स्वयमेव मृगेन्द्रता

HINDU SWAYAMSEVAK SANGH USA

Annual Report

2025–26

October 2025 – September 2026

SANGHATAN | SAMSKAR | SEWA

PROMOTE DHARMA
FOSTER PEACE
WWW.HSSUS.ORG

WHO WE ARE

About HSS USA

Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh USA (HSS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the cultural and spiritual development of the Hindu community in the United States. Through various programs and activities, HSS aims to promote values of respect, inclusivity, community service, and interfaith dialogue.

AT A GLANCE · 2025–26

Our Growing Reach

275	SHAKHAS
198	CITIES
35	STATES
89	HINDU YUVA UNIVERSITY CHAPTERS
45	HINDU YUVA HIGH SCHOOL CHAPTERS

Established on Vijaya Dashami in 1989, HSS nurtures confidence, character, and leadership in children, youth, and families across America.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

President's Message

Namaste,

On the auspicious occasion of Vijayadashami — a day that reminds us of the triumph of Dharma — I am pleased to share the accomplishments of Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh USA (HSS) for **2025–26**.

This year, our shakhas grew to **275** in 198 cities across 35 states and nurturing confidence, character, and leadership in our children, youth, and families. Many "karyakartas" (volunteers) undertook training and took on new organizational responsibilities, strengthening our roots even as we adapt to new opportunities. We are also encouraged by the growing momentum of teenagers and youth volunteering their time through the "**vistarakship**" (expansion) initiative.

Our commitment to "seva" (selfless service) remained a cornerstone of this Growth Year, anchored once again by **Sewa Diwali** (sewadiwali.org). This food drive brought together 553 organizations and nearly 3,000 volunteers nationwide, collecting and distributing over 970,000 pounds of food through food pantries, shelters, and community centers. Alongside this, **Vidyadaan** brought school supplies and support to students across multiple school districts, and the Annual Book Fair in Peoria, IL, resulted in book donations for students from underserved communities. These efforts reflect the spirit of service that has always defined our karyakartas.

Our youth and families found deep connection this year through **Hindu Heritage Camps** (hinduheritagecamp.com). Guided by the goal of reaching Hindu families in 100 new cities, this initiative identified 210 new cities and held 122 camps between January and May 2026, bringing together more than 4,500 participants, from children to grandparents, to celebrate Hindu culture, values, and community. Alongside this, **Hindu YUVA** continued to expand across 89 university and 45 high school campuses, empowering the next generation of Hindu Americans to lead with knowledge, unity, and service.

We continued to deepen our engagement with the broader American community — honoring educators through **Guru Vandana**, thanking first responders and civic leaders through **Raksha Bandhan / Universal Oneness Day**, and building bridges with our neighbors through **Black History Month**, **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**, and Fourth of July celebrations, commemorating **America 250**.

As we reflect on this year's work, we do so in the spirit of Dr. Hedgewar's original vision — that a movement built on volunteerism, discipline, and selfless service can transform not just individuals, but entire communities. Every karyakarta who gives their time carries that vision forward.

Dr. Vinod Ambastha
President, Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh USA

> *"A movement built on volunteerism, discipline, and selfless service can transform entire communities."*

GROWTH YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

275
shakhas · 198 cities · 35 states

970,000+
lbs of food via Sewa Diwali

122
Hindu Heritage Camps

134
Hindu YUVA chapters

UTSAV · FOUNDATION DAY

Vijaya Dashami

Celebrating Sanghatan — organized effort

Established on the auspicious day of Vijaya Dashami in 1989, HSS USA celebrates this festival each year. During this Growth Year, the celebration symbolized the organization's expanding reach and renewed commitment to developing volunteers, strengthening communities, and fostering leadership.

Vijaya Dashami utsav is a time when HSS volunteers demonstrate Sanghatan, or organized effort. It also showcases the Samskars, or teachings from the Shakhas, through yoga demonstrations, the melodious Ghosh band, group performances, songs, and traditional games; volunteers showcased discipline, teamwork, and unity in diversity.

VIJAYA DASHAMI 2026 · CHICAGO
Swayamsevaks and sevikas assemble in formation before the Bhagwa Dhwaj at the Chicago utsav.

