

## Sant Nirankari Mission, New Jersey Branch

Report – October 2019

With the grace of Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj, the New Jersey Branch organized a Blood Donation Drive at the New Jersey Bhawan on Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Devotees were encouraged to donate blood as well as attend the congregation, which took place concurrently for the New York and New Jersey branches combined.

In the year 1986, Baba Hardev Singh Ji Maharaj started the campaign of Blood Donation Camps by donating blood himself and thereby inspiring the entire Nirankari community to participate in this noble cause stating that, *"Blood should flow in veins and not in drains."* This message of Baba Hardev Singh Ji Maharaj has since prompted the organization of similar campaigns all over India and throughout the world, helping to save lives through blood donation.

For this Blood Drive, there were approximately 42 donors with over 30 units collected. Each unit has the potential to help three different patients in need. From one of the members of the Blood Center, we learned that there is a shortage of blood across the country and that we should use every opportunity available to play a part in meeting this need. Blood is something that cannot be manufactured artificially and can only be obtained from human beings.



During the two-hour congregation, devotees praised the Almighty Nirankar and expressed their thoughts in the form of hymns, poems and personal anecdotes related to the teachings of the Mission. There were many who spoke on the qualities we must embody as followers of this Mission. One devotee shared about how we are quick to repeat quotes said by great Saints to impress others, but it is more important to apply the learnings in our own lives.

There was another who shared how we should always remember to see Nirankar in everyone instead of judging them for what they say in Sangat and how that differs from how they live their lives. As true devotees, our focus should only be on improving ourselves.

Addressing the congregation, Rev. Vimlesh Ahuja Ji, from Delhi, India reinforced these messages. He explained that while sitting in Sangat, we need to look beyond the words that are spoken and ground ourselves in the meaning behind them. Understanding the teachings of the Mission intellectually is one thing, but they can only have a profound impact on us if we implement those teachings in our lives in meaningful ways.

The New Jersey and Pennsylvania Saints humbly pray to Satguru that we may continue to further the noble cause of blood donation, and that we mindfully incorporate the lessons we learn in Sangat in our lives so as to take ourselves and this Mission from strength to strength.

