

THE LOTUS

A Quarterly Publication of the Federation of India Community Associations (FICA)



July- October, 2021

Since 1967

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Celebration of "One World Day"

-BY SWATI DESAI, UTKARSHA HAZARNIS

"The beauty of the world lies in the diversity of its people."
(Unknown)

People from Greater Cleveland, Ohio have been recognizing the importance of cultural diversity and since 1946 (the end of World War 2) The Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation has celebrated One World Day. This year they held their 75th Annual One World Day on August 29, 2021. FICA and India Cultural Garden committee went above and beyond to help make this a very successful event. The event started with the Parade of Flags. It was wonderful to see so many countries take part and especially a proud moment when our Indian Flag (Triranga) came into sight. The parade of Flags for India was being led by Mr. Om Julka, ex Lieutenant Colonel from the Indian Army and Ohio State Senator, Mr. Niraj Antani. What a moment of great pride and joy as the crowd cheered hard and waved our flags!!! It was indeed a great sight to see.

Our own Garden was beautifully decorated with different plants, flowers and Rangoli by our wonderful volunteers. Flag hoisting by Mahatma Gandhi's statue followed by

American National Anthem and Indian National Anthems were played on Saxophone by Mr. Michael Shreshtha and the crowd sang along. We had a great line-up for the day that included performances from Nartanam Dance Academy, Yoga Workshops by Sundar Iyer at Kaivalya Yoga Gurukulam, Nupur School of Dance and Movements in Motion. Even the midafternoon rain did not deter our volunteers and participants. Yoga Workshop done in the rain was simply surreal. You could see peace radiating from our main committee volunteer Mr. Sreedhar Nair and our own President of FICA, Mrs. Ritu Mahna as they did yoga in the rain. Various visitors at our garden could get a taste of our scrumptious delicacies provided by Madhavi Patel and her crew from Chapati Indian Grill. Live music was enjoyed by all as our DJ Shiva played great Indian songs. We would also like to thank Mr. Mahesh Desai from TV Asia for covering this event at our garden.

The daylong event amplified the Garden's theme "Peace through Mutual Understanding" as the attendees visited the different gardens with their One World Day passports, whilst experiencing the richness of different cultures.



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Celebration of "One World Day"

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Message from FICA Secretary



Dear Friends of FICA,

As a member of the Executive Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all those who have trusted us and supported us in this difficult period. We have always strived to build connections between

our community and society at large, through arts, culture and celebration and to include more Indian faces through traditional events. I am extremely pleased to announce that the serving term for the current Executive Committee will be extended for one more year. With the help of our dedicated volunteers, we hope to continue to serve our community with our constant efforts and make FICA a success.

The past year has modified our lives in many ways. Quoting words from a superhero, I would say that with any big crisis comes great responsibility.

During these unprecedented times, as our heart aches for our country facing a terrible time, it is essential to leave one word at the top of the pile....Responsibility

We at FICA, are trying to do our bit by sending some relief to India. The FICA Executive committee has created a new fund called "India Covid-19 Relief Fund" for this specific purpose and seeded it with FICA's own \$5,000. We appeal to all the members of the community to contribute generously for extending a helping hand to our Motherland in her hour of desperate need. Do get in touch with our Executive Committee if you need more details on the donation. We are also thankful to our sister

organizations (ICAGA, Shiva Vishnu Temple) for coming forward and helping us with the relief efforts.

Furthermore, FICA has been successful this year in cleaning up India Cultural Garden (ICG) and are now working on creating flower beds and lighting up the space. The cultural garden has always been a space where cultures are unified while fostering and promoting our boundaries in the India Garden. I would thus like to request all our community members to take a little time out of their busy lives and support us in our endeavor by visiting ICG. This is of course just a start, and we promise to do more once we have enough funds for this activity.

FICA has always served to nurture the culture and traditions that are deep rooted within us all. We have all gone through a transformation from where we were raised to where we work and age. Although we have all changed, there are some values which remain the same. FICA has always tried to foster these values and provide a platform for expression of our culture and heritage. But we cannot do it all alone, and we certainly are relying on the support of our community. You, as our supporters have the ability to create a legacy of your own simply by rolling up your sleeve and helping us, by either donating or volunteering with us. We would like to build on some additional programs and input from the community and bring FICA to the forefront of community's consciousness for which we need donations and volunteers. These are just a few ways to help the community and we hope you will embrace the causes and participate.

