

IndUS of Fox Valley

Annual Report For 2004

Presented on February 27, 2005

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

1. Martin Luther King Celebrations

IndUS continued its support for Martin Luther King Celebrations organized Toward Community: Unity in Diversity, Appleton (January 18, 2004) as also the Oshkosh event organized by the Human Relations Council, Oshkosh (January 19, 2004). 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.

2. IndUS Volunteer Recognition Dinner

The annual volunteer recognition dinner was held on Saturday, February 21, 2004, at River Commons, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. Over sixty volunteers and their families participated. Besides participating in games and enjoying delicious dinner, volunteers selected the theme for IndUS-2004. The theme selected: "Architecture of India".

3. Board Members elected on March 27, 2004

The Annual General Body Meeting of IndUS of Fox Valley was held on March 27, 2004, and the biennial elections were held. The members of the newly elected Board and the Executive Committee are:

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

4. Recognitions:

- Dr. Ram Shet, a founding member of IndUS, was honored by the Rotary Club of Appleton with its Rotarian of the Year award for the year 2003-2004
- In addition, Ram, was awarded **Paul Harris Fellow** (Rotary Foundation of Rotary International), As a part of this recognition, Rotary Club of Appleton has donated \$ 1000 to Rotary International in Ram's name.
- Dr. Mahendra Doshi, another founding member of IndUS was named TAPPI Fellow for his outstanding contributions in the area of paper recycling technology. Hearty congratulations to Mahendra who received the award on May 4, 2004, at TAPPI Conference in Atlanta.

- Dr. Sujatha Kailas, a past member of the IndUS board, was appointed by Governor Jim Doyle to serve on the Wisconsin State Medical Review Board.

5. Participation in the Namaste event

Namaste, an organization of families who have adopted children from India had a one-day camp at Best Western Hotel, Appleton on February 29, 2004. Volunteers from IndUS of Fox Valley and India Association NEW performed dances and music and thereby shared the Indian culture and traditions with the children and parents.

6. Let's Share March 7, 2004

Topic of Discussion: "The Career Maze – Doors to Choose and Doors to Avoid"

Guests: Dr Mohit Uberoi – President & CEO, MEGTEC Systems
Mr, Suhas Apte – Director Global Business, Kimberly Clark

Event held at the Sai Ram restaurant (approximately 30 participants).

7. Asia Awareness Month at UW Oshkosh in Collaboration with IndUS.

IndUS played a key role in the following events:

- Kickoff Event March 31, 2004 – Featured Indian Food, curios, folk dances, a bridal pageant and interactive demonstrations.
- Kalaanjali School of Dance, Madison –several dances depicting the mythology of Krishna (April 17, 2004) were performed.
- Mr. & Mrs. Iyer – A critically acclaimed movie was screened on April 19, 2004.
- IndUS organized a series of workshops by Purnima Sampat and Shital Mehta (two renowned art educators from Mumbai, India) at several area schools and the UW Fox Valley, Menasha. Workshops and demonstrations were also held at the Paine Art center & Arboretum, Oshkosh (April 25, 2004) and Fox Cities Children's Museum, Appleton (April 26, 2004)

8. Diversity Fair at Neenah High School

IndUS members participated in the Diversity Fair held at Neenah High School on May 14, 2004. The students enjoyed a variety of foods, crafts, and entertainment. A lively dance performance by IndUS teenagers was very warmly received.

9. India Night at the Harmony Café

On June 11, 2004 IndUS and India Association NEW participated in *India Night* at Harmony Café in Appleton. Various members of the IndUS community presented dances, clothing and sang Indian songs to provide a cultural education to the youth at the café.

10. Midwest iChild Heritage Camp

Midwest iChild Heritage Camp held July 16-18, 2004 at Green Lake, Wisconsin. IndUS and India Association NEW organized the Indian heritage component on Saturday, July 17, 2004. The iChild Heritage program is catered to families from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois and Iowa that have adopted children from India.

11. The Hungry Stones:

A dance program was held by the Katha Dance Theatre of Minneapolis) Saturday, August 14, 2004 6:30 p.m. Grand Opera House, Oshkosh

12. Participated in Events organized by the IANEW

- **Annual Picnic:** Saturday, August 21, 2004 at 2:00 PM, Doty Park, 701 Lincoln Street, Neenah.
- **Cricket Match:** Saturday, August 14, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m., Menominee Park, Oshkosh.