Yoga Demonstrations	Ghosh Band	Group Performances	Songs	Traditional Games

HEALTH FOR HUMANITY YOGATHON

Surya Namaskar Yajna 2026

The 19th annual nationwide Yogathon

911,340	32	240+	200+
SURYA NAMASKARS PERFORMED	STATES	HSS CHAPTERS	TRAINED VOLUNTEERS

SURYA NAMASKAR YAJNA 2026 · HOUSTON
Families and volunteers perform Surya Namaskar together at an outdoor Yajna in Houston, Texas.

The 19th annual Health for Humanity Yogathon (Surya Namaskar Yajna) united communities across the United States in promoting health, mindfulness, and holistic well-being through the timeless practice of Surya Namaskar. Conducted from January 14 to February 1, 2026, the nationwide initiative inspired participants of all ages and backgrounds to collectively perform 911,340 Surya Namaskars across 32 states, with activities organized by more than 240 HSS chapters.

Schools, universities, temples, libraries, senior centers, workplaces, and interfaith organizations enthusiastically joined the movement, while over 200 trained volunteers led inclusive sessions, including chair-based adaptations for accessibility. The Yogathon also received official recognition through proclamations from multiple cities and states, underscoring its growing public impact. By combining physical fitness, mental wellness, community engagement, and the universal values of yoga, the 2026 Yogathon reinforced HSS's commitment to building a healthier, more connected, and compassionate society.

SURYA NAMASKAR YAJNA 2026 · CHILDREN
Young participants flow through Surya Namaskar during a community Yajna session.

EDUCATORS' OUTREACH

Guru Vandana

Honoring teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week

105
CELEBRATIONS

2,000+
EDUCATORS HONORED

7,500
ATTENDEES

GURU VANDANA 2026
Students in traditional attire with the teachers and school leaders they honored.

GURU VANDANA 2026 · MICHIGAN
Students celebrate with their teacher at the Guru Vandana photo booth.

Guru Vandana is a flagship initiative that bridges Hindu values with mainstream American education by recognizing the invaluable contribution of teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week. Organized by the Hindu Education Foundation (HEF), a project of HSS USA, the program encourages students to publicly express gratitude to their teachers through cultural performances, Sanskrit shlokas, and traditional ceremonies rooted in the Hindu concept of the Guru — one who imparts knowledge while shaping character and values.

In 2026, Guru Vandana reached unprecedented scale, with 105 celebrations held across schools, colleges, and community centers throughout the United States. The initiative honored 1,874 teachers, 71 principals, 19 superintendents, 54 school board members, and 41 civic officials, while engaging more than 7,500 students, parents, and community members.

A significant milestone this year was the expansion of celebrations directly onto school and university campuses, where students themselves organized the events. College chapters of Hindu YUVA also hosted ceremonies honoring professors, deans, and university leaders, reflecting the growing acceptance of the tradition within American educational institutions.

WHO WAS HONORED

1,874	Teachers
71	Principals
19	Superintendents
54	School board members
41	Civic officials

EDUCATORS' OUTREACH

HEF Workshops for Educators

Hindu Education Foundation · New Jersey

80
TEACHERS, PRINCIPALS & SUPERINTENDENT

600
STUDENTS EXPLORED DARSHANA

1
BOARD OF EDUCATION BRIEFING

The Hindu Education Foundation (HEF), an HSS project, conducted a Hindu Culture Workshop for 80 teachers, Principals, and the Superintendent of Watchung Borough School District, NJ.

Volunteers also set up the **Darshana – Hindu Poster Exhibition** in schools. Around 600 students reviewed the posters, asked questions, and made notes. Both teachers and students had extremely positive feedback about this educational venture. The Superintendent shared these HEF activities at her Board of Education meeting.

HEF WORKSHOP · HINDU CULTURE FOR EDUCATORS
An HEF presenter introduces Hindu symbols and traditions to teachers and school leaders.

HEF WORKSHOP · WELCOMING EDUCATORS
HEF volunteers share small gifts with educators attending the workshop.

HEF DARSHANA · HINDU POSTER EXHIBITION
Students explore the Darshana posters on Dharma and the four spiritual paths.

FOR EDUCATORS

Hindu Culture Workshop

- 80 teachers and principals
- District Superintendent in attendance
- Shared at the Board of Education meeting

FOR STUDENTS

Darshana – Hindu Poster Exhibition

600 STUDENTS REVIEWED POSTERS, ASKED QUESTIONS & TOOK NOTES

UNIVERSAL ONENESS DAY

Raksha Bandhan

A sacred bond of mutual care and protection

Raksha Bandhan is one of the most cherished festivals celebrated by Hindus worldwide and, in many places, by people of Bharatiya origin regardless of their individual faiths or traditions. It symbolizes the sacred bond of mutual care, trust, and the shared responsibility to protect one another.

