

BAPS Walk Raises Funds for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

Atlanta: On Sunday, September 20th, 2009, over 500 community members participated in the BAPS Charities Walkathon, supporting 'United We Serve', a national effort launched by President Obama to engage Americans in serving their communities this summer. In keeping with its Walkathon theme, "Building a Better Community, One Step at a Time", part of the proceeds from this year's Walkathon will go to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

"This summer, I'm calling on all of you to make volunteerism and community service part of your daily life and the life of this nation," said President Obama in a video message. "Economic recovery is as much about what you're doing in your communities as what we're doing in Washington – and it's going to take all of us, working together."

"We are pleased to join this national effort and thank the President for making this call to service," said Nilkanth Patel, President of BAPS Charities. "BAPS Charities is taking part in

'United We Serve' by organizing nearly 125 community service events including health fairs, blood donation drives, health awareness campaigns and



walkathons like this one all across the country."

"Children, teens, and adults from all across Atlanta put aside their busy schedules and walked with their friends and family to serve the local community," said Anand Mehta, Vice President of BAPS Charities. "We thank all the participants for raising money for this important organization that provides quality medical care for children in our community."

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta is a local organization composed of hospitals and outpatient clinics that strives to enhance the lives of children through excellence in patient care, research and education.

The 5K Walkathon, held in Lilburn, Ga inspired people to go the extra mile to make a difference in someone's life.

Vasu Patel, 12, raised money by going around his neighborhood. He and many of his friends were among the first waiting in line for the kick-off. As the ribbon was cut, they dashed past it with enthusiasm, already a step ahead of their parents.

"As a kid, I know how it feels to be hospitalized," he said, recalling his trip to the hospital after a head injury. "I just want to raise money for them."

The event's grand sponsors were Panoz Auto Development Company and Equus Automotive, who made a sizable contribution to Children's Healthcare. Representatives of both companies cut the ribbon, marking the event's traditional kickoff.

Joining the grand sponsors was Mr. Charles Bannister, Chairman of the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners. Mr. Bannister thanked the participants for their time and efforts in supporting the local community through charitable work.

Over 35 BAPS Charities centers across North America will hold walkathons in their region.

Atlanta Telangana Community Celebrates Colorful Bathukamma

Atlanta: Bathukamma 2009 festival celebrations organized by Telangana Community Inc., were held on Saturday, Sep 26th.

The colorful event, held at South Forsyth Middle School, Suwanee, began around 12 noon with the ladies and children arriving in their finest traditional dresses

homeland. Other events such as Fancy Dress Competitions for various age groups, Raffle draws, etc. were also held cheering up and involving the audience.

Mrs. Sulochana Reddy was recognized for her outstanding career in Information Technology serving over three decades. A plaque was presented to her by Narender Reddy. Earlier G.S. Reddy awarded a plaque to Viju Chiluveru for his outstanding services to the Community during the year.

On behalf of the Telangana Community, a presentation was made by Mr. Ranjith Ganta on the clean water initiative by the organization. He explained how the organization was helping build Water purification projects at various villages in Telangana.

The well awaited Bathukamma's finally got their attention in the evening. All the women gathered and placed their Bathukamma's in the middle and danced around them, synchronizing steps and claps in unison, and singing soul stirring Bathukamma folksongs. After singing and dancing around the Bathukamma's for sometime, they were taken to the nearby swimming pool and set afloat in the water. The judges picked the Best three Bathukamma's for this year and prizes were distributed for their makers. The other event prizes were also announced and given out to the participants as the program progressed.

Local restaurants such as Sai Murali, Swapna Indian Cuisine, Madras Chettinad, Krishna Vilas, Amma's Kitchen & Maruti restaurant, generously sponsored the free lunch for all the participants.

The event was a huge success thanks to a generous contribution by several businesses and individuals who sponsored the event and other patrons. The organizers greatly appreciated and acknowledged the efforts of more than 60 volunteers for their relentless hard work and without whose active support the event could not have been so successful. Sushumna Ravichander

proposed 'Vote of Thanks' and appreciated the efforts organizers, women who arranged and brought Bathukamma's, volunteers, sponsors and everyone involved in the events.

This event was ably supported by Telugu Asso-

ciation of Metro Atlanta (TAMA). Satyanarayana Reddy Tangirala and Executive Committee members were present at the event, the event was graced by many prominent and out of town people, mainly Paddy Sharma, a community leader. - Manju Ganta



carrying their beautiful Bathukamma's. The organizers warmed up the occasion with the kid's games, while their parents socialized and recollected memories of the occasion.

Mr. G.S.Reddy, President of Telangana Community gave his inaugural speech signifying the Bathukamma celebrations and thanked the attendees for the record turnout of an estimated 900 people, who attended in spite of inclement weather. He warmly welcomed all the participants and spoke about the objectives of Telangana Community and how the organization intends to look beyond the occasion involving itself in various development projects across the Telangana region.

Mr. Narender Reddy welcomed & invited the Chief Guest Mayor of Suwanee City Mr. David Williams to light the lamp. Mayor Williams also released the Telangana Community Member Directory and addressed the audience on the occasion. A Bathukamma was presented to Mayor to take home with him.

The event continued with many cultural programs such as Group and Solo Dances by children of all ages, mostly related to folk. Each program was blended around the Telangana culture bringing everyone close to the

Evening Of Dance & Music At Kannada Koota Event

BY JYOTHSNA HEGDE

Atlanta: Artists from India, Ganesh Desai and Namita Desai supported by local artists enthralled the Kannada community of Atlanta with their music and dance performances organized by Nrupatunga Kannada Koota (NKK) this September 12th at the Hindu Temple of Atlanta. Riverdale.

Namita Desai, an active participant in many dance

Srinath (Tabla) accompanied the music with ease and élan. The show stealer was rendition of the song "Vittala" which was an amalgamation of various different "swaras" or notes had the audience spellbound and craving for more. A true entertainer with a sense of humor, Ganesh also crooned to some of the song requests from the crowd. Ganesh is a classical and light vocalist, music director, tabla and harmonium player. He has directed music for dance ballets, documentary



L to R: Anjaneya Shastri (tabla), Shreyas Srinath (tabla), Ganesh Desai, Trishul Mallikarjuna (rhythm pad).

features presented both on stage and television danced to five different devotional songs. A beautiful artist, her expressions truly justified the song sequences. Namita has traveled widely across India and delivered both solo and group performances along with choreographing many dance dramas. She has also acted in some Kannada television series such as "Maneyondu Mooru baagilu" (ETV), "Kallu Sakkare" (Kasturi) among many others.

The performance of Ganesh Desai was a musical delight to the crowd. Local artists Anjaneya Shastri (Tabla), Trishul Mallikarjuna (Rhythm pad), Shreyas

films, TV serials, dance dramas, albums, skits and mimes. Ganesh Desai has won the Hero Honda "Surotaranga" Award for Best Young Artists 2003, "Aryabhata" Kalakusuma Cultural Award for Sugama Sangeeta, Bangalore-2000 for his performances.

Kudos to NKK for providing a platform to both local as well as Indian artists to showcase their talent. Food was also organized by NKK after the event. The evening was a memorable experience for everyone present and sent everyone home with a smile or perhaps some nostalgic memories of the singers of yesteryears as someone in the crowd was heard recounting