As Hellen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." Because doing things together, makes our belonging matter.

Thanks,
Utkarsha Hazarnis
Secretary, FICA

FICA Sister Organizations

Association of Asian Indian Women of NEO
www.aaiwo.org | Lynette Sequeira

American Federation of Muslims of Indian Origin
www.afmi.org | Dr. Razia Ahmed

Association of Indian Physicians of Northern Ohio (AIPNO)
www.aipno.org | Dr. Dharmesh Mehta

American Society of Engineers of Indian

Origin (ASEI)
www.asei-usa.org | 440-734-1830

Bengali Cultural Society
www.bcscl.org | Soumitra Ghosh

Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation
Sreedhar Nair

Gujarati Samaj of Grtr. Cleveland
www.clevelandgujaratisamaj.org | Nilesh Patel

Guru Gobind Singh Sikh Society
www.clevelandgurudwara.org

Guru Nanak Foundation
www.gurunanakfoundationrichfield.com

India-Ohio Chamber of Commerce
www.indiaohiochamber.com | Radhika Reddy

Indian Christian Association, Michael Sreshta

Jain Society of Greater Cleveland
www.jsgc.org | Jitu Shah

Kasturi Kannada Society
www.kasturikannadasangha.org | Meena and Humchad, President

Kerala Association of Ohio
www.kaoh.org | JayaKumar

NEO Marathi Mandal (NEOMM)
www.neomm.org | Shekhar Ganore

Marwari Association | Sushila Mohanka

Orissa Society of America | Birendra Jena, (330) 544-1725 | birendrajena@hotmail.com

Punjabi Cultural Society
www.guidestar.org | Burjinder S Dhanoa

NEO Telugu Assn (NEOTA)
Telugu_Mitra@yahoo.com | Prasad Muvva

NEO Tamil Sangam (NEOTS)
www.neo-ts.org | Jayabalan Sankarasubramanian

South Asian Bar Association of Cleveland
sabaohio@gmail.com | Ruchi Asher, http://ohiosaba.weebly.com/

NEO Sri Lankan Association (NEOSLA)
Cleveland_Lankans@yahoo.com



Project Seva's Annual Blanket Drive



Summer has ended and Autumn has set in. The cool air of autumn reminds us that winter is right around the corner and it's that time of the year again to distribute blankets to the needy. Last year, with the generous donations from the Indian Community, Project Seva was able to distribute approximately 800 blankets

to different shelters around the city of Cleveland. This year again, PS is appealing to the community to help with this noble cause. Every dollar helps. No donation is too small nor too large.

If you are interested in donating, please send your donation to PS Treasurer,
Ms Sital Salgia
4396 Regal Drive
Copley, OH 44321

Thank you sincerely for your generosity!



Volunteer Services Department
11100 Euclid Avenue
Wearn 133
Cleveland, OH 44106
216 844 1504 Phone
216 844 8796 Fax

September 22, 2021

Dear Project Seva and Mona Alag,

Thank you for very generous donation of blankets and afghans to University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center. The items will be distributed to many different departments including Seidman Cancer Center, Intensive Care Areas, Spiritual Care and Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital. Your generosity is overwhelming and sincerely appreciated.

All of the items will make a profound impact on the patient experience. The afghans are stunning and must have taken countless hours and great love to create. We have received a few comments already, from patients in the ICU, how soft the blankets are and how appreciate they are.

Patients here at UH are undergoing such an extremely difficult time in their life. Donations such as yours are so appreciated and make this patient experience a little more bearable.

Your generosity and thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carol Passerell
Manager, Volunteer Services

Support for Displaced Afghanis

Dear Members of Indian Origin Community,

We are writing this note with a request for an immediate call to action from our community to help our Afghani friends. Afghans have lost everything as a result of the recent events unfolding in their homeland when they were uprooted from their homes and lives. Hundreds of displaced Afghans are relying on our support as they arrive in Cleveland. Presently, all are at the military bases across the world and many will be brought into the US as their paperwork is finalized. A total of 30,000 - 40,000 displaced Afghans are expected to arrive in the US for resettlement.

FICA has joined hands with the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) to provide support to the displaced Afghans. Your contribution and support can help USCRI Cleveland chapter provide life-changing services for displaced Afghans. Cleveland is going to receive approximately 300 - 500 displaced Afghans, some of which are expected to arrive in the coming weeks. They are currently focused on legal paperwork and are working with several law firms for related support.

