

# IndUS of Fox Valley: Annual Report For 2005

## 1. Martin Luther King Celebrations

IndUS continued its support for Martin Luther King Celebrations organized Toward Community: Unity in Diversity, Appleton (January 17, 2005) as also the Oshkosh event organized by the Human Relations Council, Oshkosh. Several of our members participated in the banquet and meetings. Once again IndUS donated \$300 for awarding prizes to the winners of the MLK essay competition at both locations.

## 2. IndUS Volunteer Recognition Dinner

The annual volunteer recognition dinner was held on Saturday, February 5, 2005, at University of Wisconsin Fox Valley Center. Over sixty volunteers and their families participated. Besides participating in games and enjoying delicious dinner, volunteers selected the theme for IndUS-2005. The theme selected: "Health & Wellness: Perspectives From India".

## 3. Tsunami Relief Phase I

On December 26th, several South Asian countries were unfortunately devastated by a tsunami that cost over 200,000 deaths. IndUS organized a massive fundraiser to collect contributions toward relief effort in the tsunami-affected areas of Asia. Thanks to the "Do It" campaign started by Post Crescent and Community Foundation of Fox Valley Region Inc. IndUS received a total of \$165,000. These funds were channeled to four charities operating in the affected areas: Americares, Save the Children, Catholic Relief Services and Lutheran World Relief Services.

## 4. Preethnrityeswara (A Ballet Based on the Life of Jesus)

Dr. Barboza and Troupe performed the ballet on Feb 12, 2005 at Fine Arts Center, Xavier High School, and Appleton. The proceeds from tickets sales were earmarked for tsunami reconstruction of Sothikuppam, Tamil Nadu, India. The event was funded by grants from Community Foundation of Fox Cities Region, Kimberly-Clark, Georgia Pacific and Thrivent. On that occasion, IndUS made presentations of checks worth \$ 165,000 to four designated charities toward tsunami relief in Asia.

## 5. Tsunami Relief Phase II

IndUS in collaboration with Time Warner of Northeastern Wisconsin, Affinity Health System; Secura Insurance, Neenah Joint Schools District and other community organizations launched Phase II of the relief effort that would result in adopting and aiding reconstruction in a tsunami affected village in Tamil Nadu India. On Feb 25, 2005 a benefit concert entitled NEW STAR featured many artists such as Janet Planet, Boogie and the YoYos, McDowell, Appleton Boys Choir, Kalaanjali School of Dance and Music, IndUS Dancers, netted \$ 20,000. Phase II raised \$ 35,000 that went toward donating 5 boats equipped with outboard motors, and fifty fishing nets to fishermen of Sothikuppam Village in Tamil Nadu.

Efforts are afoot for Phase II when IndUS in collaboration with Rotary International seeks to build and equip a computer laboratory in the same tsunami-affected area. The estimated cost of this project is \$ 23,000 of which IndUS is contributing \$ 7500.

## 6. Annual Meeting of Board Members on Feb 27, 2005

The Annual Board Meeting of Indus of Fox Valley was held on Feb 27, 2005, and the election was held. For the post of Chair and to fill a vacancy on the Board. Mr. Tim Higgins was elected the Chair, succeeding Dr. Doug Dugal. Prof Chuck Lauter comes aboard as a member. The members of the newly elected Board and the Executive Committee are:

Mr. Tim Higgins ( <i>Chairperson</i> )	Dr. Sangita Patel
Ms. Irma Burgos ( <i>UW Oshkosh</i> )	Mr. Shekar Rao
Dr. H. S. Dugal	Dr. Kirti Ringwala
Mr. Hanif Jiwani ( <i>ex officio</i> )	Dr. Ramakant Shet
Mr. Laxman Kailas	Dr. B. S. Sridhar ( <i>ex officio</i> )
Mr. Vivek Kulkarni ( <i>ex officio</i> )	Mrs. Ritu Tannan
Ms. Ruth Mansukhani	Ms. Nila Vaishnav ( <i>India Assoc.: ex-officio</i> )
Dr. Marie Martin (Fox Valley Tech. College)	Mr. Michael Van Asten ( <i>ex-officio</i> )