Since its inception, HSS USA has celebrated Raksha Bandhan among its Swayamsevaks and Sevikas. Recognizing its universal philosophical message, HSS later expanded the celebration beyond the Hindu community to the broader American society under the name **"Universal Oneness Day."**

During August and September, HSS volunteers visit first responders, elected officials, community leaders, and members of the public, tying a Rakhi as a symbol of mutual respect and a shared commitment to safeguarding one another and strengthening the fabric of American society.

These heartfelt interactions have become a deeply meaningful experience for both volunteers and community leaders, reflecting the timeless Hindu ideal that humanity is one family.

> *Humanity is one family* — वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्

RAKSHA BANDHAN · CITY OF KATY, TEXAS
HSS volunteers tie Rakhis for City of Katy officials as a symbol of mutual respect.

RAKSHA BANDHAN · FIRST RESPONDERS
Children and volunteers tie Rakhis for officers outside the City of Milford Police Department.

ACTIVITIES

Hindu Heritage Camps

A Growth Year initiative for the whole family

122 CAMPS

108 CITIES

4,500+ ATTENDEES

The Hindu Heritage Family Camp, a Growth Year initiative of Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS), USA, brought together children, teenagers, parents, and grandparents to celebrate and experience the timeless values of Hindu culture in a joyful and engaging environment.

Through a combination of yoga, physical games, arts and crafts, storytelling, group discussions, geet, shlokas, subhashitams, martial arts, and community-building activities, participants strengthened their cultural identity, leadership, teamwork, and family bonds. This vibrant community experience helped nurture confidence, character, and a sense of belonging while inspiring families to live and share the universal values of Hindu heritage in contemporary American society.

WHAT FAMILIES EXPERIENCED

Yoga · Physical Games · Arts & Crafts · Storytelling · Group Discussions · Geet · Shlokas · Subhashitams · Martial Arts · Community Building

HINDU HERITAGE CAMPS · PHYSICAL GAMES
Children, parents, and teens join in energetic group games together.

HINDU HERITAGE CAMPS · ARTS & CRAFTS
Young campers color lotus and Om designs together.

THE GOAL

100
new cities — the target set for reaching Hindu families through Heritage Camps.

THE RESULT

210
new cities identified, with 122 camps held between January and May 2026.

EVERY GENERATION

From children to grandparents, families celebrated Hindu culture, values, and community together.

WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES

Women's Day Celebrated With Varied Activities

WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES · SEVIKAS
Sevikas present a coordinated flag drill, showcasing strength, discipline, and unity.

Across the country, HSS Sevikas marked Women's Day with impactful gatherings celebrating service, culture, and leadership. In Dallas, 102 participants showcased strength and unity through collective fitness activities. HSS New Jersey hosted local women leaders for an engaging Women's History Month dialogue on civic participation.

Chicago's International Women's Day event drew 80 attendees for sessions on health, finance, and Hindu values. A vibrant Holi–Purim celebration brought together 300+ participants, highlighting cultural harmony, creativity, and strong community spirit led by dedicated Sevikas.

HSS representatives also attended the 70th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Immersive Summer Programs

A diverse lineup of summer activities vastly expanded community outreach and increased *shakha sankhya* (attendance). Key summer events included:

- Ramayana camps and Tele-katha series
- *Ghosh Varg* and *Mandir Yatras*
- *Bala Melas* and *Sanghiks*
- Children's book clubs and Hindu Heritage camps

SUMMER PROGRAMS · RAMAYANA CAMP
Children gather around their hand-drawn storyboard of the seven Kandas of the Ramayana.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Bala Dainandini

An inspirational daily planner for Hindu children

BALA DAINANDINI 2026–27 · COVER
"Timeless Inspiration: Our Journey Continues" — the Bala Gokulam planner.

BALA DAINANDINI · MARCH 2026
Monthly calendar with festivals, daily and weekly tasks, yoga, and a shloka.

Developed and distributed an inspirational daily planner to approximately **2,000 Hindu children** nationwide. This innovative tool introduces children to the depth of our *Dharma* while helping them select, plan, and track their daily and weekly *samskaras*.

