

Navjivan Vadil Kendra

Report of the Secretary for the year ended 31st December 2012

NVK has now completed 6 years of its existence. We are proud to see NVK growing strong by the day and so many other groups are emulating our example and providing similar services to the elders in the community.

We have taken few more members this year and our membership now stands at 394. Our waiting list is now over 320 and increasing by the day.. This year we decided to take a few members on Special Needs basis. Six years back Surendrabhai created the waiting list on excel and it has been maintained and managed meticulously without doing any favours to anyone. Unless we get the names with contact details in writing it is not possible to add names to waiting list.

Our president Pranlalkaka will be 93 years. Because of his and Savitakakis failing health he has decided to retire. I have known Pranlalkaka ever since he arrived in this country in early 1975 and I have worked with him on Navnat committee for many years, in Vadil Mandal and for the last ten years in Harrow Elders Group and Navjivan Vadil Kendra. We worked together in producing the souvenir at the time of the opening of Navnat Bhavan. It was Kaka who vitalised and made Vadil Mandal and Harrow Elders Group into organisations that are serving elderly, retired and lonely people and made their lives interesting and active. He has always been there to advise and support me all these years - and I am sure he will be there whenever we need guidance. Kaka started his community work at the age of 27 when he became treasurer in Navnat in Mombasa. Kaka deserves great applause for his services to the community for 66 years.

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.

- This year 50 members went to Stratford Shopping Centre right near the Olympic Park. Because of the Olympics and the bad weather we could not do more train trips.
- This year we took 35 members on a successful trip to Vietnam and Cambodia.
- We had 4 day trip to tulip farms in Amsterdam, the Floriad Show and Antwerp Jain Derasar. 50 members took part in the same.
- Our trip to Potters Resort was a success and members enjoyed the facilities at the wonderful resort. 32 members took part this year.
- We than had 4 day trip to Eden Project and the Lost Gardens of Heligan.
- 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 as usual has provided our members with a variety of different programs throughout the year. She gets support of other committee and non-committee members to organise such programs. I hope she continues entertaining us in the future also.

- 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. Vinod Parekh has taken on management of our activity and arrangements for lunch and NVK is lucky to have dedicated volunteer like him. Prafulbhai stepped in when Surendrabhai passed away and has been doing an excellent job of making and distributing announcements.
- All the volunteers who help out during lunch time. They are doing an excellent job under difficult circumstances. They serve lunch, do work in the kitchen and cleaning up, and end up not food very often. Some of them miss the programs to make tea for us. Without the dedication of these volunteers we would not be able to do such wonderful activities for NVK.
- I would like to thank Meera Catering for providing us delicious food for last six years. Their generosity and cooperation whenever required has been great and NVK is indebted to them.
- I will also thank the staff of Sattavis Pattidar Centre, who have been helpful in every way possible.

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In NVK he has been the guiding light for us all. His presence, his eloquence in speeches and his guidance will be missed by this committee, but I am sure he will still be attending our activities for a long time to come. Kaka has spent all his life serving the community. But his contribution to the cause of elderly and lonely people is notable. He devoted himself to this cause for the last 20 years.

It is my pleasure and honour to announce today that the committee has decided to honour our president by making him an honorary patron of Navjivan Vadil Kendra and present this commemorative plaque.

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