

NEWS UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2023



“The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention.”

- OSCAR WILDE



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INTRODUCTION

HISTORY OF M S INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Manu and Rika Shah founded MSI in 1975, in the basement of their home in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. MSI is now the largest importer and distributor in the world of Premium Surfaces including granite, marble, porcelain and ceramic tiles, slate, travertine, limestone and other natural stone products from 37 countries. Most notably, MSI provided the granite for the Vietnam Memorial in DC.

Manu and Rika Shah established Sarva Mangal Family Trust (Sarva Mangal means 'let all be happy' in Sanskrit) over 20 years ago with compassion as their driving force for philanthropy. Manu's vision for SMFT is to act as a catalyst, challenge status quo, nurture passionate change-makers and support leapfrogging ideas that are scalable and sustainable. Today, all members from the Shah family are involved in social impact initiatives that are undertaken by SMFT. Manu supports VOSAP – Voice of Specially Abled People, which has created over 10,000 change makers and rated over 18,000 buildings rated for accessibility. He also supports Lend a hand India, which provides digital vocational training to over 300,000 students in 20,000 schools.

In 2007, Mr. Manu Shah was named Ernst & Young's national "Entrepreneur of the Year" in the distribution, manufacturing, and security category.

ABOUT SARVA MANGAL FAMILY TRUST

Established in 1994 by the Founders of M S International, Inc. The mission of the Sarva Mangal Family Trust is to improve and strengthen the health, education and wellness of communities and help them prepare for global jobs of the 21st century. Sarva Mangal is a Sanskrit word which means "Goodness to All."

To advance this mission, the Sarva Mangal Family Trust has donated to and is continuing to work with various organizations and programs in health promotion and prevention, assisting victims of domestic violence, empowering seniors, entrepreneurship, technological literacy, community activism, and children's education.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS



FOUNDATION STONE LAYING CEREMONY OF SMFT PRIMARY SCHOOL

SMFT team members participated in the virtual foundation stone laying ceremony of Sarva Mangal Family Trust Primary School on September 30, 2023. This event marks the beginning of a promising educational journey, as the school is poised to offer crucial support to 300 school students from Gundakhada village and children from neighboring villages. With a commitment to fostering education in a healthy and hygienic environment, the School aspires to empower young minds and contribute to a brighter future for the community. **(Continued on Page – 4)**

SMFT PRIMARY SCHOOL FOUNDATION STONE LAYING CEREMONY

September 2023 – On September 30, 2023, a momentous event unfolded in the heart of Gundakhada village, as dedicated members of the Sarva Mangal Family Trust (SMFT) participated in the Virtual Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of the Sarva Mangal Family Trust Primary School. This historic occasion marked the beginning of a journey towards enlightenment and empowerment for the local community, encapsulating the spirit of education, growth, and progress.

The visionary leadership of Mrs. Rika and Mr. Manu Shah, paved the way for the establishment of this transformative institution. The Sarva Mangal Family Trust Primary School is poised to become a beacon of hope and a hub of knowledge for the region, heralding a brighter future for its people.

This school holds a noble mission at its core - to provide essential support to 300 school students from Gundakhada village and neighboring communities. These young minds will now have access to quality education in a safe, healthy, and hygienic environment. The expected outcomes of the school is to cater to children from low economic background, improved learning processes using technology and reduced dropout rate among girls.

The Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony was a symbolic gesture, signifying the firm foundation upon which this institution will stand. It was a moment of reflection on the significance of education in transforming lives and communities.

The presence of MSI vendors, local dignitaries, community members, and school children and staff added to the sense of occasion, underlining the widespread support and enthusiasm for this noble undertaking.

As the school takes shape, it will become a hub of learning, innovation, and community development. It will nurture young minds, instill values, and empower future leaders.



