

ANNUAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2017 – JULY 2018



DIVINE SHAKTI
FOUNDATION

Our Mission

The goal of the Divine Shakti Foundation is to holistically provide for the well-being of women, their children, and orphaned and abandoned children. DSF is working to identify needs and design and implement programs to support women and children (especially orphaned and abandoned children) to be socially and financially self-sustaining, as well as raise awareness of the problems facing women and children through education and mass communication.

Our Purpose

PROVIDING BASIC NEEDS

- Provide comprehensive needs of poor and widowed women and orphaned/abandoned children.
- Establish programs and infrastructure to meet the physical, psychological, and spiritual needs of expectant mothers who have little or no family or social support.
- Establish homes for unwanted children.
- Provide immediate and long term needs of women and children affected by natural disasters.
- Support other organizations involved with similar goals and objectives as this Trust.

SPIRITUAL & CULTURAL

- Plan activities and instructional programs designed for spiritual development and growth.
- Design programs to preserve cultural and family values.
- Teach and promote effective parenting skills. Establish parenting training centers for mothers and expectant mothers.

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

- Provide and promote educational advancement with children's schools, adult educational services, computer training, scholarship funds, etc.
- Promote vocational training and provide equipment for general training centers, cottage industry training, day care centers, etc.
- Promote and support rural developmental training for women.

HEALTH

- Provide programs for holistic healthcare. Support research intended for advancement of women and children's healthcare concerns, particularly debilitating diseases such as HIV, AIDS, breast cancer, etc. Support other organizations involved with holistic healthcare and research designed primarily for women and children.
- Support programs for public health maintenance including preventative holistic health, basic hygiene instruction, nutritional counseling, Ayurvedic cooking instruction, etc.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS & PROTECTION

- Protection and preservation of all life including animals with a commitment to prevent animal killing and cruelty wherever possible.

ANIMAL CARE

- Protection and preservation of all life including animals with a commitment to prevent animal killing and cruelty wherever possible.
- Promoting a Vegetarian lifestyle as the single greatest and most powerful choice one can make to protect all animals.

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LIVELIHOOD AND EMPOWERMENT

INAUGURATION OF THE WOMEN ECONOMIC FORUM



Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji spoke at the Gala Inaugural of the Women Economic Forum (WEF), 2018, under the theme “The Economics of Goodness: Empowering Potential, Engineering Change, “ held at the Taj Dwarka, New Delhi. She emphasized the role that especially women and women leaders need to play in bringing about an economy where doing well and doing good can go together! Other esteemed speakers included the actor Vivek Anand Oberoi, entrepreneur and philanthropist RC Bhargava and the Chairman of Maruti Suzuki to name a few.

<https://www.sadhvi.org/inauguration-of-the-women-economic-forum/>

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2018

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2018 WAS CELEBRATED BY DSF WITH ALL PARTICIPANTS FROM NEARLY 100 COUNTRIES AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF ESTEEMED WOMEN LEADERS AND DIGNITARIES.



Special Leadership Awards were given by the Divine Shakti Foundation to women who are undertaking and providing empowering and excellent work in their communities. The event was graced by Hon'ble Smt. Rekha Arya, Minister of Uttarakhand for Women's Empowerment and Child Welfare, as well as many other dignitaries working for these divine causes. A special "Asha Ki Kiran" workshop was held on the occasion and, during this ceremony, women who were serving as role models within the community were honoured. In addition, Asha workers (community-based health workers and activists) were trained to bring awareness for health in their communities through this workshop. Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawatiji lit the lamp to inaugurate the program, and Pujya Swamiji inspired the women in service, saying, "Asha Ki Kiran is a yagya. You all are the Ahuti (offerings). A home is only a house without women. Mother is always a ray of hope."

