



Indian Circle for Caring USA, Inc. (ICC)

www.ouricc.org

Where caring support and helping hands provide comfort to our fellow community members.

Indian Circle for Caring USA Inc., (ICC) is a volunteer non-profit organization focused on providing urgent or emergency support for our fellow community members and their families as they may encounter unplanned events such as serious sickness, hospitalization, accidents, family crisis, and death of a loved one and / or bereavement situations.

Started in August 2007, ICC has been actively building awareness in the community by working with existing social, religious, professional, services, media and other organizations as well as participation at various events. So far ICC has received active support of over sixty (60) organizations and has over 3,200 members. In order to provide needed support to its clients ICC has built a bank of over 200 volunteers. *As a result of these efforts and community support; ICC and its volunteers have helped and continue to help over 250 families, as these families were going through unplanned situations.* These clients ranged in age group from new born to 94 years and represented various parts of India as their place of origin, full range of educational background and socio-economic strata.

ICC's organization model of service, dedicated volunteers; collaborative efforts working with other organizations, such as Saheli, Indian Medical Association of New England (IMANE), Arthritis Foundation of America, American Cancer Society and Dept. of Public Health of Comm. of Massachusetts has enabled us to achieve these significant results. **In recognition of this approach and its accomplishments ICC was invited at a celebration of "Social Innovation" event at the White House hosted by the First Lady Mrs. Obama in May 2010.**

In addition, ICC has undertaken various initiatives for helping Indian community. One of the signature drives is to inform, educate and empower fellow community member about the need to prepare - **"Health Care Proxy and Living Will"**. ICC has distributed over 10,000 documents, free of charge, called **Five Wishes®**; these are easy to use and simple to execute documents. These documents are available in English as well as bilingual versions of Gujarati, Hindi, Bengali and Urdu. Since this need is for all of us in the United States, ICC has conducted seminars and workshops (free of charge) on the subject of Health Care Proxy in ten (10) states – California, Georgia, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, Rhode Island at various venues as a community service.

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ICC has sponsored free seminars on health related issues such as “**Beat the Heart Disease**” and “**Living Well with Arthritis**” with great success and community participation. ICC organized and completed **Arthritis Exercise classes**, with 24 sessions spanning over 12 week period where senior Indian community members learned the techniques and exercises to improve quality of life in spite of arthritis and this program was free of any fees.

Department of Public Health, Commonwealth of Massachusetts and ICC collaborated in 2013 to develop **Community Initiative for TB Education (CITE)** to address an important health risk for Indian residing here in Massachusetts (third highest risk of any immigrant community). With the help of primary care providers and community members we developed culturally sensitive and effective message to raise the awareness. *ICC received an award from Medical Advisory Committee for the Elimination of Tuberculosis (MACET) for its contribution on World No TB day, March 24, 2014 at the Massachusetts State House. In addition Massachusetts Senate and House each issued commendations to ICC for its contribution to this important project.*

ICC has continued the process of building infrastructure and putting other resources in place so that it can continue and enhance its ability to serve our Indian community in New England States and elsewhere.

Working with Sewa International, Houston Chapter ICC has taken a role of a mentor in guiding and supporting their initiative of “Family Services” to serve Indian community replicating ICC’s model. This program was inaugurated in April 2013. ICC is currently working with other chapters of Sewa International to get them prepared to replicate these programs in their communities.

ICC would welcome interested individuals to come forward and help at various levels depending upon their skills, available time and willingness to help.

In addition, having a proven model and framework, we are now ready to establish ICC chapters elsewhere in the United States working with local talent who are prepared to help.

What can you do? On our website you will have an option to:

- a. **Become a member:** Join as a member and be informed about ICC, its activities, initiatives and other relevant news. You may help in spreading the word about ICC to your family, friends and others around you. Please note there are no membership fees or dues!
- b. **Become a volunteer:** Based on your personal preferences you may give your time and help our community members in need as ICC volunteer. We would welcome you as a volunteer.
- c. **Request Help:** If you know someone needs ICC volunteering help, you may initiate a request for help on the web site, by sending us email, or using our 24 x 7 voice mail phone line.

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