contacts and to send them this monthly newsletter, please send their details (at least name and email id) to krishna.patel@greenashram.org.

All your suggestions and comments are welcome, please do send them at newsletter@greenashram.org.

Thank you for your contribution, from your donations to your prayers and wishes for Muni Seva Ashram!

Warm regards,

Muni Seva Ashram Family

ADDING MEMBERS TO THE FAMILY

TIE-UP WITH AMAZON SMILE FOUNDATION



Muni Seva Charitable Foundation, USA has been registered as a charity under Amazon. The Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from the eligible Amazon Smile purchases to the foundation.

To purchase from Amazon Smile and help Muni Seva Ashram continue its work towards its vision, please go to this [link](#)

TIE-UP WITH SUNRISE CONCENTRATED SOLAR POWER



Mr. Deepak Gadhia, a trustee of Muni Seva Ashram has been made an honorary Chairman of Sunrise Concentrated Solar Power of Australia's Indian operation to help them bring their unique Solar Concentrator to India for Solar Thermal and Solar Power applications. He will be representing offering my services to them on behalf and for Muni Seva Ashram (MSA) for MSA Renewtech Foundation, a section 25 company whose profits go to the Ashram with the aim to bring complimentary solar technologies to India so that solar and sustainability reaches every nook and corner of the country and helps underprivileged people get access to energy.

[More details on Sunrise CSP](#)

EXPANDING THE FAMILY - FUNDRAISING EVENTS IN THE U.S.A. & CANADA

San Francisco, Calgary, Edmonton, Houston are just a few of the several cities visited by Dr Vikram Patel over the course of a month throughout the United States and Canada to share what Muni Seva Ashram has accomplished over the last couple years. While some cities opted for more intimate events with less than 20 people in a living room, some cities went for a larger scale event with more than 850 attendees. Regardless of the size of the audience, the impact of the message was just as powerful from one city to the next.

The Sponsor a Child program at Muni Seva Ashram is one of the best ways to directly impact a student's life with their education and healthcare as well. For less than a dollar a day, well-wishers are able to select a student and track their progress over the school year. This message resonated with so many event attendees that about 100 students were sponsored just over the course of the month-long visit.

Dr Vikram Patel was joined by motivational speaker Kaajal Oza Vaidya in several cities on his tour. In her speech, Vaidya helped people to understand what it means to be a human being in our day to day lives - not about the materialistic things that we attain, but what we can do as a society to bring about change in the world.

When Dr Vikram Patel spoke about the ashram, its beginnings, its challenges, and its goals for the future, the audience could clearly see the passion and the dedication that he puts forth every single day into growing MSA. His message and his contribution to the society touched thousands of hearts helped to raise well over \$300,000 for the Ashram.



CHERISHING MEMORIES - BAL MANDIR, DAY-CARE CENTERS

The 15 day-care centers, with 30 children each, are randomly visited by some village authority every month to give feedback on the working of the center, especially on factors like cleanliness, discipline, and record maintenance.

In the month of April, there were a quite a few birthday and anniversary celebrations at various centers by different donors and the children were provided with special lunch, sweets or snacks. One special occasion was celebrated at the Dolapura center by Nishthaben, who lives in Canada, but was cared for at the center when she was young. She celebrated her memories with the little ones currently at the center with 'Kheer' - a traditional Indian sweet made of milk, rice and sugar. Celebrating at the center, Nishthaben, was reminded of the fond memories she had at the center when she was young, which helped rekindle her love for the Ashram and respect for the work being done.

[More details on Bal Mandir](#)

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS - PARIVAR MANDIR, ORPHANAGE FOR GIRLS

Urja Nileshbhai Pagedar, born on 19th April 2010, turned eight this year and her sister Girja Nileshbhai Pagedar, born on 15th April 2011, turned seven this year celebrated their birthday with their aunt at the Parivar Mandir on 15th April.

The sisters have been living at Parivar Mandir, our orphanage for the last two years after both their parents have passed away. So, on their birthday, their aunt brought a cake for the sisters at the Parivar Mandir and the girls had a birthday party with their friends here. The girls prayed, sang songs, danced, played games, wore party dresses, received pencils as a return gift and had a lot of fun. Such events help the little girls realize that they are each other's family and this realization make them brave, independent, and proud.