<https://www.sadhviji.org/international-womens-day-2018/>

EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR SWACHH BHARAT AND EMPOWERMENT IN UTTAR PRADESH



A unique celebration of the divine feminine and women's critical role in the Swachh Bharat Mission took place in Vindhyachal, Uttar Pradesh, where tens of thousands of women from local villages gathered with great excitement and enthusiasm in the sacred town and home of the ancient temple of the Goddess Maa Vindhyavasini for the Maha Shakti Sammelan, an event focused on women's empowerment and upliftment, celebrating the divine feminine. They were graced by the presence and inspiring words of HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, Founder of DSF and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati President of DSF.

The Central Government Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Ms Anupriya Patel, traveled from Delhi back to her home constituency for this special event.

The program was also graced by the presence of many other dignitaries and leaders of women's empowerment initiatives. The programme was also graced by the presence of many other dignitaries and leaders of women's empowerment initiatives. Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawati led a mass pledge of the thousands of women to work for water, sanitation and hygiene.



On the occasion, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiiji said: “In Indian tradition and culture the divine feminine is always especially revered. This is why we always say Sita-Ram, Radha-Krishna, etc. All that we deeply revere and love is considered divinely feminine: Mother Earth, Mother Nature, Mother India, Mother Ganga.

Our scriptures and mantras tell us the Divine Mother deserves the foremost respect and reverence. Tragically and ironically though, although we chant mantras and prayers to the Goddess in our temples, we have forgotten to respect her outside of the temples.

Today, too frequently, that which is the Divine Feminine – from our mothers, sisters and daughters to our nature and earth – has become seen as a commodity to be used and abused. We need to take the mantras into our lives, take the prayers into our lives and bring that reverence into every minute of every day! In order for there to be a truly progressive, sustainable, strong, healthy and happy community and world we must protect, preserve and serve the divine feminine in all its forms.”

<https://www.sadhvi.org/women-pledge-for-swachh-bharat-and-empowerment-in-uttar-pradesh/>

SADHVI BHAGAWATIJI SPEAKS AT THE ENGENDERED DIALOGUES FORUM IN MUMBAI

EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT



Under the theme of “Women First, Prosperity for All,” Sadhvi Bhagawatiji - in her role as President of the Divine Shakti Foundation - offered a powerful keynote address to a dynamic audience of leading young women entrepreneurs and innovators that had gathered in Mumbai in anticipation of the eighth annual Global Entrepreneurship Summit, presented by NITI Aayog in cooperation with the Government of the United States of America. The event highlighted India’s enabling environment for innovation and entrepreneurship and the critical role women play in fostering global growth and prosperity. It also provided the entrepreneurs an opportunity to develop valuable people-to-people relationships, interact with industry leaders and pitch their solutions to investors.

<https://www.sadhvi.org/keynote-speech-by-sadhvi-at-national-teachers-conference-2018/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7ZUMf8fuGk>

EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT

KEYNOTE SPEECH BY SADHVIJI AT NATIONAL TEACHERS' CONFERENCE 2018

Pujya Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji, President of the Divine Shakti Foundation - which addresses the infrastructure and funding needs of Indian schools while providing quality education to underprivileged children and youth across India - delivered the keynote address at the Valedictory session of the National Teachers' Conference 2018 organized by the Sathya Sai Vrinda Sathya Sai Baba Muddenahalli, Bangalore. The three-day function brought together more than 1,000 teachers and educators from across the country and was also graced by the Honourable Secretary of Education, Govt. of India, Sri Anil Swarup and Swami Atmapriyananda. Sadhviiji spoke in a mix of English and Hindi and delighted everybody with her heartfelt talk on the importance of education and the impact teachers have on the lives of the children they educate with sincerity and devotion.

She mentioned that education is necessary, but that values are also very necessary. She quoted from stories and expounded on the meaning of 'Made in India' where teachers bring up a generation of students who are touched, loved and served. She concluded her talk by driving the message that 'Love is the Miracle.'

<https://www.sadhviiji.org/keynote-speech-by-sadhviiji-at-national-teachers-conference-2018/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7ZUMf8fuGk>



STUDENTS FOR MOTHER EARTH!