Their most immediate need is housing and funding for groceries, transportation, clothes etc. For housing, they will appreciate any temporary housing in hotels/ motels as well as more long term housing in apartments/houses. Please note the rent for the housing whether temporary or long term will be paid. If you own a hotel/ motel and would be willing to offer rooms on a weekly basis to displaced Afghani families please contact us at president. ficacleveland@gmail.com.

Each displaced Afghani receives a one-time \$1,000 per person for resettlement. However, considering they do not have jobs and have to care for their family, the money doesn't last long. Hence, they need significant funding and have initiated a campaign to raise funds for these most immediate and critical needs.

Our community always shines bright during these times of greatest need, and I am confident we shall continue with our generosity. There are various options to help the displaced Afghani families. You can tap/click the links below to choose your preferred option.

- FINANCIAL DONATION
- DONATIONS IN KIND
- VOLUNTEER FORM

Thanks, with Regards,

FICA,
AAIWO,
AIPNO,
BENGALI CULTURAL SOCIETY,
HELPING HANDS,
INDIA CULTURAL GARDEN,
MARWARI ASSOCIATION OF OHIO,
NEOTS,
ODISHA SOCIETY OF AMERICAS,
PROJECT SEVA,
SEWA INTERNATIONAL,
SHIKSHA DAAN,
SHIVA VISHNU TEMPLE OF GREATER CLEVELAND.





International Hindi Convention

The International Hindi Association (IHA) is organizing its **20th Biennial International Hindi Convention** in Cleveland, Ohio this year. Due to recent surge in the Delta variant, the convention will take place virtually. A Grand Virtual Event in the honor of Hindi language is taking place on **Saturday, Oct 9th & Sunday, Oct 10th, 2021.**

Established in 1980 in the USA, the International Hindi Association (IHA) focuses on the promotion of Hindi language and its literature. Its goal is that future generations can learn Hindi language and about one of the world's oldest cultures.

The theme of the conference is **'Teaching & Learning Techniques for Hindi as a 2nd Language'** to make it an international language. The program is spread over two days and will consist of keynote speeches, academic sessions on related topics, cultural & dance programs, and a Kavi Sammelan featuring renowned Hindi poets across the world including USA.

Please register and support your culture and Hindi language. IHA, NE Ohio chapter is accepting physical checks and online payments for donations/sponsorships and advertisements. Please **complete the registration form** and make check payable to IHA Convention 2021 and mail to Alka Khandelwal, 2545 Stone Creek Dr, Akron OH 44320, USA

Four "proclamations for Hindi week" in honor of the convention have been received from Solon, Medina, Broadview Hts and Independence Mayors.

Registration link:

<https://forms.gle/9EqBDX7Mxy4dQZa87>

Tasneem Lokhandwala
Co-convener, Public Relations, IHA Convention

Medical Innovations by MIT Scientist Dr. Shriya Srinivasan

By CHERYL D'MELLO



A postdoctoral researcher in biomedical engineering at MIT, Dr. Shriya Srinivasan is passionate about medical innovations in global health. During the height of the pandemic, Srinivasan came up with a technique to multiplex a single ventilator to serve two patients with individualized controls for customized therapy and a digital monitoring platform.

She is also credited with developing surgical techniques that provide people with prosthetic limbs the ability to feel through a sense of touch. "For people with amputations, we've seen great improvement in their mobility, pain profile and their

ability to sense phantom limbs," she said. Her goal is to restore mobility in people with bionic limbs.

A Schmidt Science Fellow and Junior Fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows, Srinivasan was a Plain Dealer Senior Standout in Strongsville High school in 2012. She has a BS in Biomedical Engineering with a concentration in biomaterials from the Case Western Reserve University. In January 2020 she received her doctoral degree in medical engineering and medical physics through the Harvard-MIT Health Sciences and Technology program. Her innovative work has won her the Delsys Prize and the Lemelson-MIT Student Prize. She served as a former director of MIT Hacking Medicine.

Besides all her work in the medical innovation field, Srinivasan finds time to be a professional Bharatnatyam dancer and is co-director of the Anubhava Dance Company. She is the daughter of Srinivasan Ranganathan, and Sujatha Srinivasan, who is an acclaimed Bharatanatyam dancer.

