

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



**India Society
of Worcester**



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Presidents Message

Members of the Community,

I want to start by wishing all of you a VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR bringing in good health and prosperity. This past year has been a busy one and I must say that I am in awe of what our volunteers have achieved this past year for ISW. Last year, we celebrated 60 years of ISW. For me, to be a part of this celebration is a personal achievement. What started as a small and informal organization in 1963 in the Worcester area has now blossomed into a centerpiece of the Indian cultural identity of the Greater Metrowest Area. I am glad to report that our membership has crossed over 1000 members! This is a testament of not only ISW's strong roots within the community but also the impact it has to the local community. This impact was recognized and ISW was chosen by the New England Choice Awards (NECA) as the organization of the year! Standing up there receiving this award was one of the proudest moments of my tenure at ISW. The award is a tribute to all our selfless volunteers who, through their time and efforts, exemplify the essence of ISW as a community organization.



I am glad to report that over the past year, we again achieved over a century of events that ISW organized through all its initiatives. I am gratified that the Indian community has embraced our organization and is involved in the different activities. I want to highlight some events that depict our outreach within the community. I want to start with highlighting our Humraahi group. Our forever young seniors held a Zumba event and karaoke night that made me envious of joining the group! Interacting with these members made the atmosphere alive and enjoyable. As one of the members of the group said to me, *"it is great to be back at ISW after so many years"*. Hearing those words and seeing how we at ISW made the comeback possible made me prouder to be leading our organization. Last year, we also started our ISW- Sports initiative, and I must say that this has been an excellent addition to the list of our programs. Ranging from outdoor activities like pickleball, volleyball, and hiking, to a broad spectrum of indoor sports like table tennis, bridge, carrom, and chess, the community gets to enjoy our center in more ways than one. Our ISW-Symphony, in collaboration with the Kalashri group from Boston, organized a play called *Shola jo Bhadke*. The India Center turned into a stage for the play as the patrons enjoyed an afternoon of humor, music, and entertainment. The Dhol tasha team has been very active, representing ISW at local events and also at sports events such as the Worcester Railers game. It is heartening to see all age groups in this team making the audiences tap their feet to the rhythm of the drumbeats! Our ISW-university organized multiple events, including 3D-printing classes, for young students to develop their engineering skills. One of the mentionable activities was a 3D printed Ganesha which was used at the ISW-Ganpati utsav! Our idols this year were made from biodegradable materials. Talk about sustainability and how ISW is a pioneer in these creative processes! ISW-PEN engaged the community with town hall discussions on taxes and foreign investments. The annual art festival organized by ISW saw artists from far and near showcasing their talents at the center. ISW-WEW had several events wherein they collaborated with other ISW initiatives to empower the younger generations and share their paths. Our trademark events like India Day, Diwali Cultural Program saw attendance that we had never experienced before.

I could go on about the programs we conducted, but I want to say that we do have an eye to the future and are reminded that we live in a changing world. With that in mind, our executive board has been collaborating with other Indian and Asian organizations such as IAGB and ICC in the area to create awareness of the issues affecting the South Asian population. I believe that we are representatives of a common society, and our voices need to be heard. As we bring another year of celebration at ISW, yes, I call it a celebration of activities, I am reminded of the backbone of our organization - our volunteers and donors. As someone wise once quoted *"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."*

Happy New Year!