As one of the final events of a hugely-successful Earth Week celebration, over 100 children from Divine Shakti Foundation schools joined forces to clean-up parts of Rishikesh. During the event, they made beautiful vows to protect the River Ganga while dipping Ganga Rakhis (bracelets) into the sacred waters and tying them on each other's wrists. They also participated in painting and slogan-writing competitions. Prizes were distributed to the students and schools performing "best" in the competition.

In sharing with the enthusiastic students, Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, the Founder of Divine Shakti Foundation, which sponsored the event, shared that India's National River, Ganga, is a vitally-important part of any Earth Day message. "If Ganga dies," he said, "India dies. But, if Ganga thrives, then India only thrives. We need to understand that the Earth does not need us, but we need the Earth. And, we must be the change. You are not only the next generation, but the now generation - the agents through which the much-needed change in the world must happen today."

<https://www.parmarth.org/amazing-kids-rally-clean-and-pledge-for-mother-ganga/>
<https://www.parmarth.org/earth-week-celebrations-every-day-as-earth-day/>

CHILDREN'S DAY: MESSAGE FOR A HAPPY AND HEALTHY FUTURE



As part of the Divine Shakti Foundation's celebration of Children's Day, young girls from the Saraswati Balika Vidyamandir and young boys from the Parmarth Gurukul joined together with Puya Swamiji and Sadhviji on the holy banks of Mother Ganga for blessings and a beautiful Sankalp (pledge) that inspired them to make healthy choices; create and sustain a cleaner, greener and more serene planet; and, to be advocates for clean water, air and soil for everyone, everywhere.

Pujya Swamiji, Founder of the Divine Shakti Foundation, encouraged the youngest of the Rishikumars, the poor students living in the residential gurukul, to plant beautiful fruit trees in their school garden, and that simply by practicing healthy habits and maintaining hygiene every child and every person can lead a happy and healthy life. The children also cleaned the banks of Mother Ganga, sending a strong message that children have a significant contribution to make in ensuring a clean and healthy India and world.

<https://www.parmarth.org/childrens-day-message-for-happy-and-healthy-future/>



WATER SCHOOLS ARE FERTILE GROUND FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF GREEN AMBASSADORS

As part of our commitment to not only educating, but also empowering and uplifting students to truly BE the change the world needs, we endeavour to bring as much environmental education in as possible.

Teams from our sister organization, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance whose environmental platform includes raising mass awareness of climate issues and promoting green and eco-friendly mass pledges and commitments to reduce our individual and collective carbon and water footprint - pay regular visits to Divine Shakti Foundation schools in and around the Rishikesh area to run special Water School programmes, teaching the students how to be water ambassadors and water protectors, as well as to assess ongoing needs and to ensure that the programs initiated are successful. They also update the teachers, staff and students with the latest environmental information and governmental programs designed to mitigate the effects of climate change locally and globally. The waterschool program, of which Divine Shakti Foundation's Parmarth Vidya Mandir is a part, includes more than 65 schools in Uttarakhand, and is an important part of our commitment to educate and empower youth worldwide to become advocates for climate action in their communities and schools.

<https://www.facebook.com/washalliance/posts/1948362922068940>

HONORARY DOCTORATE OF PHILOSOPHY CONFERRED TO SADHVI BHAGAWATIJI

At the Taj Dwarka, New Delhi, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati ji was conferred an Honorary Doctor of Philosophy by the Jharkhand Rai University in Ranchi. The University is committed to honoring remarkable leadership and contributions to society in a wide variety of fields, with a focus on inclusiveness and inspiration.

Much of Sadhviji's work as president of the Divine Shakti Foundation focuses on both spirituality and service, particularly as expressed by women and children in both India and around the world. In addition, her efforts include support for and participation in a range of educational issues and platforms both with DSF and with other global organizations and institutions.

A graduate of Stanford University and a PhD in psychology, Sadhviji moved to India from the US in 1996 to serve at Parmarth Niketan Ashram in Rishikesh, India. Sadhvi Bhagawatiji said: "I have come from a world of academia but by God's Grace I was brought to the holy banks of Mother Ganga, and found an education and a life dedicated to spirituality and service that is so much richer, deeper and fuller than the advanced degrees I had gotten. However, today it's so beautiful to come full circle after 22 years to be awarded a PhD for Spirituality."