Village Procession



Bhoomi Poojan



Foundation Stone



Lighting the Lamp

SMFT PRIMARY SCHOOL FOUNDATION STONE LAYING CEREMONY



Village Procession



Foundation Stone Laid by MSI Vendors



Cultural Programme by the School Kids



School Kids at the Venue



Speech by SMFT Vendor



SMFT and Project Life Team

EVENT – CSR EMPLOYEE ENAGEMENT ACTIVITY

September 2023 – MSI's Social Impact Team recently organized a Cleanliness and Tree Plantation Drive for its Bangalore office employees at BBMP Park, Vasanth Nagar. This impactful initiative aimed to foster a stronger sense of community engagement among employees while contributing to environmental sustainability.

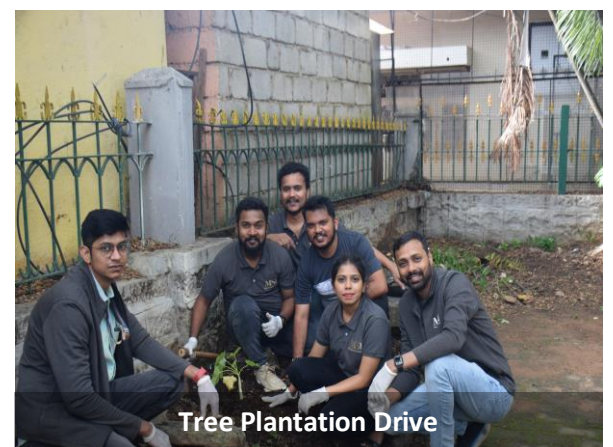
The event commenced with enthusiasm and a commitment to making a difference. Employees gathered at BBMP Park, ready to give back to their community and the environment. The day was marked by two significant activities: park cleanup and sapling plantation.

The cleanliness drive began with employees donning gloves to collect litter scattered throughout the park. Armed with determination and a strong sense of responsibility, they meticulously combed through the park, picking up trash and disposing it of properly. This step aimed to restore the park's natural beauty and provide a cleaner and safer environment.

Following the successful cleanup, employees transitioned into the second phase of the initiative: tree plantation. Saplings of various native tree species were provided, fostering biodiversity and helping combat climate change. Employees actively participated in planting these saplings, which will grow to provide shade, improve air quality, and enhance the overall ecological balance of the park.

The initiative not only promoted a sense of unity and camaraderie among MSI employees but also left a lasting positive impact on the environment and the local community. It symbolized MSI's commitment to its corporate social responsibility by actively participating in initiatives that benefit society and the environment.

The event received significant praise from the BBMP authorities and local residents, who appreciated the organization's dedication to the betterment of their community.



EVENT – CSR EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY (Cont.)

EMPLOYEE TESTIMONIAL

I had the privilege of participating in a cleanliness and tree plantation drive organized by MSI, and it was an incredible experience. It was inspiring to see so many people come together to make a positive impact on the environment. The cleanliness drive was meticulously planned and executed, and we were able to clean up a significant portion of the area in just a few hours. The team made sure that every tree was planted with care and in the right location, ensuring that they would thrive and grow for years to come. It was truly a beautiful sight to see the area transform with every tree that we planted. I thank CSR team for their remarkable efforts in bringing the community together for a common cause, fostering a sense of unity and shared responsibility while educating us on the importance of preserving our environment through tree planting. This initiative is a great example of how collective action can make a lasting impact, leaving a legacy of healthier ecosystems, cleaner air, and a stronger sense of environmental awareness for future generations to cherish

Gargi Paul - Manager – Learning and Development Team

I had a wonderful experience participating in the Tree Plantation Drive, contributing to the growth of saplings with medicinal value and enhancing our environment's oxygen levels. The teamwork was outstanding, and I eagerly look forward to more such impactful events in the future.

Kumar Raja Aluri - Manager – Analysis Team

I had the privilege of participating in the tree planting CSR activity organized by MSI, and I must say it was a truly rewarding experience. Not only did this initiative contribute to environmental sustainability, but it also showcased the company's commitment to making a positive impact in our community. The event was well-organized and executed flawlessly, we planted a significant number of plants ensuring that each tree was planted with care to ensure its growth.