Our Children

By OM JHULKA

There is good old wisdom that says, "child is the father of the man". Our children are the nurslings of immortality and will be the leaders of the brave new world. The good training we give them today will help them to become good leaders, scientists, scholars and inventors of tomorrow. The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.

The good-conduct training of your child is necessary from the beginning -- training him or her to respect parents, teachers and all elders. It also goes without saying that the parents should not blame a teacher who disciplines their child for wrong behavior in class. Thus, your child will grow to be a good, disciplined citizen.

Most of us look after our children well. However, during the Corona Pandemic, it became a problem. Some parents thought that just providing the basics of enough food and water to their children was enough. That is not so. Even when they employ babysitters to care for their kids, it is not always enough. There can be no guarantee that a sitter will look after them well or guide them properly

In my opinion, children younger than 16, require personal touch and care, otherwise, they can go astray. Parents must lead children and guide them as they grow. Some parents provide abundant food and water, leaving enough in their refrigerators for children to enjoy as and when they like. However, without any kind of training or parent supervision, children cannot learn to monitor their food or eat properly. They often waste a lot

of food or overeat.

If they are taught, they can realize the importance of not wasting their food. They need to be advised that in some countries, children are starving. The money saved can be donated to the poor. This will teach our children the value of good ethics as well.

Parents have also to set an example for their children in truth, honesty, affection, love and understanding. If a child watches his or her parents always quarreling at home, or lying and cheating, what can he learn? So also in other forms of conduct, it's important to guide a child.

I know of a story in which a 10-year-old boy always saw his businessman father telling lies to his customers or friends. One day, another businessman came to his house and discussed some dishonest plans to improve their business. After the visitor left the house, the boy said to his father, "Dad, this guy looked to be a real crook but none can beat you."

I am the father of four children, all of whom are highly educated and well-placed. I also have four granddaughters, three grandsons, and 13 great-grandchildren. I am proud of each one of them, my progeny. On my 100th birthday three years ago, they all came to pay their respects to me.

So let us all be proud of our younger generation in the making. Consider yourselves as guides for the new generation.



Volunteer Opportunities with Y.O.U. and Opportunity to Vote for Y.O.U. to receive United Way Funding

DR. R. RAY GEHANI

Dear Shiksha Daan friends and volunteers

Shiksha Daan partners with Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.) to get members of the Indian community to volunteer in various programs to help high school students from low income families develop job skills. The opportunities are both in person and virtual and include helping with resume writing, conducting mock interviews and being a guest speaker at various Jobs for Ohio Graduates (J.O.G.) celebrations. J.O.G. is a course offered at Cleveland High Schools to help students learn about various career opportunities and to develop skills for the jobs they might be interested in. Please note that the volunteer opportunities are for adults - 18 years and older.

If you are interested in volunteering with Y.O.U. then please visit

<https://app.vomo.org/invite/org/YOUTHOPPORTUNITIESUNLIMITED>.

and register as a volunteer. Once you have registered, you will be taken to a website which lists the available volunteer opportunities. If you do decide to sign up as a volunteer for any of the opportunities then please let Stephanie Palmer, Y.O.U. Volunteer Coordinator, at spalmer@youthopportunities.org. know that you are associated with Shiksha Daan. If you have any questions regarding volunteering please contact Stephanie.

United Way Vote:

After a very competitive application process, Y.O.U. is a finalist for United Way funding. United Way has a community vehicle to vote for the most compelling stories so we have the opportunity to vote for Y.O.U. and for other incredible local non-profits to receive funding from United Way.

Please click the link below and vote.

VOTE HERE: <https://unitedwaycleveland.org/what-we-do/the-community-hub-for-basic-needs/request-for-ideas-united-way-of-greater-cleveland/engaging-the-voice-of-the-community/>

Instructions for how to vote:

Remember you must click submit on the last page in order to have your vote count!

Open Link

Click "watch next set of proposals" at the bottom of the page Now the "Economic Mobility – Workforce Development" page is open. Click on 3rd option and watch the Y.O.U. video.

Click the option that best fits Y.O.U. as the most innovative and effective approach to improving economic mobility in Greater Cleveland through education.

Click "watch next set of proposals" at the bottom of the page (Health Pathways)

Click "watch next set of proposals" at the bottom of the page (Housing Stability)

Click "complete your review" at the bottom of the page

Click "submit" at the bottom of the page

I hope that some of you will consider volunteering with Y.O.U. and also complete the voting for the United Way finalist agencies. Thanks for your consideration.