13. Foods of All Nations (Theme: Diversity: The Spice of Life)

Co-hosted by Fox Cities Rotary Multicultural Center and Toward Community: Unity in Diversity Saturday, September 18, 2004, 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Center 1 Plaza, Appleton (Behind Avenue Mall)

14. Multicultural Concert

Presented by Fox Cities Rotary Multicultural Center Monday, September 20, 2004, 7:00 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center, College Avenue, Appleton It will feature Irish instrumental music and dance, and Japanese Taiko Drummers. It is a fundraiser to aid various programs run by the Multicultural Center for the community.

15. IndUS 2004

The event was held on Saturday, November 6, 2004 at Reeve Memorial Union, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. Theme: **Architecture of India**. The event was sold out. IndUS-2004 was inaugurated by Dr. Richard Wells, Chancellor, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. Professor Joseph Elder, Director, Center for South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison, delivered the keynote address. An exhibition and a cultural program featuring multimedia presentations and twenty dancers delighted the audience. IndUS gave away three volunteer-student scholarships worth \$ 500 each to student volunteers in recognition of their service to the society. The recipients were: Kristalee Buckbee (University of Wisconsin Oshkosh), Katrina Nelson (University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley) and Brian Hilgeman (Lawrence University, Appleton).

The Steering Committee for IndUS-2004:

Badri Varma (Chair)

Aruna Shet (Banquet)

Ruth Mansukhani (Exhibition)

Ritu Tannan (Decoration)

B. S. Sridhar (Cultural Program)

Sandhya Sridhar (Reception)

Ram Shet (Sponsors & Donations)

Viju Rao (Ticket Sales)

Mahendra Doshi (Publicity)

Vivek Kulkarni (Finance)

Jennifer Larson (Participant Feedback).

16. Second Annual African Heritage Inc. Scholarship Awards Holiday Party.

IndUS participated in the event by encouraging its members to attend the banquet through a subsidy. It was notable that IndUS for second year in a row, had the largest presence for any nonprofit organization at the event.

IndUS Asian Tsunami Relief Effort

IndUS and Post Crescent: Asian Tsunami Relief Fund: Phase I

Catholic Relief Services	\$38,286.23
Lutheran World Relief	\$37,623.73
Save the Children	\$38,785.48
Americares	\$50,368.48
Total	\$165,063.93

Presenters	Recipient
Mr. Dan Flannery, Managing Editor P.C.	Mayor Tim Hanna on behalf of Americares
Maya Murzello, 8; and Sameer Sridhar, 13; for IndUS	Jeff Werner, Secretary of the Rotary Club on behalf of Save The Children
Dr. Sandhya Sridhar & Mr. Vivek Kulkarni, Treasurer, IndUS	His Excellency James Justman Bishop of East Central Synod of Wisconsin on behalf of Lutheran World Relief Services
Dr. Ram Shet, Member of the Board, IndUS	Mr. Matt Reynebeau, Xavier High School, Appleton for Catholic Relief Services

IndUS Tsunami Relief Drive: Phase II

In Phase II, the focus has shifted to rehabilitation and reconstruction. We are gratified that many individuals, corporations/businesses and organizations in the Valley have expressed their support for a long-term rehabilitation of survivors. IndUS, in collaboration with Rotary Club of Appleton, and Rotary Club of Pondicherry, Aurocity, India, has identified Periyakuppam, a tiny fishing village in Tamil Nadu, for its adopt-a-village program.

Following are the clearly identified priorities for restoration and reconstruction in the area.

1. Restoration of economic self-reliance of fishermen and their families.
2. Construction of earthquake proof dwellings.
3. Construction of infrastructure such as roads, sewer etc.
4. Construction of childcare centers, play grounds, clinics etc.

Replacing the twenty mechanized boats and restoring the livelihoods of fishermen in Periyakuppam is our top priority. A total of 904 mechanized boats and several thousand more non-mechanized boats have been destroyed in the Cuddalore district alone. Each \$ 3,500 raised will provide help buy a fiberglass reinforced hull of a catamaran, an out-board engine and a set of fishing nets, supporting the livelihood of a group of three to five fishermen and their families. Through it association with local Rotary and NGOs, IndUS will not only be able to closely monitor the implementation but also undertake long term, comprehensive rehabilitation of Periyakuppam.

Toward this effort IndUS has assembled together a partnership consisting of Rotary Club of Appleton, Time Warner Cable, Affinity Health System, Secura Insurance, Outagamie County Administration, Neenah School District, and the list is growing. Current Estimates are:

Cash Donations for Phase II	\$ 4000
Preethnrityeswara (dance)	\$ 1100
NEW STAR Concert	\$ 17000
IndUS 2004 (?)	\$ 3500
Neenah Schools	\$ 15000.
Rotary Club	\$ 4000 - \$ 7000