~2,000
PLANNERS DISTRIBUTED TO CHILDREN NATIONWIDE

INSIDE EACH MONTH

- Hindu calendar with tithis, festivals, and moon phases
- Daily and weekly samskara trackers — Surya Namaskar, pranaam to parents, reduced screen time
- A yoga asana of the month with step-by-step guidance
- A Sanskrit shloka with transliteration and meaning

VALUES IN EVERY PAGE

Veda · Puja · Dharma · Yoga · Sewa · Samskar · Mandir · Guru

Shikshak (Mentor) Development

Bala Shikshak Prasikshan training sessions were held throughout the country. These workshops equipped and inspired *swayamsevaks* and *sevikas* with effective methods to engage and mentor *balas*.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Bal Mela 2026

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — The World is One Family

BAL MELA 2026 · GREATER BOSTON
Children present a classical dance performance at Shri Umiya Dham, Foxboro.

700+
FAMILIES

Mar 1
FOXBORO, MA

Bal Mela 2026 brought vibrant energy to Shri Umiya Dham in Foxboro on March 1, as more than 700 families celebrated culture, creativity, and global unity under the theme "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – The World is One Family." Designed and led entirely by children from HSS chapters across New England, the festival featured multicultural performances — from Sri Lankan Kandyan dance to a multilingual rendition of *Mile Sur Mera Tumhara* — along with storytelling, puppetry, and a joyful finale to *We Are the World*.

Interactive cultural booths, run by children for children, invited participants to explore global traditions, collect passport stamps, and create handmade souvenirs. With support from community partners and guests including Senator Paul Feeney, Bal Mela 2026 showcased the power of youth leadership and the shared humanity that connects us all.

BAL MELA 2026 · ON STAGE
Young emcees and performers take the stage at the children-led festival.

TEEN PROGRAMS

Kishore (Teen) Activities

Sports, culture, learning, and leadership

Throughout the year, Kishor activities across the USA blended sports, culture, learning, and leadership development. Highlights included the Midwest Sambhag Kho Kho Premier League, Super Bowl gatherings, musical Guru Vandana programs, the Mahabharata Marathon, overnight camps, educational field trips, and college-readiness webinars with Hindu YUVA.

Guided by karyakartas, palaks, and Kishor shikshaks, these programs fostered brotherhood, discipline, confidence, and strong Hindu values while providing meaningful alternatives to screen time. Graduating seniors were also supported through havans, Bhagavad Gita presentations, and practical life guidance as they prepared for college and the next chapter of their lives.

KISHORE ACTIVITIES · TEEN GROUP 2026
Kishore (teen) swayamsevaks and sevikas gather after a program in 2026.

Teens on the Vivekananda Trail

CALIFORNIA · "VIVEKANANDA EXPRESS"

HSS teenagers in California visited the historic Vedanta Society of San Francisco and the First Unitarian Church of Oakland, preserving memories of Swami Vivekananda. The field trip was marked with lectures, meditation, blessings, and a concluding keynote in Fremont. They aptly named their sojourn the "Vivekananda Express."

CHICAGO · VIVEKANANDA HOUSE, UIUC

Along similar lines, Chicago kishors embarked on an inspiring field trip to Vivekananda House at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Hosted by the Hindu YUVA at UIUC team, they explored campus life, deepened their connection to Swami Vivekananda's legacy, and participated in vibrant Mahashivaratri celebrations.

KISHORE ACTIVITIES · NIVAS VARG, TEXAS
An overnight Nivas Varg at the Texas Hindu Campsite brought together 100 teenagers.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Hindu YUVA

Empowering Hindu youth on campuses across North America

89
UNIVERSITY CHAPTERS

45
HIGH SCHOOL CHAPTERS

HINDU YUVA · OUTDOOR RETREAT
Hindu YUVA members build confidence and teamwork on a rock-climbing outing.

HINDU YUVA · TRADITIONAL GAMES
Students play traditional Bharatiya games at a Hindu YUVA gathering.

Throughout 2026, Hindu YUVA continued to empower Hindu youth across high school and college campuses in North America by creating vibrant communities rooted in Hindu values, leadership, service, and cultural awareness. Chapters organized a diverse range of educational, cultural, and service-oriented programs and celebrated major Hindu festivals such as Holi, Ganesh Chaturthi, and Diwali, bringing together thousands of participants from diverse backgrounds.