[More details on Parivar Mandir](#)

OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD AND YOUR MEALS! - BHAGINI MANDIR, HOME FOR MENTALLY CHALLENGED WOMEN

These women at Bhagini Mandir engage in activities like knitting, embroidery, making toran (door-laces), etc. Apart from their routine activities of looking after themselves and helping each other, especially colleagues who are not doing as well as them, they are also engaged in work like cleaning/sweeping the grounds/campus, helping in the kitchen in

activities like rolling chapatis, cutting vegetables, cleaning utensils, etc., and folding washed and dried clothes.

In the month of April, these women were especially involved in the activity of making pickles from raw mango and clammy berries (gunda). All the pickles sold at the Ashram office are made by these women under the guidance of their head caretaker, Madhuben.

The women had their summer break in the month of May when about 65 of them went home to their families to return in June.



[More details on Bhagini Mandir](#)

MAKING US PROUD - EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

For class 12th science students extra coaching sessions were arranged for NEET and JEE / GUJCET entrance exams at the Vankuva campus in April.

Five students of class 12th appeared in JEE (main) exam and three students Hemant, Sunil and Anil qualified for JEE Advance exam. Further coaching arrangements for them were done at Vadodara. On 20th May these three students appeared for JEE Advance and the results are awaited.

From the students of Maths group, five students also appeared for NDA exam at Ahmedabad and are awaiting results.

Fifteen Biology group students appeared for NEET on 6th May at Vadodara and four of them, Nitin, Nikita, Bansari and Sumit, have qualified for admission in Medical courses.

Of the 20 students that appeared for class twelfth Science board exams, 17 students passed, 2 failed and one got supplementary exam (repeat exam in one subject).

Hemant Rathva of grade twelve science scored the highest with 81.5% marks and also selected for an award for scholarship for higher education in science because of his performance within top 1% in class 12th board exam. This scholarship of Rs.80,000 per year for 5 years is offered by Government of India.

[More details on Eklavya Model Residential School](#)

EXPERIENCES OF THE EXPERIENCED - VANPRASTHA MANDIR, RETIREMENT HOMES

'The culture of any society is reflected in the way it treats its elders'.

Gokul takes pride in being the first Vanprastha Mandir of the Ashram and the resident elders live a very peaceful life here, but rare calamities that strike do leave their footprints behind. One such incident that scared the elders happened on 27th August 2017. Gokul is situated in a low-lying area at the Ashram, and heavy rains since morning started flooding the rooms by the evening. On being made aware of the situation, the administrative staff rushed to their aid along with the nursing staff and the security personnel to shift the elderly to another building. The kitchen staff provided the elderly with hot tea and snacks to help them relax in an environment of tension. Rains stopped the next morning and the cleaning staff worked hard to make the rooms clean and hygienic and the elders were then shifted back to their rooms. In the time of need, everybody cooperated with each other making all the elderly in distress feel as if they had their families right next to them. This was a night they won't ever forget!

At 4:00 p.m. every evening in Mathura, the elders get together to sing Bhajans or devotional songs. What makes Mathura very vibrant and lively is the all-pervading presence of our beloved 'Sudha Ba'. The residents of Mathura feel relaxed once they share their big and small problems with Sudha Ba, as she would leave no stone unturned to help them. 'Kisan Dada', another beloved personality of Mathura is well-known to create a spiritual atmosphere by playing his flute along with the melodious bhajans.

At Vrindavan, seven of the 19 members regularly read religious books from 4 to 5 p.m. every day and discuss interesting topics. Chandubhai, at the age of 87, regularly helps administer the workings of the Sharda Mandir Primary School, the children and the teachers all love him, and he has made noticeable changes for the improvement of the quality of education provided there.

All the elderly, especially those from the latest home - Govardhan, attended a session on spirituality, taken by Sampooran Jivan Trust established in Baroda, and organized by Mr Hemant Patel, at the auditorium of the hospital, along with the young nurses, vocational training students, staff and their families. It was an enlightening session that everyone enjoyed.

[More details on Vanprastha Mandir](#)

KEEPING WATER CLEAN AND PURE - SCHOOL OF NURSING

The first year students of the B.Sc. Nursing course of the School of Nursing visited the Nimeta Water Purification Plant, as a part of their curriculum of the subject of Community Health Nursing, on 25th May 2018. The students were given significant information regarding the various contaminants of water and methods of removing those contaminants.



[More details on School of Nursing](#)