<https://www.sadhviji.org/honorary-doctorate-of-philosophy-conferred-to-sadhvi-bhagawatiji/>





INTERFAITH HARMONY THROUGH YOUTH

*AHEAD OF RAMAZAN, MADRASA & GURUKUL
STUDENTS COME TOGETHER*

Just ahead of Ramazan, as part of Divine Shakti Foundation's commitment to an education of youth that prepares them to be the leaders of peaceful, sustainable societies, we organized a special inter-faith gathering at Parmarth Niketan. Under the leadership of Imam Umer Ahmed Ilyasi, President of All-India Imam Organisation, children from madrasas across Uttarakhand and Delhi came home to Parmarth Niketan for a visit to meet with Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji and the rishikumars of the Gurukul. There was a divine exchange programme that took place as the children from the madrasas met with the rishikumars from the Gurukul, listening to inspiring speeches from their spiritual leaders and fostering a beautiful interfaith connection.

By the end of the visit, the young children embraced each other and enjoyed the beauty of Mother Nature as they pledged to be together and serve together for environmental preservation and sustaining peace amongst people of all walks of life. The divine and innocent interactions between the children demonstrate the beauty of interfaith connection, and set an example for people of all faiths to come together and work side by side for the betterment of our planet - something DSF works diligently for through its many educational and interfaith programs and initiatives.

<https://www.parmarth.org/ahead-of-ramazan-madrassa-gurukul-come-together-at-parmarth>

LIFE PLUGIN SUMMIT IN SHIMLA INSPIRES INTERNATION AL YOUNG LEADERS

Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji, president of the Divine Shakti Foundation, graced and blessed the LifePlugin Summit with her words of inspiration, wisdom and uplifting insight. Organised by MindValley, the Summit was designed by youth for youth and brought together young people from India and other parts of the world to transform their lives and to enhance their leadership and self-development skills. Sadhviji, whose work with DSF focuses on education and empowerment programs, spoke on the theme of Spirituality in the Modern World and then answered questions in a second session, which was added to the programme due to high demand from the participants to have more time in her divine presence.

She said, “I am so glad and hopeful to see today’s youth enquiring and inquisitive about a deeper purpose and meaning in their lives. To me the theme of the summit is hence so perfect – plugging into our lives, plugging into this source of purpose, meaning and motivation in our lives. However, in order to plugin to life we have to be plugged into our Self and that is what spirituality teaches us.” The youth were so deeply touched by her words and all rushed to her after the sessions, many with tears in their eyes, to give her heartfelt hugs and gratitude for sharing her light and love.

<https://www.sadhviji.org/life-plugin-summit-in-shimla-inspires-international-young-leaders/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ParmarthNiketan/videos/10156451513337698/>





PLEDGES FOR A SAFER AND HEALTHIER WORLD FOR ALL CHILDREN

HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, Founder of the Divine Shakti Foundation, and its President, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati ji, along with the pilgrims from over 15 countries and all across India, welcomed Nobel Prize Laureate Shri Kailash

Satyarthi ji and more than eighty members of his Bharat Yatra against Child Sexual Abuse and Trafficking to the banks of the River Ganga at the Parmarth Niketan to share their poignant messages for the eradication of childrens' suffering.

Said HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, President of Parmarth Niketan and Founder of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, “Our children are not only our next generation, they are our NOW generation. Hence, it is our duty to protect them from harm, whether it be child abuse, child labour, child marriage, slavery, sex trafficking or the lack of adequate water, sanitation and hygiene(WASH) which takes the lives of nearly 1600 children everyday, with countless more malnourished and stunted.

This Bharat Yatra, having now traversed nearly the whole of India, symbolizes a bright ray of hope for raising our voices and joining our efforts to create safer, happier and healthier lives for all of our children.” Swamiji emphasized that, while the physical Yatra was coming to an end, everyone must come together in harmony to join hands and hearts in this cause so that every divine child has the ability to not only survive, but thrive!

