



SOUTH ASIAN AMERICAN
VOICES FOR IMPACT

Annual Report 2020

SAAVI is a Michigan based non-profit, and non-partisan community organization. We focus on positive engagement through assistance and community programs for South Asian Americans and underserved Michiganders.

The coronavirus pandemic tragically had a devastating impact in the United States with Michigan being one of the states most severely impacted. Our main goal in the year 2020 has been to serve and support our community, as well as minimizing the impact of the pandemic. As a response to the pandemic, SAAVI, along with the Miindia Foundation, have organized the following to aid Michiganders directly:

1. **“Meals for Healthcare Heroes”**: a collaborative effort organized to serve meals to frontline healthcare workers. As of June 2020, more than 3250 appreciation meals were served to 18 healthcare systems. This was achieved through many individual contributions, volunteers from the MICS group, and the overwhelming support of social, cultural, and religious organizations from the Indian-American community of Michigan.
2. **Community Care Packages**: a collaborative effort to serve community care packages to our underserved communities and vulnerable senior citizens. Each package consists of packed and canned food products as well as personal care equipment including hand-made masks sent from Detroit Indian Women’s Association (DIWA) and Balgokulam volunteers, sanitization equipment, and gloves. A total of 950 community care packages were distributed by the first week of June. These packages were assembled by volunteers from SAAVI, DIWA, Balagokulam, the Miindia Foundation, and Amma’s Center.

As previously stated, SAAVI’s efforts have been made possible as a collaborative effort with other Michigan-based organizations. This year, we have worked with The International Geeta Gurukul Foundation (IGGF), India League of America (ILA), Miindia Foundation, Asian Indian Women’s Association, VHP of America, Imetris Corporation, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, DTE, and the Oriya Society of Michigan.

As our community is navigating through the pandemic, SAAVI has tailored its goals and events to the needs of the community. We have worked to accommodate our community’s current circumstances by aligning our efforts to be as relevant and accessible as possible. With the hard work of our members and the help of our sponsors we have accomplished the following in 2020:

1. Assembled an advisory committee to the SAAVI Board with State Representative Padma Kuppa and Canton Township Supervisor Anne Marie Hudak.
2. Applied and received a grant from Wayne County under the COVID assistance program.



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3. Received donations from Bellis, Microsoft, and several other corporations as well as Michigan Indian organizations and individuals who supported community relief and assistance.
4. Collaborated with SEWA International for the Emotional Health and Wellbeing workshops.
5. Held 4 Naturalization Workshops in 2020 under the New Americans Campaign in collaboration with the International Institute of Metro Detroit. 75 naturalization applications were successfully submitted as a result of this effort.

Lead Board Member: Dr. Mohana Walambe

6. Conducted remote ESL and Civic History classes for 62 participants in collaboration with faith houses in various locations. The goal was to help participants improve their speaking and writing skills in English and pass the mandatory English proficiency test for US Citizenship.

Lead Board Members: Jacqueline Short, Vipul Tripathi

7. Multi leadership Series event conducted remotely in collaboration with NEW Detroit in April 2020.

Lead Board Members: Padmaja Rao, Vijaya Sastry

8. Donated 3,650 meals to frontline healthcare workers for local healthcare systems based in Michigan.

Lead Board Member: Anand Kumar

9. Assembled and distributed 950 community care packages to underserved communities and senior citizens.

Lead Board Members: Sangeeta Khalsa and Jawwad Khan

10. Provided Medicare and Medicaid guidance

Lead Board Member: Dr. Mohana Walambe

11. Distributed 400 meals to Lighthouse Ministries and Westland and Wayne County.

Lead Board Member: Anand Kumar

12. Organized a food and winter clothing drive. Winter Jackets, Gloves, Hats, Food supplies and Shoes were boxed and delivered to Wayne county residents in need.

Lead Board Members: Chandru Acharya, Sangeeta Khalsa, Vipul Tripathi

13. Provided financial assistance to 5 Wayne County residents by paying collectively \$2,100 past-due utility bills.

Lead Board Members: Anand Kumar and Vipul Tripathi



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A Message of Gratitude from Tri-City
Community Development
Corporation

THANK YOU

We would like to thank Local
Indian Organizations for your
generous senior care package
donations.

FROM OUR TRI-CITY
SENIOR COMMUNITY

<https://www.tri-citycdc.org/>

