Distributing Jain/Vegan Meals

Over 9 weeks from Ahimsa day, October 2nd to Thanksgiving day, November 25, 2021, Joy of Sharing Foundation prepared 25,000 hot meals in 2 locations in Southern California. With many millions of turkeys being slaughtered on Thanksgiving day, the Joy of Sharing Foundation created meals where harm to sentient beings like cows to the smallest microbes was minimized and compassion was maximized. This objective was achieved through hot meals that were Jain and Vegan. The philosophy of the Jain religion takes into account all sentient beings including those that exist at the microbial level, which the roots of plants especially vegetables grown underground have plenty of.

At our peak on Thanksgiving day, 4,000 meals were prepared at the Joy of Sharing Community Center in Norwalk, consisting of Pasta with vegetables served with bread, chocolate chip cookies, and a bottle of water. At the Sikh Gurdwara in Riverside, 2,815 meals consisting of Garbanzo beans and Rice were prepared and served with a water bottle and a protein bar.

Our incredible journey began on May 17, 2020 during COVID Pandemic. The Joy of Sharing Foundation (Mr. BU Patel, Ms. Maya Patel & Mr. Shirish Dayal) offered us unconditional support with the place (Sanatan Dharma Temple, Norwalk) and the funds. We have not looked back since, and wish to continue in 2022 and beyond!

We were privileged to join JAINA’s mission of serving Jain meals on Ahimsa Day & Thanksgiving Day. The following is a summary of it.

Below are the details:

- **Meal numbers**: Distributed 160,946 meals from May 10, 2020, to January 30, 2022
- **Leading members**: Adhir Shah, Dr. Nitin Shah, Prabu Shankar, Anandavalli Venkatachalam with about 50 dedicated volunteers and 75-100 individuals who have helped us along the way
- **Youth Leaders**: Dr. Varun Gandhi, Shrenik Shah & Aayush Patel
- **Volunteers**: Between 120 - 150 individuals have been part of this undertaking, VOC Innovations (Teresa)
Major Donors: Joy of Sharing Foundation, Sarva Mangal Family Trust (Manubhai and Rikaben Shah), Wadher Family Foundation, ASK Kothari Foundation, Swatantra, and Bimla Jain Family Trust, Bhindi Jewelers, Power Crunch (Dr. Narendra parson), Pico Care Pharmacy, Kalpana and Haresh Jogani and over 200 individual donors.

Locations: Meals have helped in over 30 cities and 5 counties in Southern California.


Play video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g3Z15SyfH3o

We have committed to preparing between 1500 - 2000 meals every Sunday for all 52 weeks in 2022. Each meal consists of Rice with Chhole or Rajma or Pasta with Red sauce or Green sauce. It costs us on average $1.50 per packet of the meal.

Vendors - Vitco, Ingardia Bros, Restaurant Depot, COSTCO, Smart & Final, We are raising funds to meet our needs. The great news is that for every dollar raised, the Joy of Sharing Foundation will match. So a $15 donation will actually feed 20 people, not 10!!

Our goal is to raise $ 75,000 for 2022! So far we have raised $ 34,000 (Sarva Mangal Family Trust - $ 24,000) $ 41,000 to go for 2022! Please help.