Just the day before, Sadhviji shared about the importance of keeping our children, especially girls, free of sexual abuse during an important and well-attended event with Shri Kailash Satyarthiji and high-level government officials in Dehradun. There, she urged the large audience to take care of their children in public places but, most importantly, inside their homes, as most children are abused in domestic spheres and by people that they know. She urged everyone to help protect children from any form of abuse.

<https://www.sadhviji.org/pledges-for-safer-and-healthier-world-for-all-children/>



37 SCHOOLS AND 400 CHILDREN FROM MANY NATIONS PLEDGE TO SAVE THE PLANET

Representing more than a dozen countries from around the world, some 400 students ranging in age from 13-14 were brought together to participate in ceremonies and discourses designed to develop positive thinking and behaviours in environmental action and protection. Organized in partnership with Welham Boys' School the events were hosted and organized at Parmarth Niketan by Divine Shakti Foundation.

The day's events included a festive and colorful environmental procession to the Ganga Ghat, where a beautiful water-blessing ceremony signified the children's commitment to ensuring that children all around the world have access to safe and sufficient water and a massive vow by all of the children pledged "never to contaminate rivers and seas with garbage, plastic or chemicals" and sought assurances that Ganga would "bless [them] to fulfill [their] promise."

<https://www.parmarth.org/400-children-37-schools-many-nations-pledge-to-save-the-planet/>

MESSAGES OF EMPOWERMENT AND EQUALITY AROUND THE WORLD

FAITH-BASED APPROACHES TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH FROM A HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE



The 51st Session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development (CPD), organised by the United Nations Population Fund, included a two-day side event in which women's and children's health were discussed. Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji, President of the Divine Shakti Foundation was a key speaker at

the event. The main objective was to forward the agenda of sexual and reproductive health rights, particularly those of women, by bringing together religious leaders and faith-based organizations, as they play a crucial role in health service delivery, as well as often being the first responders in emergencies.

Sadhviji affirmed that sexual and reproductive health are not limited to only issues of abortion, contraception, LGBT rights, etc, but include menstrual hygiene, as well. She shared an important message for the rights of women and girls, “This (menstrual hygiene) is a thread that weaves through the very core of women’s humanity. It touches the very core of the right to live with dignity, the right to go to the bathroom as and when needed, the right to have clean water to drink, to bathe and to keep oneself clean during menstruation. We cannot have reproductive health without having the very foundation of health that comes from access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene.”

On the subject of sex-selective abortion, she emphasized that this is not a religious issue. “It is not religious leaders saying ‘boys are better than girls.’ Rather, it is a situation of economic hardship borne in which boys are seen as assets and girls as liabilities.

The solution is to work hand in hand with government and the inter-governmental agencies and other civil society organizations to lift these families out of poverty.”

<https://www.sadhviji.org/faith-based-approaches-to-sexual-and-reproductive-health-from-a-human-rights-perspective/>



SADHVIJI PARTICIPATES IN US STATE DEPARTMENT'S RELIGIOUS FREEDOM MINISTERIAL

Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji, President of the Divine Shakti Foundation, whose efforts focus on empowering women and children and ensuring their safety and security, was one of the invitation-only delegates to the first-ever ministerial for International Religious Freedom, hosted by US Ambassador for Freedom of Religion, Sam Brownback and attended by US Vice-President Mike Pence, ministers of more than 80 nations, nearly 200 civil society organizations and approximately 100 religious leaders, all of whom were invited to collaborate on and advance international religious freedom.

During this important gathering, Sadhviji participated and spoke in four significant fora held on topics ranging from genocide to the search for common ground when defining the roles of religion, religious leaders and interfaith peace building efforts to ensure religious freedom and to counter violent extremism by religious sects. “We must connect on the fundamental level of our humanity,” Sadhviji stated during the genocide event. “Before we are Hindus or Muslims or Christians or Buddhists or Jews, we are humans.”