The annual Guru Vandana ceremonies became a hallmark of the organization's outreach, recognizing and honoring professors and educators for their contributions while showcasing the Hindu tradition of reverence for teachers. Several chapters reported record participation, reflecting the growing visibility and impact of Hindu YUVA on university campuses.

ACCOLADES

Hindu YUVA at Ohio State wins 2 of 8 organization awards

Recognized in this year's OSU Student Leadership Awards by the Office of Student Life:

- Boehm Holistic Wellness Award
- Belonging & Social Change Engagement in Programming Award

OUTREACH EVENTS

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Observances

Shared values of harmony, service, and human dignity

HSS volunteers across the United States commemorated the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by participating in interfaith dialogues, community celebrations, and public service initiatives that highlighted the shared values of harmony, service, and human dignity.

KANSAS CITY

Volunteers joined an MLK Interfaith Service Panel, offering reflections on Dr. King's teachings from a Hindu perspective and emphasizing the universal principles of nonviolence, unity, and respect for all.

ROCKLIN, CALIFORNIA

Sacramento-area volunteers joined MLK Jr. Day celebrations, carrying portraits of Dr. King and Mahatma Gandhi to symbolize the enduring connection between their philosophies of peaceful social transformation.

AURORA, ILLINOIS

Youth volunteers associated with SewaDiwali were recognized by Mayor Richard Irvin with the prestigious **"MLK Service Above Self 2025"** Award for their outstanding commitment to community service.

These activities reflected HSS's continued commitment to fostering interfaith understanding, civic engagement, and selfless service while honoring the timeless ideals championed by Dr. King and Mahatma Gandhi.

AWARD · AURORA, IL

MLK Service Above Self 2025

Presented by Mayor Richard Irvin to SewaDiwali youth volunteers

OUTREACH EVENTS

Holocaust Remembrance Day

44 kishor (teen) and adult volunteers visited the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum to understand the Holocaust's impact and its parallels to history, especially as the visit coincided with Kashmiri Pandit Exodus Day. Hindu and Jewish teenagers initiated an interfaith dialogue that included blessings in Hebrew and Sanskrit, discussions, and games, fostering cross-cultural understanding.

44

TEEN & ADULT VOLUNTEERS

Hebrew & Sanskrit

SHARED BLESSINGS

OUTREACH EVENTS

Black History Month 2026

Celebrating the Centennial of Black History Month

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2026

Certificate of recognition from Black Heritage Society Inc. (Feb. 22, 2026), alongside community programs hosted by HSS chapters.

During **Black History Month 2026**, Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS) USA chapters across the country organized educational programs, community dialogues, and guest lectures to celebrate the enduring contributions of African Americans to the nation's history and strengthen bonds among diverse communities. Events in Arizona, California, North Carolina, and New Jersey brought together elected officials, educators, civic leaders, students, and community members to reflect on themes of leadership, perseverance, civic engagement, and service.

Participants shared inspiring personal stories, explored the influence of Black history and literature, and engaged in meaningful discussions on youth development and community collaboration. Several programs also included traditional HSS activities, fostering cultural exchange and mutual understanding. These observances reflected HSS USA's ongoing commitment to building bridges across communities and advancing the shared American values of respect, service, and unity.

HONORED

Recognized by Black Heritage Society Inc.

In recognition of its continued efforts to promote inclusivity, equality, and community engagement.

EVENTS IN

Arizona · California · North Carolina · New Jersey

INTERFAITH ACTIVITIES

Building Bridges of Understanding

HSS and ISKCON Temple of Chicago Organize Interfaith Leaders' Meeting

ISKCON Temple, Naperville, in collaboration with HSS, hosted the monthly meeting of the Naperville Interfaith Leaders Association, bringing together community leaders in a spirit of unity, dialogue, and mutual understanding. The gathering welcomed leaders representing 11 different faith traditions, reflecting the city's rich diversity. The meeting served as a meaningful platform for fostering open conversations, strengthening mutual respect, and encouraging collaboration across faith communities. The Hindu Exhibition, Darshana, was also showcased as part of this program.

HSS AND ISKCON · INTERFAITH LEADERS' MEETING
Leaders representing 11 faith traditions gather at ISKCON Temple, Naperville.

