

HUMANNESS BLOOD DRIVE **(Sant Nirankari Satsang Bhawan Westbury, NY - Nov 1st, 2020)**

With the Divine Grace and benevolence of Satguru Mata Sudiksha ji Maharaj, NY-CT branch organized a Blood Drive on November 1st, 2020 at the local Bhawan in Westbury, New York. Events of such nature are fundamental to Sant Nirankari Mission and intricately woven into the ethos of each and every member of the Mission. This year, however due to COVID-19, some unusual facets were incorporated into the rather usual event. CDC-Center for Disease Control and Prevention led guidelines, were strictly adhered to at exemplary caliber. Colorful and informative posters displaying safe social distancing measures, proper application of face-mask and use of hand sanitizer scattered throughout the facility. In addition, face-mask, hand gloves, hand sanitizer and boot/shoe liner/booties and Touchless thermometer booths were stationed at all entrances.



Every individual entering the building was to be taken a temperature of and a log of the same was to be maintained. Entire building was defogged the night prior to the event for a final sanitation call. Volunteers of the branch played an integral role in facilitating a responsible Samaritan attitude by strictly administrating the protocols. It is solemnly due to such a pristine and immaculate atmosphere that the New York Blood Center at once approved hosting of the event and cordially allocated additional spots for the increased number of donors. The day of the event, Sunday, November 1st, volunteers of the Mission extended a warm welcome to the New York Blood center crew. A quick tour of the operation included the temperature check at the entrance point, upon clearance, donors were to be led into the pre-screening area. This area was equipped with a refreshment station. Next the donors were to be guided downstairs into the main corridor for screening and upon completing a medical history, they were to be escorted into the phlebotomy

area. There were a total of 12-beds organized in order to cover 150+ registered donors. At 11AM sharp, the doors were swung open to the rallying donors and the event kicked off. Due to COVID-19, there had been an unprecedented scarcity of all types of blood groups. Hence the event was not just a good gesture, rather pivotal for the local community. Weeks leading up to the event, posters and fliers were posted in local communities as supermarkets, town squares, tennis clubs etc.



Young children and adolescents of the NY-CT branch along with veteran devotees, who may not have been able to take part as donors, yet took great initiatives in the periphery activities to make their contributions. Devotees across the northeastern region including Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, Upstate New York and New York City had risen to the occasion. Each and every devotee took great participation and did their part as worship. The backdrop with melodious hymns from the holy Hardev Bani displayed throughout the corridor, helped introduce/highlight the ideology of the Mission and further resonated the whole atmosphere nothing short of a samagam. In addition, locals from the immediate Westbury town, well informed and inspired by the posters and billboards, showed up in great numbers. What had further accentuated the event was when a group of individuals from various regions not only participated as donors rather keenly engaged in the spiritual dialog with the local devotees. Leading up to the week of the event, the initial goal of 75+ donors was far exceeded by, and ultimately additional slots were added to accommodate the demand. **In total some 150+ donors had registered, out of whom 111 were able to donate and 111 units were collected.**

Concluding the event, volunteers of the branch took the opportunity to acknowledge the team from New York Blood Center and the gesture was equally reciprocated along with serene agreeable nods.



Devotees of the NY-CT branch, express immense gratitude towards Satguru Mata Sudiksha ji Maharaj for the successful conclusion of the event and humbly pray that may such occasions continue to come our way. May we all become an instrument in the fulfillment of the divine will.