<https://www.parmarth.org/sadhviji-attends-us-state-depts-religious-freedom-ministerial/>

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS



Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji had a beautiful meeting with Lord Richard Layard, Lord Andrew Stone, Lord Clive Brooke and Heather Mason, members of the English Parliamentary Group, Yoga in Society, about the deep and intimate connection between inner and outer happiness. They discussed creating an Act of Happiness and Index of Happiness that could be applied to countries around the world to measure wellness, not based on one's income or material wealth, but rather of one's inner fulfilment, purpose and deep sense of contentment. It is the culture and heritage of India and its protection and promotion that are vital elements of the Divine Shakti Foundation's mission, and a frequent topic of our mission worldwide.

<https://www.sadhviji.org/action-for-happiness/>



UNICEF FIRST SOUTH ASIA RELIGIOUS LEADERS' PLATFORM FOR CHILDREN

Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, Founder of the Divine Shakti Foundation and its President, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji, participated in and shared important information about the beautiful work of the Foundation with UNICEF SOUTH ASIA at their first South Asia Religious Leaders' Platform for Children in Kathmandu. The event was focused on advancing children's rights and enhancing their well-being, particularly those in impoverished and vulnerable communities. Children's rights and welfare are significant elements of the work that DSF undertakes worldwide.

<https://www.sadhvi.org/unicef-1st-south-asia-religious-leaders-platform-for-children/>

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS CEREMONY



Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji was honoured with the Global Peace Award and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji with the Ambassador of Peace Award at the 7th International Human Rights Awards Ceremony in Delhi, which was organised by the All-India Council of Human Rights, Liberties and Social Justice

(AICHLS), with the National Council Of News & Broadcasting (NCNB), Asian Human Rights Council (AHRC) , Amnesty Worldwide (AW) , Universal Mission For Peace And Harmony (UMPH) and the International Institute Of Human Rights Studies (IIHRS).

Sadhvi Bhagawatiji was awarded for promoting peace, through inspirational and exceptional leadership, and for distinguished service to humanity, particularly the empowerment of women and children, both of which are fundamental tenets of the mission of the Divine Shakti Foundation, of which she is President. On the occasion, in alignment with this message of empowerment, Pujya Swamiji shared, “There can be no Human Rights without simultaneously ensuring Nature’s Rights and the rights of all living beings. When all living beings and Mother Earth are protected then and only then can there be human existence, let alone human rights. With ever-increasing pollution levels, poisonous air and contaminated water and soil, we must work to protect the right to life for all living entities, thereby truly ensuring Human Rights.” Swamiji’s emphasis on Mother Earth as the upholder and supporter of all living beings brings home the power of Nature and the need to protect it.

By taking steps to ensure the preservation and protection of the Divine Mother planet that is home to all living beings, the rights of human beings can be upheld.

<https://www.sadhviji.org/international-human-rights-awards-ceremony/>

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH HEALTH

TWO ORAL & DENTAL HEALTH CAMPS ORGANIZED BY THE DIVINE SHAKTI FOUNDATION PROVIDE MUCH-NEEDED RELIEF TO RISHIKESH-AREA CITIZENS.



Health begins in the mouth, said a wise dentist, so the Divine Shakti Foundation responded, organizing and promoting not one, but two special medical camps to cater to the needs of the good citizens of India.

The first was based at Parmarth Niketan Ashram and provided examinations and treatments for people living in the surrounding neighborhood by a team of eleven dental students and two dentists from the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom, working with three dentists from India. The second involved a devoted team from Spain's Accion Planetaria that visited eager patients in the neighboring villages of Veerapur, Kunau, Shivaji Nagar, Visthapit Colony, Bairaj Road, Bhadsi and Toli, as well as the local Gumaniwala, Prakash Bharti and Swargashram Inter College schools. The goal was to attend to 500 patients in three days with hygiene instructions and treatments, and that number was well-exceeded by patients who, in some instances, learned how to brush and care for their teeth for the first time in their lives.