CAMELLIA PARADE · HSS GHOSH
HSS teens march with Ghosh Vadan in Temple City's Camellia Parade.

Colors of Unity: HSS USA's Award-Winning Holi Float Lights Up the Camellia Parade

Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh USA participated in the annual Camellia Parade in Temple City, Los Angeles County, marking its continued involvement since 2019. Nearly 40 teenagers from four Southern California Vibhags and UC Riverside marched with Ghosh Vadan, showcasing discipline, teamwork, and the leadership skills nurtured through regular Shakha. Ghosh Toli's energetic performances drew enthusiastic support from spectators, while HSS USA's eco-friendly cultural float — celebrating Holi and built entirely with natural camellia plants — received the **Best Theme award for the second consecutive year**.

Sikh Heritage Month and Interfaith Engagement

HSS USA chapters observed Sikh Heritage Month and strengthened interfaith engagement through educational programs, cultural exchanges, and community outreach nationwide. In San Antonio, volunteers invited members of the local Sikh community to share the history and values of Sikhism, while children demonstrated the traditional Sikh martial art of Gatka. HSS families in Naperville and Aurora also visited a local Gurdwara to learn about Sikh traditions and foster deeper bonds with the Sikh community.

HSS volunteers also actively participated in interfaith and civic initiatives that promoted mutual understanding and shared values. Youth representatives spoke on the Hindu principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam ("One World Family") at interfaith forums, volunteers offered Hindu prayers alongside leaders of other faiths at national gatherings, and educational presentations on Hindu festivals, culture, and philosophy reached students, educators, legislators, and community leaders. These initiatives reflected HSS USA's continued commitment to promoting dialogue, respect, and harmony while building lasting relationships across diverse communities.

SEVA · SELFLESS SERVICE

Seva Activities

Strengthening neighborhoods through selfless service

Throughout the year, HSS volunteers continued to embody the spirit of *seva* (selfless service) by undertaking a wide range of community initiatives that strengthened neighborhoods, promoted environmental stewardship, advanced education, and supported those in need.

Across the country, volunteers of all ages partnered with local governments, schools, nonprofit organizations, and civic groups to beautify public spaces, assist affordable housing projects, support major community events, and provide meals and educational resources.

SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

- Dublin's Community Service Day
- Hydration and logistics support for nearly 45,000 runners at the Cincinnati Flying Pig Marathon
- Construction service with Habitat for Humanity in North Carolina
- Highway and roadside cleanup projects in Washington and New Jersey
- Nationwide Earth Day initiatives emphasizing tree planting and community beautification

SEVA · ADOPT-A-MILE
HSS Georgia chapter volunteers on a roadside cleanup.

SEVA · BOOK DONATION DRIVE
Students proudly show the new books donated by HSS volunteers to build their home libraries.

LITERACY & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

HSS volunteers also made a lasting impact through literacy and community outreach programs. The sixth annual Book Fair in Peoria, Illinois, provided hundreds of students from underserved families with affordable books while expanding classroom libraries through teacher grants and volunteer support.

In the same community, volunteers prepared and served nutritious vegetarian meals to local residents, reflecting HSS's ongoing commitment to addressing community needs with compassion and dignity.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate HSS's enduring belief that selfless service, civic engagement, and collective responsibility are powerful means of strengthening society and fostering harmony across diverse communities.

SEVA · FOOD DRIVE

Sewa Diwali

Eighth consecutive year addressing food insecurity

970,000+	553	~3,000	350+
POUNDS OF FOOD DONATED	ORGANIZATIONS	VOLUNTEERS	PANTRIES & SHELTERS

SEWA DIWALI · FOOD DRIVE
Volunteers and families spell out “SEWA DIWALI” with donated food, ready for delivery to local pantries.

In its eighth consecutive year, Sewa Diwali continued to demonstrate the collective will and active partnership of Dharmic organizations in addressing America’s food insecurity. Hindu, Jain, Buddhist, and Sikh temples, schools, and community groups donated generously to help fellow Americans, regardless of their beliefs and backgrounds.

Around 3,000 volunteers of all ages hosted food drives, coordinated logistics, and spread awareness. Together, they extended aid to over 350 food pantries, shelters, and community centers, ensuring that thousands of families could celebrate the holidays with dignity and hope.

