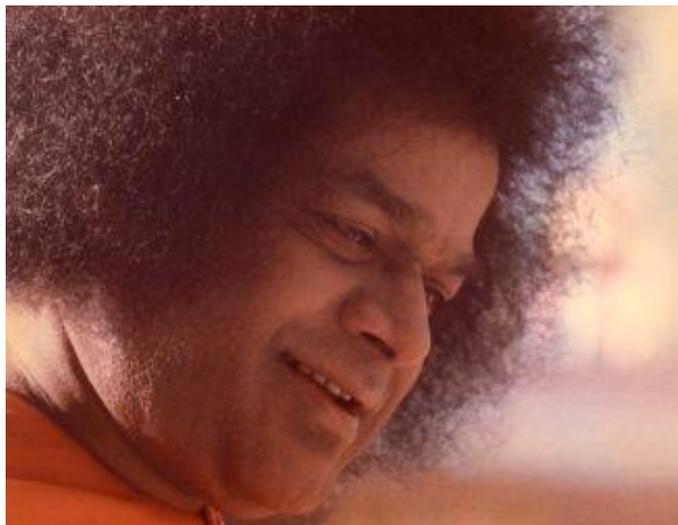




BULLETIN#2

SATHYA SAI BABA CENTER OF CALGARY

March 2016



www.sathyasaicalgary.org

Sai Ram Brothers and Sisters. My humble pranam at the Lotus Feet of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba – our Lord and Master.

With Swami's grace the spiritual activities of our Calgary Sai Centre are being conducted with whole hearted dedication for the betterment of all devotees. Every committee member is trying his or her best to discharge all given duties with humility and graciousness along with a sense of joy and happiness to serve Swami. The regular attendance of devotees, during weekly Satsung creates a unique and forceful spiritual discipline that reinforces the power of prayer.



The Akhanda Bhajan that was conducted on November 15, 2015 was graciously attended by many devotees and Sai aspirants, making the function well focused with tremendous vibration. The prayers commenced right at 6.00 a.m. in the morning and concluded exactly at 6.00 p.m. The garland that was placed on Swami's picture for the prayers was later transferred to the household mandir. The next morning it had grown very much longer with the definite indication of Swami's divine presence to bless all the devotees during the prayers.

The above prayers were followed by Swami's 90th Birthday celebrations on November 22, 2015 at the Temple Community Centre. This was another memorable function with more than 250 devotees and Sai aspirants in attendance. The success of the spiritual celebrations reflected the hard work put in by the committee members, various Sai devotees and well wishers along with the profound blessings of our Lord. There were appreciative comments on the conduct of the event, and positive suggestions for further improvement which have been well noted by the committee to act upon in the next event. If there were any inadvertent mistakes or irregularities the committee would take them as learning experiences for the future.



It is gratifying to note that donations have been forthcoming from devotees without any solicitation of funds towards the operational expenses of the Centre. The Treasurer has been expeditious in the distribution of the receipts along with keeping the accounts up-to-date and members are welcome to review the accounts if in need. However the Treasurer will be disclosing the revenue / expenditure details to the congregation in due course. The voluntary donations by the devotees at the Lotus Feet of Swami simply indicate the tremendous Sai faith that upholds the fraternity and the trust in the Calgary Sai Centre. May Swami's blessings be with us at all times.

The Balavikas program has kept up its momentum with the hope that more parents would take this opportunity to gear their children towards greater sense of spirituality. The children are also helped to become more confident and self-initiated as a prerequisite towards happy adulthood. Our current young adults who are well placed in life are a testimony to their early Balvikas involvement

The Calgary Sai Centre had the privilege of holding a three day Value Parenting Workshop conducted by qualified professionals of the Canadian Institute of Sathya Sai Education with the objective of training volunteers and Balvikas gurus. There were fifteen participants from Edmonton and Calgary Centres who had the opportunity to get a deeper insight into the practice of human values of Truth, Right Conduct, Love, Peace and Non-Violence as advocated by Swami. The value added content of the training was absolutely beneficial to all the participants of the workshop who were further galvanized to help other members of their respective Sai Centres. The facilitator of this program was the Education Coordinator of the Calgary Sai Centre, who was helped by other members of the Centre in preparing food and making arrangements for accommodation. The Calgary participants will be launching the DVP sessions for our devotees in due course.



A congenial meeting was held between the committee members of the Calgary Sai Centre and the Hindu Mandir. There was positive interaction between both the groups and the Sai group had the opportunity to emphasize on its role in propagating Sri Sathya Sai Baba's teachings on human values for the betterment of the community and to conduct Balvikas classes for spiritual development of the children. The meeting ended with profound goodwill between the two groups and the following assurance was given by the Sri Sathya Sai Centre of Calgary.

We the members of the Sri Sathya Sai Centre of Calgary are ready to do our seva activity for the Hindu Mandir such as the cleaning- up of the premises or other volunteer needs as required. We shall take this as a privilege much becoming of service to the community along with helping the Mandir.

The seva activities are moving along unabated with ever increasing zest as the Seva Coordinator and other volunteer members of the Centre grasp any opportunity to do their service to community especially the needy. The following activities were completed successfully.



1. Members of the Calgary Sai Centre helped to cook food at the Ronald MacDonald House, a place where poor and needy parents stay when their children are admitted to the Alberta Children's Hospital. Our members not only cooked and served food lovingly but made sure that the premises were cleaned up before leaving. So far this service activity has been performed twice by the current seva committee of the Calgary Sai Centre.
2. Seva was done twice at the Drop-In-Centre. This activity was related to preparation work in the kitchen as well as serving hot meals to the clients of the Drop-In-Centre.
3. The Calgary Sai Centre members also did clothes sorting at the Mustard Seed.
4. The Calgary Sai Centre participated in the Samaritan's Purse sponsored Operation Christmas Child Program, by preparing, filling and transporting 90 shoe boxes. The 90 shoe boxes were collected to mark Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's 90th Birthday celebrations. The boxes were filled with various items such as school stationery, toys, stuffed animals and the like. They were sent by Samaritan's Purse to needy children in third world countries.
5. Donations were collected to provide an electrocardiogram (ECG) machine to the ARUNODHAYAM Centre for the abandoned handicapped children in Chennai, India. This was a request from them and we felt it an honor to help them. Jai Sai Ram.