### The Executive Team:

Dr. B. S. Sridhar <i>President</i>	Mr. Vivek Kulkarni <i>Treasurer</i>
Mr. Michael Van Asten <i>Vice President</i>	Mr. Hanif Jiwani <i>Secretary</i>
<i>Members-at-Large:</i> Mr. Ashok Tannan & Ms. Kamlesh Varma	

## 7. Annual General Body Meeting

The annual general body meeting was held on March 20, 2005 at Youth Futures, Appleton. Following presentation and adoption of annual report, financial accounts and budget, a task force was established to explore ways to:

- a. To increase participation of individuals in IndUS through recruiting volunteers of all ages.
- b. To subsequently encourage the volunteers to register with IndUS to become members of the organization. (Currently we have about 60 paid memberships and over 100 volunteers).

## 8. CineFest India: A Film Festival

CineFest India: the Best of Contemporary Indian Cinema was held on March 12, 13, 19 & 20, 2005, at Valley Fair Cinema and Youth Futures, Appleton. Four award-winning movies, namely, Bawandar (Hindi), Paromitar Ek Din (Bengali), Shwaas (Marathi) and Deveeri (Kannada) were screened. The event was funded by grants from Community Foundation of Fox Cities Region, Kimberly-Clark, Georgia Pacific and Thrivent. Three films were obtained free of screening fees, courtesy Govt. of India – Chicago Consulate, Ms. Kavitha Lankesh and Mr. Sunil Narkar. The maiden

effort was a moderate success and plans are afoot to ensure greater participation in future festivals.

#### **9. Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt Concert**

IndUS presented the Grammy-winning artist, Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt (Mohan Veena) and Subhen Chatterjee (tabla) on Friday, April 22, 2005, at Einstein Middle School Auditorium, Appleton. Approximately 200 people attended the concert and their feedback was very positive. The event was funded by grants from Community Foundation of Fox Cities Region, Kimberly-Clark, Georgia Pacific and Thrivent. With this event, IndUS completed its obligation arising out of the Community Foundation grant of \$ 5000.

#### **10. Asia Awareness Month at UW Oshkosh**

IndUS participated in the Asia Awareness Month celebrations at University of Wisconsin Oshkosh through following events:

Kickoff Event April 4, 2005 – IndUS of Fox Valley featured classical as well as folk dances. Three talented young dancers, Vidushree Mehrotra, Maya Murzello and Priyanka Kumar delighted them with Kathak and Bharatanatyam performances entertained the audience. Later, the IndUS volunteers involved the audience in folk dance called *dandiya raas*.

On Saturday, April 17, 2005, IndUS featured Vedika, a semi-professional troupe from Chicago that performed Kathakali, an ancient classical dance form from India. This was a first for the Valley. And dancers enacted scenes from the great Indian epic, *Mahabharata*.

#### **11. Knowing Her Place: Screening**

IndUS collaborated with Toward Community: Unity in Diversity, Appleton Public Library and other community organizations to screen a documentary entitled "Knowing Her Place (Director: Indu Krishnan) on Thursday, April 28, 2005. A lively discussion followed the screening.

#### **12. Neenah Diversity Fair**

IndUS participated in the annual Diversity Fair held at Neenah High School on May 5, 2005. The students enjoyed a variety of foods, crafts, and wearing Indian dresses and henna painting.

#### **13. Midwest iChild**

IndUS, in collaboration with India Association NEW organized Indian Heritage day for Midwest iChild, an organization of parents from five Midwestern states who have adopted children from India. The daylong event on July 16, 2005 held at Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake Wisconsin. Volunteers introduced the campers to Indian outdoor games, Indian cooking, arts and crafts, story telling, and dances.

#### **14. Visit to Sothikuppam**

Dr. B. S. Sridhar, President, and Dr. Sandhya Sridhar, Member, Tsunami relief Fundraising Committee visited Sothikuppam in Tamil Nadu, India on August 11-12, 2005, to get a first-hand assessment of relief work undertaken there. IndUS, in collaboration with Time Warner Cable, Neenah Joint School District, several schools and individuals had raised \$ 35,000 toward post-tsunami reconstruction work in Sothikuppam village. The relief work being implemented in collaboration with Rotary Club of Aurocity was found to be satisfactory and discussions are afoot for future relief and reconstruction work. Dr. Ram Shet, member of the Board is planning to visit the village in January 2006, for follow up action.