<https://www.parmarth.org/accion-planetaria-dsf-provide-dental-care-in-parmarth-niketan/> <https://www.parmarth.org/oral-dental-health-camp-at-parmarth-niketan/>



SPECIAL HEALTH AND HYGIENE CAMP AT THE GANDHI ASHRAM

A very special health and hygiene camp was organised by the Divine Shakti Foundation at the Gandhi Ashram in Kingsway Camp, Delhi, in association with the Harijan Sevak Sangh. Attended by Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, Sadhvi Bhagawatiji and also the Ambassador of the United States to India, Richard Verma and his family, It began with fun talks and lectures on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), the importance of hand-washing, ending the practice of open defecation and educational videos on sanitation and hygiene. The lectures were filled with songs, interactive demonstrations and lots of enthusiastic feedback from the children, a majority of whom were within 6-13 years of age.

The event was blessed by the presence of Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji who instilled within the children a spirit of service towards the nation and active contribution towards a Swachh Bharat. Children left the event with smiles on their faces, beautiful memories in their minds and love in their hearts.

<https://www.sadhvi.org/special-health-hygiene-camp-at-the-gandhi-ashram/>

INNAUGURATION OF NORTH INDIA'S FIRST RADIATION-FREE THERMO MAMMOGRAPHY MACHINE

Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, Founder of the Divine Shakti Foundation - whose support for women's health and empowerment has been a driving force in measurable changes in the way women are cared for - was joined on the occasion of World Cancer Day by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Trivendra Singh Rawatji, in meetings with many of the hundreds of women who had undergone no-cost cancer screenings at Divine Shakti Foundation's sister organization Parmarth Niketan's Hospital utilizing the new, state-of-the-art Radiation Free Thermo Mammography machine. The event provided a platform for women to stand in solidarity in the face of the crucial issue of breast cancer and women's health for the security and future of India's families. Statistics indicated that breast cancer numbers were on the rise in India, and that by 2020 - now, this year - 76,000 Indian women would lose their lives to breast cancer.

With early diagnosis, survival rates are high. Said Pujya Swamiji, "I think today that we need, as a society, to celebrate and honour our cancer survivors, as well as simultaneously encourage women, especially, to make their health a priority because, when they are healthy, then their families are healthy. Thereby, the nation and the world can be healthier and happier."

<https://www.parmarth.org/inauguration-of-first-radiation-free-thermo-mammography-machine/>



DIVINE SHAKTI FOUNDATION HOSTS MEDICAL CAMP IN VEERPUR



The weekly medical camps organized by the Foundation are a blessed necessity for the tens of thousands of divine souls living in the Rishikesh area who are served by their efforts.

One of the regular stops on the weekly medical rotation is in the village of Veerpur. The medical team is led by Dr Priya Singh and Dr Gina Jansheski, among others, and they evaluate and treat any of the villagers or students there. The medical team was joined by several volunteers as well as a dozen Buddhist nuns visiting from Ladakh who were spending the winter in Rishikesh.

<https://www.parmarth.org/veerpur-medical-camp>



VITAMIN A AND ALBENDAZOLE ADMINISTERED TO CHILDREN

A health camp was held in the Mayakund slum, by DSF in collaboration with SevaChild International and Rural Development Institute (RDI), Himalayan Institute Hospital Trust, where Vitamin A drops and Albendazole deworming pills were given to countless children under the age of 5 years, to promote immunity, and as a preventative measure to fight off potentially life-threatening diseases.

Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati ji, President of DSF personally distributed some drops to the babies and shared with the slum-dwelling mothers, “For our lives to be successful and happy, we have to be healthy. To be truly healthy, we have to have hygiene. If we are ill with diarrhoea or cholera we cannot go to school or work or fulfil our potential. It is for this reason that health, hygiene, harmony and happiness all go together. So today’s program is uniting health care with hygiene and sanitation training so that you can continue to maintain good health for yourselves and your family.” A hot lunch and personal hygiene kits were also distributed to all.

<https://www.sadhviji.org/vitamin-a-and-albendazole-administered-to-children-in-mayakund/>



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