Somshekar A - Senior Associate: Accounting Team

Plantation drive was energetic and refreshing. Cleaning the place and planting trees gave me immense happiness. The knowledge-based session on understanding the importance and impact of the plantation drive was an eye-opener and motivated us to self-initiate planting trees to combat global warming and for obtaining a balanced ecosystem. Many thanks for providing us the wonderful opportunity to be part of cleanliness and plantation drive.

Bindushree N - Associate II: Accounting Team

EVENT – CSR EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY (Cont.)

EMPLOYEE TESTIMONIAL

I accepted the invitation to participate in the plantation drive without hesitation because I enjoy planting trees. The activity was fascinating and amazing, and there was a full explanation of why we were doing it. I was delighted to be a part of this initiative. Thank you, MSI for taking this step. I want to be able to engage in many more CSR initiatives in the coming year.

Jonitha Roshni - Associate II: Sales Support

It was a great experience to work with the community like this, and I am proud to be part of it. Thanks to MSI and Sarva Mangal Family Trust for providing an opportunity to serve for the cause where I can indulge my thoughts and strength to work together for the better society.

Mahesh Kumar N - Associate II: Sales Support Team

Participating in the tree plantation and cleanliness drive organized by MSI was a transformative experience, fostering a deep sense of environmental stewardship. It not only allowed me to contribute towards environmental sustainability but also created a strong sense of camaraderie among colleagues, making it a memorable and meaningful initiative that goes beyond the workplace. Thank you for your efforts and initiative. Looking forward to more noble work.

Shivangi Madhava - Training Coordinator: Learning and Development Team

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to take part in MSI's recent Cleanliness and Tree Plantation Drive. It was a remarkable experience that showcased the power of collective effort and the positive change we can bring to our community. The dedication and enthusiasm displayed by everyone who participated in this CSR Employee Engagement Activity were inspiring. Let's carry this spirit forward and continue to engage in activities that benefit our community and the environment. Thank you, MSI, for fostering a culture of social responsibility and employee engagement. I look forward to more such meaningful initiatives in the future.

Siddharth Kharvi - IPR Analyst: Sales – USTZ

EVENT – CSR EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY (Cont.)

EMPLOYEE TESTIMONIAL

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Siddharth Kharvi - IPR Analyst: Sales – USTZ

I thoroughly enjoyed participating in MSI's recent Cleanliness and Tree Plantation Drive. It was a wonderful way to kick start my weekend. Many times, we admire the beauty of nature without giving anything back. However, today, making even a small contribution felt incredibly rewarding. What made the experience even more special was the unity and passion displayed by all of us during the activity. It's heartening to see people come together for such initiatives, especially when it's not always easy to find the time and energy in today's fast-paced world. I would like to thank the entire CSR team for providing me with this opportunity. Their efforts in organizing events like this make a significant difference in our community and our environment. Together, we can make a lasting impact on our surroundings.

Sayed Maruf Inamdar - Business Analyst: Sales – USTZ

It has been a wonderful experience being a part of the tree plantation drive conducted by MSI International. I would like to see this effort growing in a small but very impactful manner. It's always nice when awareness is created about nature and the value of greenery.

Arun Kumar S - Associate: Accounting Team

Participating in the tree plantation drive was very refreshing. Not to forget the good morning exercise we got in the process of cleaning the park. As always thank you MSI for organizing such a wonderful activity and for creating awareness in people. Looking forward to more amazing activities!

Shreepriya K - Associate: Accounting Team

EVENT – CSR EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY (Cont.)



EVENT – CSR EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY (Cont.)



NGO IN FOCUS FOR SEPTEMBER'23 – SAHARA

Mission

To serve survivors of all forms of abuse in the South Asian community by providing them with culturally sensitive and linguistically specific services.