Sanjay Garg
Chair, Shiksha Daan Committee

Gratitude for Autumn Gifts

As we settle in to the fall season, there are so many little wonders to celebrate - from cooler temperatures and changing leaves, to comfy sweaters and warm mugs of tea and cocoa, to comforting meals made from harvest vegetables and evenings spent curled up with a favorite book next to a cozy fire. Whatever it is that you love most about fall, take a moment today to pause and be grateful.



Journalism Prof. Cliff Anthony receives Distinguished Service Award

BY CHERYL D'MELLO



On July 13, 2021, Cliff Anthony, Professor of Journalism at Lorain County Community College, Ohio, received the Distinguished

Service Award from the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) Cleveland Pro Chapter.

"I'm surprised and humbled," said Anthony who has served as president of SPJ's chapter and its Porter Scholarship Committee.

Anthony has had a long career in Journalism and occasionally writes guest columns for area publications. He began his career as Copy Editor for the Mid-Day newspaper in Mumbai, India, before joining the Blitz Group as a reporter and then the Oman Daily Observer in Oman. He then moved to New York to be the Managing Editor for News India for three years.

After completing his Master's

in Journalism from Kent State University, he worked for the Sun Newspapers in Cleveland for ten years, and the News Herald for four years, before becoming the Bureau Chief, Geauga County edition.

Anthony then moved on to teaching journalism as an Assistant Professor at Cleveland State University for three years. In 2008 he joined Lorain County Community College as a Journalism Professor. He advises their school newspaper, "The Collegian", which has won several awards since 2013 from the Press Club and other media organizations.

Over the years, Cliff Anthony has received three national awards from the Suburban Newspapers of America, six awards from the Press Club of Cleveland, Ohio, and three awards from the Society of Professional Journalists, Ohio.

He lives with his family in Cleveland, Ohio.



Shiksha Daan: Mentoring College Students and Donations to Local Organizations to Support Education for Under-Privileged Youth

By PRANAY VERMA AND SANJAY GARG

College Now Mentoring:

Shiksha Daan (SD) partners with College Now (CN) to get members of the Indian Community to serve as mentors for under-privileged college students and help them succeed in college and life. Mr. Pranay Verma serves as the program coordinator for the SD-CN partnership. In this role, he works with the CN volunteer coordinator to obtain the list of SD volunteers serving as mentors for college students, and follows up with the mentors to see how the mentoring relationship is going. Currently there are 13 active SD volunteers serving as mentors for college students and 2 volunteers waiting for a student to be assigned to them. The active mentors are: Neerja Bhushan, Mala Garg, Sanjay Garg, Pratibha Ghatge, Gita Gidwani, Rama Jayanti, Shenaz Khan, Girish Malhotra, Ravi Marwaha, Gowri Mohandoss, Pushu Punwani, Danette Singh and Pranay Verma.



Pranay reached out to the active mentors requesting them to provide information on the student they are mentoring and an update on how the mentoring is going. Below is an update on the mentoring effort based on some of the feedback received from the mentors.

- Mala Garg has 2 students assigned to her: A Senior from the Kent State University doing Nursing/Public

Health – Mala has had a wonderful experience with her mentee who she has been working with for 4+ years, building a great open and trusting relationship. They talk over the phone almost every week; A Freshman from the Bowling Green State University doing Business Administration – This relationship is 6 months old and Mala has connected with her mentee periodically over the phone as Covid-19 situation did not allow them to meet in person.

- Sanjay Garg has been mentoring a Freshman at the University of Dayton doing B.Sc. / Mechanical Engineering. His mentee has a good handle on what he needs to do to succeed in college. Sanjay talks over the phone once a month and periodically exchanges emails. In their most recent conversation, they discussed applying for summer internships in the engineering field.

- Pushu Punwani mentors a freshman at CSU doing Electrical engineering. He talks with his mentee on a bi-weekly basis, and discuss past progress, current developments and any issues that he needs help with. His mentee is doing well in his freshman classes.

- Gita Gidwani helps a Freshman at the Maumee University of Ohio doing a major in Biology. The mentee is very committed with good GPA scores. Gita is encouraging her mentee to find a summer internship.

- Ravi Marwaha has been mentoring a Medical Technology student who is in the 5th year of college at CSU. The mentee had interacted with Ravi in the past but stopped responding this semester as he is probably close to graduation. Ravi has requested CN to assign him a new mentee for the 2021-22 academic year and is going through background check.

