

DIWALI MELA HICKSVILLE NY OCT- 2018

Diwali symbolizes the victory of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance. Taking this significance into consideration, the youth of Sant Nirankari Mission, NY decided on the following theme for the booth that was hosted at Diwali Mela in Hicksville, NY, on October 21, 2018.

“Unless the lamp is lit, darkness cannot be dispelled” ~ Sampuran Avtar Bani 95.



In a very vibrant atmosphere, there were opportunities to interact with people of all age groups and from all walks of life. Our own sewadal members consisted of the youngsters, youth, adults and elderly ranging from 1-75 years of age, who fervently contributed their time, energy and positivity. Video documentary highlighting the efforts of the Sant Nirankari Mission including blood donation, healthcare, education, social reforms, women empowerment and youth empowerment attracted many and brought awareness to the community service efforts of the Mission. Information about upcoming **blood drive organized** by Sant Nirankari Mission in November was additionally shared at the booth; those able to donate were registered.



Literature in various languages including Hindi, Punjabi, and English was distributed and accepted by the masses with great enthusiasm; it was apparent that there is great need and desire for knowledge of the Truth. The younger members of both the sangat and those attending the mela had the chance to participate through the henna and face painting at the booth; while the children got their hands or faces decorated, their parents were introduced to the teachings of the Mission

and copy of Hasti Duniya along with additional literature was shared. Throughout the day, ideals of light, goodness, and knowledge were evident.



There were many people who were interested in the teachings of the Mission and eager to learn more about the history and tenants. There are numerous examples of highly positive interactions including those that resulted in invitations to collaborate on talk shows as well as interactions with representatives of the government. One woman inquisitively looked at the banner with picture of Satguru Baba Hardev Singh Ji and Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj. She had a puzzled expression on her face, which was noticed by a sewadal member standing near the booth. This woman was approached by the sewadal member who introduced herself and asked a simple question "Do you know anything about our organization?" The woman said "No." To this sewadal member said "We're from the Sant Nirankari Mission..." The sentence hadn't even been completed and the woman interrupted. "Can you repeat that?" So the sewadal member again said "Sant Nirankari Mission."



To this, the woman's face lit up and after about a 20 minute conversation it was learned that one of her good friends who was Nirankari and married to Consulate in Manhattan had been requesting to be brought to sangat for over a year. Details of the sangat were shared with both her and her friend over the phone by the local sangat members. Another elderly attendee shared that his wife had taken the Gyan but was not aware of the fact that there was a congregation in the area; therefore, she only watched Satguru's vichar on Zee TV. Information about weekly congregation was shared, giving this devotee the opportunity to attend congregation. These

interactions highlighted the importance of the fact that if there is a desire to attend congregation or seek the Truth, Satguru and Nirankar will manifest it.

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." ~ Matthew 7:7

Performances highlighted "Oneness to Humanness" theme. which touched the hearts of many. The organizer of the performances went on to announce on the stage that this was one of the most beautiful concept he had heard of and invited the Mission to perform again next year so more can view it and benefit from it. A few approached sewadal asking about the "organizer" for "Oneness to Humanness" and were introduced to the Mission.



Sewa in this form imparts us with the opportunity to introduce the teachings of the Satguru to the masses. At the same time, these are immense growing opportunities for our own journeys. The participation of youth in the mela, not only brought them all together but also helped to realize their potentials.



This was great learning opportunity for the youth of New York as they channelized their energies and took various responsibilities for the event under the guidance and wisdom imparted by the elderly. We have had the chance to strengthen our relationships as well as our faith; in the company of the truth and light, darkness is dispelled and our own paths are brighter. For this occasion, we are forever thankful to our Satguru.