

Navjivan Vadil Kendra

Report of the Secretary for the year ended 31st December 2011

We completed 5 years of Navjivan Vadil Kendra – an organization formed to improve the quality of life of our elderly and lonely community members. I can say with confidence and pride that we have succeeded greatly in achieving our objective.

Our membership was 347 last year and at the end of the year we took more from the waiting list and now we have 370 members. Our waiting list is growing every day and is already above 200. We have tried our best to be strict and impartial about maintaining our waiting list and in giving membership to new members. We have been transparent in our actions and no favour has been done. We keep getting complaints that some names were given on waiting list and why they have not been offered. We can put names on waiting list when we get proper information, preferably in writing. Many times names are given verbally or by telephone and it is difficult for volunteers to always remember and put down the names. It is difficult to act on something which is verbal. We have been insisting on names to be given in writing.

On the sad note we lost a few members during the year. Our PRO and committee member since founding of NVK Surendra Mehta left us in September and that was a big loss for NVK in general and for me in particular. In our formative years Surendrabhai provided a solid foundation by keeping very accurate records of our membership, our accounts and other information that gave us a solid foundation as an organization. I cannot find enough words to describe his contribution. He will be missed by us all. For me he was a confidant, an adviser and an inspiration and I will miss his support a lot. I am grateful to Prafulbhai who agreed to step in and take over the work which Surendrabhai was doing. We have to move on and I am glad that Prafulbhai has taken over very nicely and is doing a very good job.

Our programs and activities have kept increasing year by year and this year was no exception. During this year we increased our range of activities and need mention here.

- We introduced train travelling for our members and these trips have been greatly enjoyed. We had a successful trip to the Docklands and DLR train and a visit to Chowapatty on the South Bank. We visited Buckingham Palace when 99 members took part. We had a one day steam train journey which had participation from 64 members.
- We had our first overseas trip organised by NVK – a cruise to the Midnight Sun. Originally many members booked the cruise but some had to cancel for various reasons but 12 who went really enjoyed the trip.
- We participated in Sewa Day by getting elderly and disabled people to our centre and entertaining them. We had some very happy people who enjoyed the outing and the entertainment.
- We organised several full day musical programs during the year and these were greatly enjoyed by members.
- Jasuben Sheth who is responsible for entertainment has done a wonderful job during the past year. Every week she has been coming up with some new idea for entertainment. With the help of other committee members and in particular Pragnaben, Bhadraben and Vinodbhai Kapashi she has ensured that every week there is something going to keep the members entertained.
- Our committee members and volunteers are working hard to arrange these programs, to make tea and serve them. But what disappoints me is that members do not keep the patience and sit through the program. It is very disappointing when members start walking out in the middle of a song or performance. I can understand that everyone has commitments or work to do but we meet only once a week. Can members not keep one day free in their schedule? If you go to a paid program do you walk out of it in the middle? At least have the courtesy to respect those who

are performing. And if you have to go early sit in such a place that you are not noticed when you leave. This is my request and hope members will pay attention to the same.

- We have been having yoga tutoring from Manishaben for almost 3 years now. Everyone will agree that she is excellent and her knowledge and method of teaching is superb. She comes up with new ideas and new methods every week and that makes her classes so interesting.

Success of any organization depends on the dedication of its volunteers, and I can say with pride that NVK has very dedicated volunteers. Instead of naming each and every person I would like to express my thanks to :

- All the committee members who have been there to take on responsibility and help out whenever required.
- All the volunteers who help out during lunch time. They are doing an excellent job under difficult circumstances.
- All the volunteers who help to make and distribute tea and biscuits.
- Committee members who come early and set up everything for the day and then pack and put away everything in the evening.
- Our hearty thanks to Meera Catering for providing us delicious food for last five years.
- To members of staff of Sattavis Pattidar Centre who have been helpful in every way possible.

We have many plans for the future. We aim to make our members more active and take greater interest in looking after their health. We aim to improve the quality of life of our members and I think we have succeeded in that aim to a great extent though we need to keep working with the aim.

If during the year if I have made any mistake or failed in my duties then I seek your forgiveness. If you have any comments, new ideas or criticism then please let me know.

Jaynat U Doshi

Secretary