



**USA**  
**PUEBLO, NEW MEXICO**

# Zone 1

# HIGHLIGHTS | ZONE 1

COUNTRIES	CENTRES/ GROUPS	SSIO MEMBERS	SSE STUDENTS	ISSE	SATHYA SAI SCHOOLS
Aruba	1	37			
Barbados	1	38	15		
Canada	51	6,531	1,814	1	1
Curaçao	1	13			
Guyana	14	459	67		
Jamaica	2	33	21		
St. Kitts	1	22			
St. Lucia	1	18			
St. Martin	1	27	5		
Suriname	3	156	10		
Trinidad & Tobago	41	1,420	221	1	5
USA/Virgin Islands	207	12,737	3,187	1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>21,491</b>	<b>5,340</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>



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### Barbados

SSE children and YAs lovingly prepared 36 care packets containing soap, toothpaste, lotions, and towels, for the residents of the Geriatric Hospital in Bridgetown. On 2nd February 2019, the volunteers also spent the afternoon with the elders, distributing the packets, and singing songs and hymns.



### Canada

Continuing a two-decade long partnership, nine SSIO volunteers from the Sathya Sai Centre of Coquitlam lovingly served a hearty meal at the Powell Street Getaway – a mental health and substance abuse resource centre that houses nearly 200 homeless, needy and under-privileged persons.

Volunteers from Calgary's Sathya Sai Centre have been regularly serving the needy in their community. On the third Saturday of each month, volunteers cook and serve lunch to nearly a thousand homeless people at the Calgary Drop-In Centre. Additionally, on the first Saturday of each month, eight to ten SSIO volunteers cook and serve dinner to about 50 guests at the Ronald MacDonald House which is a charitable organisation that accommodates relatives of children undergoing treatment for serious ailments at local hospitals.

### Canada



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Embracing the SSIO's *Go Green* sentiment, 20 volunteers, including 17 members of the Sathya Sai Centre of Toronto-York, helped clean up Milliken Park.

Every week, SSIO volunteers at the Sathya Sai Centre of Winnipeg pack and distribute essential items such as milk, baby food, hygiene items, canned food, biscuits, fruits, vegetables, and bread to more than 60 of their community's most in-need. Every month, volunteers also cook and serve a warm meal at the Siloam Mission to around 400 underprivileged people.

SSIO members in Saskatoon joined over 400 participants from the local community in the Walk for Reconciliation, as part of celebrations of Indigenous Peoples' Day on 21st June 2018.

On 5th May 2018, 25 YAs from the Sathya Sai Centre of Cooksville organised its 10th annual *Amazing Grace World Cup of Human Values* to commemorate Easwaramma Day. The participants were divided into eight groups, representing different countries, and participated in a series of enthralling, value-based activities, organised by the YAs. In keeping with the SSIO's *Go Green* initiatives, the children also took time to present facts and innovative solutions to environmental problems.

The 7th Parliament of the World's Religions convened in Toronto from 1st to 7th November 2018. Created to cultivate harmony among the world's religious and



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spiritual communities, this diverse interfaith gathering brought together delegates from more than 80 nations and 200 unique spiritual traditions. The SSIO presented an informative booth at the event to showcase its international service and humanitarian programmes. The SSIO also organised an interfaith panel-discussion titled “*Strengthening Interfaith Dialogue for Peace-Building*” on 2nd November, led by Dr. Narendranath Reddy, Chairman of the SSIO.



### Curaçao

Nine volunteers from the Sathya Sai Centre of Curaçao lovingly prepared and served hot meals and distributed gifts to 15 senior residents at the Fundashon Kas Emmanuel, a geriatric home, on 2nd March 2019. They also donated a large washing machine to the home.



### Guyana

The Prema Nilayam Sathya Sai Centre, in Georgetown, celebrated Ladies Day by serving meals to 55 needy people. Later, the ladies led devotional singing and a study circle that delved into the discourses of Sathya Sai Baba.

Guyana



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Between 23rd February and 2nd March 2019, an international team of SSIO doctors and specialists performed 22 surgeries and screened over 60 patients for uterine fibroids. Supported by the Government of Guyana and the Minister of Public Health, over 140 uterine and 5 urology surgeries have been completed as part of this project since 2013. The doctors also donated medical supplies to the local hospital and tended to other patients.