Vision

Their vision is to see happy, healthy, and successful South Asian individuals and families successfully participating in the Southern California culture and economy, free of violence and the cultural, emotional, legal, and economic barriers that have plagued them.



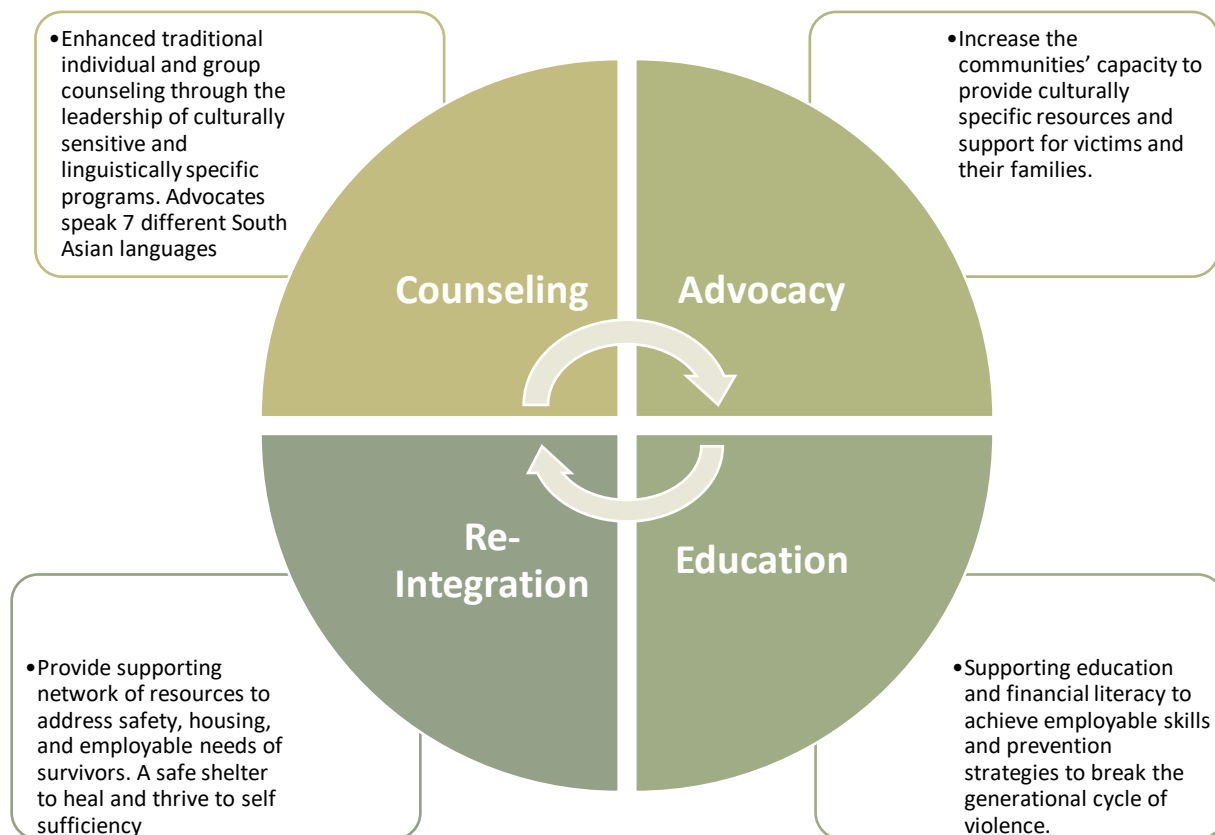
NGO IN FOCUS FOR SEPTEMBER'23 – SAHARA (Cont.)

Project Objective

Project C.A.R.E. (Counseling, Advocacy, Reintegration, Education) is SAHARA's holistic comprehensive services focused on empowering, healing services enhanced specifically for the South Asian community, preventive education, and resources to support healthy reintegration into the community.



