

**Subject:** Swami's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday - SOULS update Nov 23, 2020

**Sent:** Nov 23, 2020

Sairam Dear SOULS members and enthusiasts,

We trust you and your families are doing well.

Our intense yearning for a permanent place for Sathya Sai Baba Center of Dallas to conduct all the activities is on a right track with our Dear Swami's Guidance and Grace. Our intentions are pure in that we are seeking this Prasanthi Dham for the Highest Good of All Sai Devotees. Our objectives have been to follow Swami's teachings and act accordingly at every step.

The following bulletin provides you updates since Gurupoornima and we humbly offer the progress made thus far at His lotus feet in celebration of our beloved Lord's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

#### ***SOULS Mission:***

Establish Prasanthi Dham, a spiritual and community center to promote the message of Sri Sathya Sai Baba for individual transformation and service to the community. A spiritual center where Sai Devotees can feel emotionally closer to Prasanthi Nilayam and meet the growing needs of Sathya Sai Baba Centers in Dallas.

#### ***SOULS Organization updates:***

None

#### ***Support in other functional areas:***

Our sincere gratitude to the following individuals who are helping in different functional areas of SOULS project.

- Paddy Padmanabhan, who is instrumental in building Sathya Sai & Shirdi temple facilities in Ohio and served in key organizational positions in SSIO, is guiding and consulting with us on financial planning of the project execution
- Vasu Vaddaraju and Ram Srinivasan for their dedication in their planning and executing the tree plantation on Prasanthi Dham land as part of Swami's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations.

### **SPIRITUAL SADHANA – HRIDAYAVASI & ANANDA SAI**

Baba says, "Take one step towards Me and I will take a hundred towards you" and thus our first step has been to work on our inner purification through the **HRUDAYAVASI SAI** (Indweller of the Heart) Group Sadhana 30-minute sessions on Monday nights at 8 p.m. We started this 'Group Sadhana' in May 2020 and the support and feedback has been wonderful!

We are then prompted to take the next step and that is through **ANANDA SAI** (blissful experience of Swami) Group Sadhana. We take two Precious names at each session and understand the deeper meaning of these names and then all join in chanting Swami's Ashttotharam (108 Precious names of Baba) on Saturday mornings for a 20-minute session starting at 10 a.m.

For those who haven't joined these sadhana sessions yet, we would be honored with your presence in either or both of these Group Sadhana sessions thereby increasing our group vibrations to higher levels.

**HRUDAYAVASI SAI SADHANA SESSION:** MONDAYS, 8.00 – 8.30 PM

**ANANDA SAI SADHANA SESSION:** SATURDAYS, 10.00 – 10.20 AM

## **LAND & BUILDING ACTIVITIES**

### ***Land related activities:***

- We extended our partnership with our partner for one more year through Aug 2021 to accommodate finalization of land development and building activities.
- We extended lease to the farmer for another year, to continue with agricultural activities and thus enabling us to seek property tax exemptions.
- We finalized and signed a contract with Civil and Structural engineering consultant. They will be helping to design the land development.

### ***Tree Planting activities:***

To celebrate Swami's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday, "Sathya Sai International Organization-USA" has set a goal to plant at least 95 trees this year in each of our Regions in the USA. As part of Region 10, **Sathya Sai Baba Center of Dallas** planted 106 trees during the weekend of Oct 24-25<sup>th</sup> coinciding with auspicious Vijaya Dasami and Shirdi Sai mahasamadhi anniversary.

We planted 103 Thuja Green Giant - a privacy tree with dense foliage that grows ground up to 40 – 50 ft tall at maturity for creating protective barrier and peaceful privacy from the railroad track along the 900 feet south of the land. We also planted 3 peepal trees – courtesy from Bunu Subedi who got them from Nepal and nurtured them for past 7 years.

We encourage all devotees (specifically, those who planted their trees) to visit the site and offer your prayers to the trees. We also have three trees for Swami and His parents.



### ***Building related activities:***

- Periodic deliberations on building plan and land layout is happening among SOULS building team and along with the Architect.
- The building design is chosen and is being finalized < Share the link here >.

## **FINANCE**

Apart from traditional avenues to make your contributions to SOULS, we now have made available a facility to contribute securities. This is prompted by a devotee who came forward to contribute a large securities donation to SOULS.

This facility allows to make a bigger impact by donating long-term appreciated securities, including stock, bonds, and mutual funds, directly to SOULS. Compared with donating cash or selling your appreciated securities and contributing the after-tax proceeds, you may be able to increase your contribution amount and receive a larger tax deduction – a win-win situation.

Time is running out to make your tax-deductible contributions in 2020 and can visit [SOULS Contribution Info](#).

## **WEBSITE / COMMUNICATIONS**

A new web domain for SOULS is created and activated. Please visit [www.saioutreach.org](http://www.saioutreach.org)

We need volunteers' help with web design and content development and if interested please contact us.

## **SOULS OFFICERS**

If you have any questions, suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact one of the SOULS EC officers.

- Sarma Gunturi - President, Board of Trustee
- Srinivas Somisetty – Central Coordinator, Board of Trustee
- Jagadish Upadhyay – Fiscal Coordinator, Board of Trustee
- Dr. Vijay Nama – Advisory Board of Trustee
- Dr. Raj Natarajan – Advisory Board of Trustee
- Aruna Sampath – EC Member, Mission Coordinator
- Saman Illangasanghe – EC Member, Operations Coordinator
- TBD – EC Member, Communications Coordinator
- TBD – EC Member, Finance and Accounting

We appeal to all of you to be part of this “Once in our lifetime” project with your help where you can make this project move forward.

Thank you

Sincerely

SOULS Executive Committee