## Suriname

SSIO volunteers in Suriname celebrated the festive season of Christmas with several service projects around the country. On 19th December 2018, six volunteers visited the Stichting Dierenbescherming Animal Shelter to prepare food as well as wash and shampoo the 30 cats and 70 dogs housed at the facility. On Christmas Day, seven SSIO volunteers visited a children's hospital in Academisch Ziekenhuis and spent the afternoon singing Christmas carols and playing with the young children.

SSIO volunteers served 17 needy families on 12th February 2019 by going door-to-door and distributing food and hygiene care packets containing staple foods and essential care products to the grateful families.



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### Trinidad and Tobago

On 14th October 2018, 175 enthusiastic participants from various faiths attended *Envirofest*, a special event promoting environmental awareness and nature conservation, organised by the Sathya Sai Centre of Trinidad and Tobago. The event highlighted the importance of preserving, protecting, and respecting Mother Earth, and included events like gardening, arts and crafts, environmental conservation talks, and devotional singing.

SSIO volunteers in Trinidad and Tobago organised a National Interfaith Programme on 20th January 2019 at Sai Nilayam. Representatives from three faiths – Islam, Christianity and Hinduism spoke on the theme of unity. Amongst the eloquent talks, the sentiment of “Love All Serve All” transcended perceived religious divisions.

On 24th March 2019, the Ladies Wing of the SSIO of Trinidad launched its first-ever women’s support group – Strengthening the Bond of Sisterhood. This momentous occasion was attended by over 50 women, who heard inspiring stories from a veteran teacher of 30 years who overcame breast cancer 20 years ago – she is a founder of a women’s self-help group which has organised various courses for women.

### Trinidad & Tobago



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## USA

The Cincinnati-Dayton Sathya Sai Centre organised a Human Values Fest on 29th April 2018. About 100 people, including local community leaders, participated in the festivities, which included creative arts workshops, inspiring speakers and a hip-hop performance by artist Nimo and the band, *Empty Hands*. The highlight of the day was a wonderful poster presentation by children that focused on what they had learnt during a 30-day Human Value Practice Challenge held before the festival.

The St. Louis County Pet Adoption Center in Olivette, Missouri, home to more than 75 homeless animals, was the centre of attention of SSIO volunteers from the states of Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Mississippi and Tennessee between 25th and 27th May 2018. SSE children made toys and posters for cats and dogs, while other volunteers brought in food, blankets, beds, colourful leashes and collars and yet more toys for cats and dogs. The adults and children also launched a Walk for the Animals and the Planet, carrying posters and banners, wearing T-Shirts with logos and some wearing animal masks.



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YAs of Northern California organised a fun-filled educational carnival on 22nd September 2018 for the students of Southgate Elementary School, located in an under-served area of Northern California. The carnival was a kick-off for the weekly 2018-2019 Math Academy, a math tutoring programme offered by about 20 SSIO volunteers for about 100 children from third to sixth grades.

On 29th September 2018, SSIO volunteers in Dallas, Texas took time to honour their local heroes, including police officers, firefighters, the Salvation Army personnel and other first responders with the first *Service, Awareness and Integration (S.A.I)* community festival.

Hurricane Michael, a Category 5 hurricane, was the third most intense storm to strike the coast of Florida and made landfall on 10th October 2018. It inflicted severe devastation in several areas. In response, SSIO members from around the USA sent much needed relief supplies to the Sathya Sai Centre in Tallahassee, Florida. Within 10 days, there were enough supplies to send three vanloads of relief material to the hardest hit areas.

Over the last few years, the USA has witnessed several tragedies, such as deadly mass shootings and terrorist attacks. To help communities heal and



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to honour the memory of the victims, SSIO volunteers joined an interfaith musical ceremony on 2nd December 2018 in Pittsburgh, where the YAs presented two devotional songs in Sanskrit and English in memory of the victims of the attack at the *Tree of Life Synagogue*.

Every month, SSIO volunteers, including many YAs and SSE students visit the Manor Care Health Home in Denver, Colorado to spend time with the residents, filling their days with joy. For their visit in February 2019, fifteen volunteers celebrated Valentine's Day with the residents, offering love-themed cards and gift boxes.