#### **15. Foods of All Nations**

IndUS was prominently involved in the planning and execution of the Eighth Annual Foods of All Nations, organized by Fox Cities Rotary Multi-Cultural center, Appleton, on Saturday, September 17, 2005. IndUS volunteers were involved with food, entertainment and all the different aspects of the event. In addition, IndUS supported the event with a monetary contribution.

#### **16. Global Fox Cities**

Dr. Sridhar, President of IndUS participated as a panelist for Leadership Global Fox Cities program on Friday, September 23, 2005, organized by the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce.

#### **17. Katrina Hurricane Relief**

IndUS has donated \$ 1000 to American Red Cross toward relief operations for the benefit of victims of hurricane Katrina. Further relief contributions by the way of a scholarship to affected student(s) are being planned.

#### **18. IndUS-2005**

IndUS-2005 was celebrated on Saturday, November 12, 2005 at Reeve Memorial Union, University of Wisconsin, and Oshkosh. The theme was: Health & Wellness: Perspectives from India. The event featured a multimedia exhibition that introduced the guests to various health and wellness practices of India both in the ancient and modern context.

As per the tradition, the following individuals were recognized by inviting them to participate in the Lamplighting ceremony: Ms. Carol Busey, *Sharing Around the World Medical Project (Rotary), Appleton*; Dr. Jaya Jambunathan, Oshkosh, *Nursing; Professor and Founder, India Study Abroad Program*; Dr. Sujatha Kailas, MD, Fond du Lac, *Chief of Staff, St. Agnes Hospital, Member, Medical Examining Board*; Dr. Kamaljit S. Paul MD, Oshkosh, *Neurosurgeon and Inventor*; Ms. Pam Witt Hillen, Thedacare, *Prevent Alcohol and Risk Related Trauma in Youth) Program*; and Mr. Rob Worth, *Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine*.

IndUS awarded a scholarship worth \$ 1500 to Ms. Ryana Andrews, a student from New Orleans, displaced by hurricane Katrina, and who is completing her education at UW

Oshkosh. In addition, IndUS awarded four scholarships of \$ 500 each to four nursing students enrolled at University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, who undertook a successful study tour of India, in January 2006.

Dr. John E. Mielke, MD, in his keynote address, stressed the need to seek balance among the physical, mental and spiritual aspects one's life.

The event ended with a cultural program that featured a dance-drama entitled "Transposed Heads". It featured dancers Meenakshi Ganesan and Lakshmi Ramaswamy from *Kalaanjali School of Dance and Music, Madison*; Lisa Andrea Thurrell and Robert E. Cleary from *Kanopy Dance Company, Madison*; and a number of dancers from the Fox Valley.

### **19. Seva and SAMP**

IndUS volunteers continue to serve lunch to the needy at Salvation Army, Appleton on Saturdays. During the year 2005, 60 volunteers served approximately 5000 meals. IndUS volunteers continue to participate in SAMP program of Rotary Club of Appleton and pack medical supplies sent to needy people around the globe.

### **20. Community Foundation Matching Grant**

IndUS is one of the four organizations selected by Community Foundation of Fox Cities Region to receive a matching grant of \$ 10,000 if we can raise \$ 10,000 between Sept 1, 2005 and Sept 1, 2006 toward IndUS Future Fund. We are happy to report that we have already collected \$ **9,056.35** toward this target.

IndUS Future Fund, as of Dec 31, 2005 stands at \$ 13, 595, an increase of \$ 2259.99 over the year 2005.

It is anticipated that this total will be in excess of \$ 34,000 by the end of 2006.

### **21. Sandesh: IndUS Newsletter**

IndUS continued to publish its newsletter Sandesh. Three issues were brought during the year and they are available in electronic format on the IndUS Website. The editorial board consists of Dr. Badri Varma, Ms. Manjari Chatterji, Dr. Sandhya Sridhar, and Mr. Dnyanesh Patkar. Dr. B. S. Sridhar serves as an advisor.