



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 guidance and support for our fellow community members and their families as they may encounter unplanned and unexpected events such as serious sickness, hospitalization, accidents, family crisis, and death / bereavement of a loved one.

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. ICC has over 5,500 members and has received support of over sixty (60) organizations. In order to provide needed support to its clients ICC has built a bank of over 250 volunteers and established strategic partnership with several organizations. *As a result of these efforts and community support; ICC and its volunteers have served and continue to serve over 500 families, as these families were going through difficult and challenging situations.* These clients ranged in age group from birth 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 and collaborative efforts working with other organizations (such as Saheli, Aging With Dignity, Project ECHO, Mass. Coalition for Serious Illness Care, Indian Medical Association of New England (IMANE), Arthritis Foundation of America, American Cancer Society; 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 to provide guidance and education to further support the Indian community in our new homeland - USA. One of the signature drives is to inform, educate and empower fellow community member about the need to prepare - "**Health Care Proxy & Living Will**" through the use of **Five Wishes®**. Since this need is for all adults in the United States, ICC has conducted seminars and workshops (free of charge) on the subject of Health Care Proxy in fifteen (15) states – from Arizona to Washington at over 60 venues as a community service. Through our direct reach and website, we have been able to further this cause by distributing over 15,000 documents, free of charge. 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.

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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.

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 – USA, ICC has taken a role of a mentor in guiding and supporting their initiative of “**Family Services**” to serve Indian community replicating ICC’s proven and successful model. This program was inaugurated in April 2013. ICC is currently in the process of building teams, knowledgebase and capacity to serve in eight (8) other states in eleven (11) different cities in the USA.

ICC would welcome interested individuals to come forward and serve our community at various levels of the organization depending upon skills, available time and desire to give back to our community.

In addition, working with individuals and groups with talent and desire we are now ready to establish ICC chapters elsewhere in the United States using our successful and proven model to meet local needs.

What can you do? Learn about what we do. You may choose to participate in a role suitable to you:

- **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!
- **Become a volunteer:** Based on your personal preferences you may give your time and serve our community members during their hour of need as ICC volunteer. We would love for you to join!
- **Request Support / Help:** If you know someone needs ICC volunteering support, you may initiate a request for help on our web site, by sending us email, or using our 24 x 7 voice mail phone line.

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