- **Counseling:** Provides enhanced traditional individual and group counseling through the leadership of culturally sensitive and linguistically specific programs. Help each individual to reach maximum potential by helping them heal mentally and physically.
- **Advocacy:** Working to increase the support, understanding and compassion of the broader South Asian community - fight stigma and challenge the cultural norms that perpetuate the cycles of violence.
- **Re-Integration:** Provide supporting network of resources to address safety, economic, stability, and employable skills to both shelter and non-shelter survivors.
- **Education:** Support life skills training and encouraging education as a tool to meet short- and long-term goals, access to affordable healthcare, and learn prevention strategies to break the generational cycle of violence.



Project Location

SAHARA distinguishes itself by focusing exclusively on supporting the rapidly expanding South Asian population in Southern California given the unique cultural and linguistic needs of this community. Positioned in the heart of Los Angeles County, City of Artesia “Little India” making all services in person and easily accessible.

Recent Project Updates

Housing Project

SAHARA established its first shelter in 2003 and the acquisition of the second Transitional Living Home in 2023 is a milestone achievement. MSI Charitable trust has played a pivotal role in bringing this dream to fruition and continuity of housing services. This safe home will allow space for their emergency shelter graduates to successfully transition to this second step housing, while they continue to gain essential skills to achieve better employment and financial independence.



NGO IN FOCUS FOR SEPTEMBER'23 – SAHARA (Cont.)

Youth Program

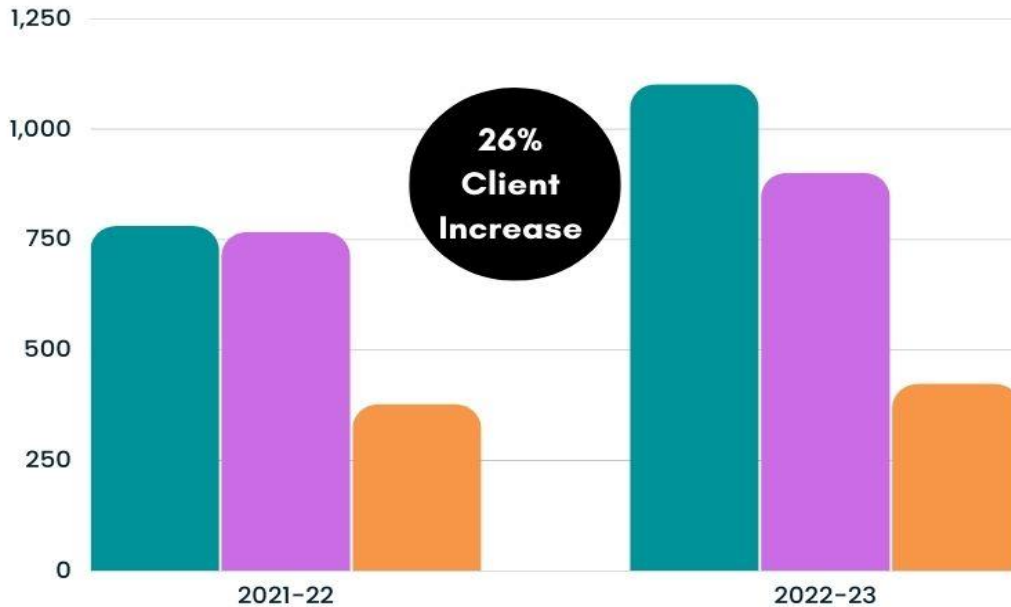
Student Interns from USC School of Public Health are completing their practicum hours and gaining knowledge and experience in the field of community resources. As part of their research project, they developed and created informational public service announcements and presentations for program outreach. They have been instrumental in reformatting Teen Dating Violence Prevention curriculum onto a learning platform that can be taught or presented in virtual settings. Since the launch of this innovative platform, SAHARA has listened to the voices of the youth and learned their perspectives and challenges as immigrant youth.

It has been an excellent opportunity for teens to dive into social justice work, civic engagement, community building and student collaborations. It gives them culturally sensitive space to converse on social taboos and biases. They are the next ambassadors of change.