- Gowri Mohandoss is mentoring a Final Year Civil Engineering student at CSU. The mentee is a role model student who uses all available resources to the best of their ability and puts amazing effort to achieve success.

- Bharti Patel was assigned a Sophomore at Tri-C doing Physical Therapy, about a month back, and was initially having a hard time getting a response from the mentee. She continued to reach out every two weeks and was finally able to connect with the student around the end of March.

- Pranay Verma has been mentoring a Sophomore at CSU working towards a Computer Science degree. The mentee is very hard working



and is managing his time between college and work. They have an open and trusted relationship where the mentee can text or call anytime with questions or otherwise. They interact via Chronus, phone calls and text messages, but mostly through phone calls, to discuss mentee's progress and to identify any need for help.

We will like to thank all the SD-

CN mentors for the excellent work they are doing in helping these students succeed in college. We are also happy to report that Mala Garg, was recognized as one of only two 2021 Mentors of the Year for College Now. College Now released the following information regarding this recognition: "Mala was nominated by her student, Kelly, who is a fourth-year student at Kent State University.



Kelly and Mala have been matched since Kelly graduated high school in 2017, and their relationship has truly grown over the last few years from a casual, professional-based association to something more personal. When Kelly met Mala, Kelly says "I needed a support system I could truly call family. Mala is someone that I can admire, learn from, and safely follow any advice she offers." Anticipating her graduation soon, Kelly credits Mala with inspiring her career aspirations. "I now have my own plans to start up a non-profit organization for my community that will tackle housing insecurity and affordable health services when I graduate. She always reminds me that my dreams are attainable and that I am able to go above and beyond even when I feel that I can't." The mentors of the year were recognized at a livestream ceremony hosted by College Now on Jan. 29, 2021. A recording of the event is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5DyuuC8GZE>. Another Shiksha Daan volunteer, Shenaz Khan, was recognized as the 2018 Mentor of the Year for College Now. All this is excellent recognition for the volunteer work being done by the local Indian community in helping with the education and development of low-income family youths in the Greater Cleveland area.

We will like to expand the SD-CN mentoring program by increasing the number of mentors from the Indian community. If you will like to volunteer or have suggestions on how we can grow the program, please get in touch with us at shikshadaan.fica@gmail.com.

Donations to Local Organizations:

Shiksha Daan is very grateful to all the donors who have been contributing funds to support our mission of helping with the education and development of under-privileged youth and adults in the Greater Cleveland area.

In February 2021 we provided 50 bags of school supplies to the Salvation Army Zelma George Family Emergency Shelter. The Zelma George Family Emergency Shelter provides a stay of up to 3 months for families facing homelessness due to any emergencies. Each bag contained the following items: 1 packet of 12 #2 pencils with eraser tips; 1 Crayon packet with 16 crayons; 1 Coloring markers packet with 10 markers; 1 pencil case; 1 wide-ruled 100 page spiral notebook; 1 pencil sharpener; 1 coloring pencils packet with 12 pencils; 1 school glue stick; 1 kids safety scissors; 1 sketch pad; and 1 plastic ruler. Additionally following snacks were included in the bags: 1 packet of fruit snacks; 1 packet of grahams snacks; and 1 packet of peanut butter/cheese crackers. These items were selected based on the list provided by the shelter manager. Attached is a photo showing all the items and one of a filled bag. Mala Garg ordered the items from Amazon and Mala and Sanjay Garg, and Meera and Sunil Kansal assembled the items into the bags. Attached are some pictures of the bags being assembled. The assembled bags were picked up by the shelter manager and distributed to the students at the shelter. The shelter manager wrote a very nice letter thanking Shiksha Daan and FICA for this generous donation. The letter is attached. The children were very happy to receive these bags as evidenced in the attached photo provided by the shelter manager.



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Shiksha Daan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7



In late March, 2021, Shiksha Daan donated \$1000 to our partner organization The Refugee Response (TRR). These funds are to support a 9 week summer program - "Karibu CLE" being organized and hosted by TRR. Karibu CLE will focus on two main activities, soccer and art therapy, that appeal to a large number of youth, and have psychological and social benefits. Programming will be offered twice a week in the late afternoons, and accessible to the many refugee students in the area, as well as those who will be bussed to summer school at Gallagher. The funds donated by Shiksha Daan will be used to provide participants with a culturally appropriate meal at the end of the programming session before they head home.