The Sewa Diwali Food Drive of 2025 donated over 970,000 pounds of food items to those in need across the country. This year’s drive saw 553 organizations, Dharmic communities, faith groups, and compassionate individuals unite for charity.

Volunteers of the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh USA (HSS) actively participated in this initiative, coordinating collection and donation efforts at both the regional and national levels. **sewadiwali.org**

ONE FAMILY, MANY TRADITIONS

Universal Oneness Celebration

Madison Square Garden · August 29, 2026

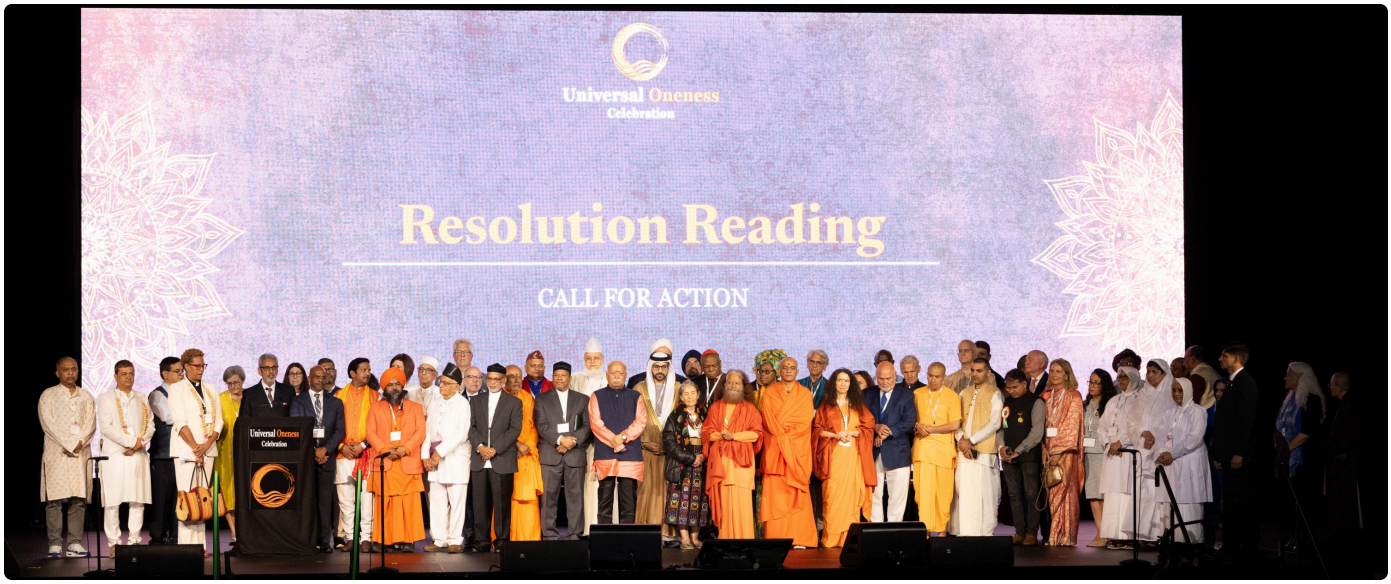
5,000+	853	39	18	29	250+
PEOPLE	CITIES	STATES	FAITHS	COUNTRIES	PARTNER ORGS

Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS) USA actively participated as one of **250+ partner organizations** in the **Universal Oneness Celebration**, hosted by the AHEAD Forum (American Hindus for Engagement and Dialogue) on August 29, 2026, at the Infosys Theater at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

The landmark gathering brought together **more than 5,000 people from 853 cities across 39 states**, representing diverse faiths, cultures, communities, and generations. Participants representing **18 faiths, 29 countries, and four continents** came together around a simple yet powerful message: *we can be different and still belong to one another.*

Inspired by the Hindu principle of **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — "The World is One Family,"** the celebration created a space where individuals and organizations could retain their distinct faiths, traditions, and practices while recognizing their shared humanity and responsibility toward one another.

HSS USA's participation reflected its continuing commitment to **community engagement, interfaith understanding, mutual respect, and service to the broader American society**. Through cultural presentations, interfaith dialogue, prayer, reflection, and a collective Raksha Bandhan ceremony, the gathering celebrated diversity while strengthening bonds across communities.



UNIVERSAL ONENESS CELEBRATION · RESOLUTION READING
Faith and community leaders gather on stage at Madison Square Garden for the Resolution Reading and Call for Action.