Overall Impact

FISCAL OVERVIEW



PROGRAMS

Domestic Violence Survivors

Elder Abuse Support Cases

Community Resource & Immigration Program

Toll Free Crisis Helpline Calls

2021-22

780

766

377

268

2022-23

1101

900

423

290

Homelessness Prevention: The provision of rental assistance and crisis intervention has had a robust impact on prevention of eviction and homelessness for more than 45 women. Additionally, emergency relocation safe hotel stays and transportation assistance to 16 women and children ensured that the survivors had enough time to find resources to overcome barriers to safety.

Educational Support: Enabling survivors to be economically independent and financially secure through one-on-one coaching and workshops. From Identifying their career and financial goals to finding a suitable job and managing their money SAHARA helped 12 women with tuition expenses and 17 children supported with childcare services. Weekly support groups and essential workshops such as financial literacy, health care access, housing rights and victim justice rights conducted in person and virtually helped the survivors gain knowledge of available resources and confidence in decision making.

NGO IN FOCUS FOR SEPTEMBER'23 – SAHARA (Cont.)

Healthy Living Program: SAHARA's mental health therapist provides both individual and group support, healing arts therapy. Trauma informed advocates with trained volunteers regularly conducted uplifting workshops especially with the elder seniors in their community to address isolation and family neglect. Their advocates have found that collaborating with youth volunteers helps foster healthy relationships and bonding as well as peer to peer learning.



NGO IN FOCUS FOR SEPTEMBER'23 – SAHARA (Cont.)

Highlight of the Month

SAHARA's best practice for prevention has always been education. SAHARA continues to offer weekly support groups and healthy living program life skills workshops. To enhance this area of work they have worked in collaboration with diverse array of professionals. This multidisciplinary team approach has helped bring synergy, innovation and learning. The community at large has benefited from improved awareness and knowledge about prevention, protection and overall justice system challenges that are unique to victim services program. Legal clinics held in person by 3 pro bono attorneys have been a key linkage to the wraparound program assisting survivors in their journey through the legal civil justice system.



Awards and Recognition

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Domestic Violence Counsel is honoring SAHARA as a community service partner. This recognition is given to community based organizations who have shown leadership and continue to raise awareness to end domestic violence.



U N I T E D S T A T E S

Congress

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



*Certificate of Recognition
Presented to*

SAHARA

*In honor of your tireless service to our South Asian community.
We thank you for your efforts and devotion to building a safer
environment for our families.*

September 24, 2023

A blue ink signature of Michelle Steel, written in a cursive style.

*Michelle Steel
Member of Congress*

SUCCESS STORY – SAHARA

A woman who endured over 20 years of physical & emotional abuse from her husband of an arranged marriage stated: “To say I’m humbly grateful to SAHARA feels like an understatement as I truly feel I owe them my life. I owe them for helping me successfully receive my naturalization. More importantly, I owe them for helping me rebuild my sense of worth after tolerating years of financial, physical, emotional, and economic abuse and depriving me of my right of becoming a US citizen. SAHARA has been my “Sahara’ in the darkest time of my life, showing me that there is a light of hope after all my struggles. Finally, after 24 long years of struggle and being away from my country I will be going back and reuniting with my family members in my home country. Thank you, SAHARA, for helping me change the trajectory of my life.”



SUCCESS STORY – SAHARA (Cont.)

SMFT and SAHARA congratulates and celebrates Anya who has completed her ESL classes provided by SAHARA, passed her citizenship test, is awaiting to take her oath, and will be teaching ESL versed in English/Gujarati/Hindi. Anya came to SAHARA seeking counseling and language services after enduring years and years of physical, mental, and emotional abuse from her husband. Her dream was to learn how to speak English & Hindi, to become a US Citizen, and to vote. Congratulation Anya for making your dreams a reality.



Follow us on



Know more at

www.sarvamangalfamilytrust.org/

www.msisurfaces.com/corporate/charitable-trust.aspx