Once again, we will like to thank all our volunteers and our donors for their continued support of Shiksha Daan. If you will like to learn more about us – volunteer for one of our programs or donate funds, please contact us at shikshadaan.fica@gmail.com

- NEW HOPE RECOVERY CORPS
- ZELMA GEORGE FAMILY SHELTER
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 ARTHUR B. HILL III - BEAU
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



February 8, 2021

Northeast Ohio Federation of India Community Associations
Shiksha Daan – Gift of Education

Dear Friends,

Greetings from *The Salvation Army Harbor Light Complex* of which the *Zelma George Family Shelter* is a part. As of today, there are 39 families in the shelter, representing 112 individuals. Of the 112 people, 73 are children ranging in age from a couple months to 19 years old. The largest grouping is 5 to 9 year olds.

A wise woman once said, "Educating the child is everybody's business." We are so grateful to the *Northeast Ohio Federation of India Community Associations (FICA)* and the *Shiksha Daan-Gift of Education* activity for the thoughtful, kind, and generous gift of school supplies and snacks donated to the shelter. Due to COVID-19, schooling has been very challenging and unusual for children this year, perhaps even more so for those in the shelter. Providing children with the tools for learning, as evidenced by your gift, reinforces the importance of education as well as making the children aware that others care about them and their future.

Television personality, Fred Rogers, of *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood* fame, said "Anyone who does anything to help a child is a hero to me." I join him in that sentiment and thank you for your deeds in fostering education and development among Greater Cleveland's neediest children and youth, including those in the *Zelma George Family Shelter*!

God bless you!

Sincerely,

Beau Hill
Executive Director

HARBOR LIGHT IS FUNDED IN PART BY THE US DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, OHIO DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION & CORRECTION, OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY, ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, CLEVELAND DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, CUYAHOGA COUNTY & THE UNITED WAY OF GREATER CLEVELAND
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Late Dr. J.N. Pande of AIIMS receives Padma Shri Award

By CHERYL D'MELLO



Among the recipients of the prestigious Padma Shri award in India this year was late Dr. Jitendra Nath Pande, who passed away at the age of 79 in May 2020 because of Covid-19 complications. His passing made the front page of every national newspaper in India.

Dr. Pande was an eminent pulmonologist and former head of the department of medicine at the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) New Delhi. He joined the faculty at his medical school and went on to be the youngest Professor of Medicine, and the longest serving Chair of the department.

He trained entire generations of undergraduate and postgraduate students at AIIMS. Dr. Pande authored hundreds of papers on respiratory medicine, and treated famous personalities, including the President of India. He treated rich and poor with the same empathy.

An established international expert in several areas of pulmonary medicine, Dr. Pande was a founder fellow of the National College of Chest Physicians. He served as an expert to several government bodies and was very actively involved in the investigation of Bhopal gas tragedy. He also served as Chief Editor of the *Annals of the National Academy of Medical Sciences* and was a reviewer for several prominent journals. His ground breaking research in air pollution and respiratory health was referred to by the Supreme Court of India in its 1997-98 judgment banning diesel buses in the New Delhi. Professor J.N. Pande also left an enormous impact on educational programs of B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences (BPKIHS) in Dharan, Nepal.

His wife, Dr. Yvette Pande is a gynecologist, who works as a Senior Consultant at Holy Family Hospital, New Delhi.

"The impact this one life had on so many humbles me," said his son Dr. Aman Pande, who is the Section Chief, Pulmonary Medicine at Fairview Hospital, and Staff, Respiratory Institute at the Cleveland Clinic.



RECIPE CORNER - No Bake Cookies

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup melted coconut oil
- 1/2 cup natural creamy peanut butter (or almond butter)
- 1/2 cup coconut sugar (or stevia, to taste)
- 1/4 cup cocoa powder
- 1/4 cup unsweetened vanilla almond milk
- pinch of sea salt

- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 3 cups instant oats

Method:

- Add melted coconut oil and peanut butter in a large bowl and stir until combined.
- Add coconut sugar, cocoa powder, almond milk, sea salt, vanilla and oats

into the bowl and stir until combined. Drop the dough by the spoonfuls on a baking sheet lined parchment paper.

Place baking sheet in fridge until cookies are set, then serve. Store any leftover cookies in an airtight container in the fridge.





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