Puneet Kohli

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer: Asish Bhattacharya

Balance Sheet

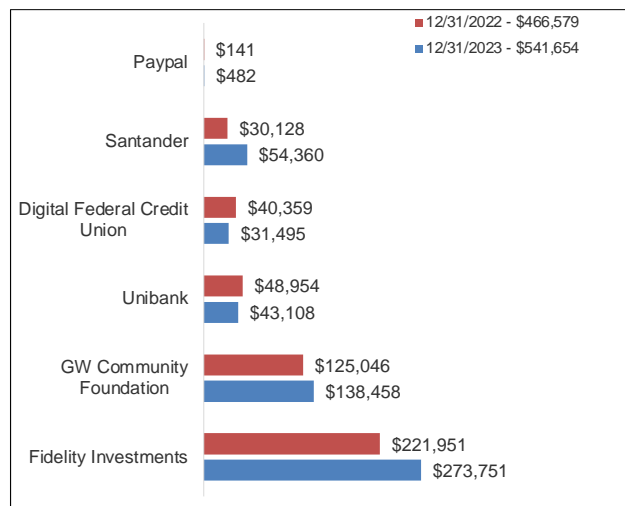
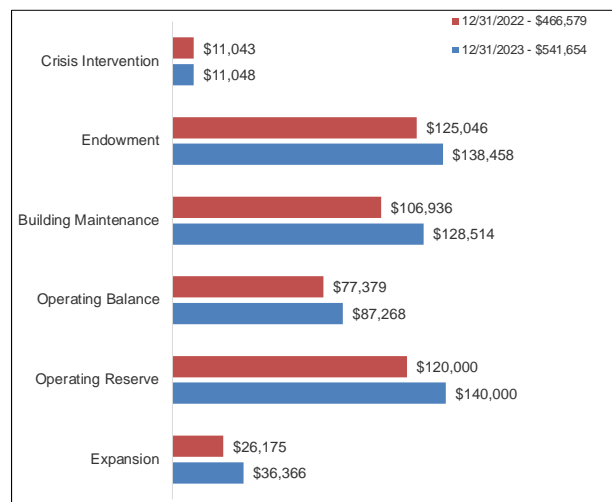
	31-Dec-23	31-Dec-22
Total Current Assets	\$ 541,654	\$ 466,579
Fixed Assets		
Land and Building	\$ 3,615,298	\$ 3,563,387
Equipment	\$ 26,940	\$ 18,210
Furniture	\$ 16,569	\$ 16,569
Accumulated Depreciation	\$ (684,025)	\$ (589,548)
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 2,974,782	\$ 3,008,618
Total Assets	\$ 3,516,436	\$ 3,475,197
Total Liabilities	\$ 325,000	\$ 375,257
Total Equity	\$ 3,191,436	\$ 3,099,940

Operating Revenue and Expenses

		2023	2022
Receipts	Activities	\$ 130,343	\$ 94,388
	Rental receipts	\$ 71,126	\$ 62,335
	Miscellaneous receipts	\$ 16,040	\$ -
	Grants	\$ 34,466	\$ 23,450
	Donations (Excluding Expansion)	\$ 10,689	\$ 11,713
	Annual Memberships	\$ 15,115	\$ 7,875
	Interest income	\$ 6,885	\$ 1,851
Gross Receipts		\$ 284,664	\$ 201,612
Expenses	Activities	\$ 90,312	\$ 80,897
	India Center Operations	\$ 89,892	\$ 75,578
	Insurance	\$ 18,044	\$ 22,620
	Administrative	\$ 25,495	\$ 15,258
	Purchase of assets	\$ 8,730	\$ -
Expenses Before Depreciation		\$ 232,473	\$ 194,353
Excess Revenue Over Expenses Before Depreciation		\$ 52,191	\$ 7,259
Transfer to Building Maintenance Fund		\$ 20,000	\$ 5,000
Net Excess		\$ 32,191	\$ 2,259

Expansion

		2023	2022
Cash Inflows	Donations - India Center Expansion	\$ 128,282	\$ 317,966
Cash Outflows	Amounts Paid to Contractors	\$ 51,911	\$ 45,896
	Pay Down of Line of Credit	\$ 50,000	\$ 122,935
	Fund Raising Expenes	\$ -	\$ 71,686
	Interest/Financing Expenses	\$ 16,637	\$ 21,751
Total Outflows		\$ 118,548	\$ 262,268
Excess Cash Inflows over Outflows		\$ 9,734	\$ 55,698

Current Assets by Institution**Current Assets by Fund**

Sub-Committee Reports

SIGNATURE EVENTS

India Day at DCU Center: As India celebrated its Independence from colonialism, the India Society of Worcester returned to DCU center to celebrate India Day. On Saturday August 5th, the event ran from 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM, with more than 3000 attendees at the DCU center. Worcester Mayor Joseph Petty graciously attended the event as a chief guest. The program was filled with captivating cultural programs, ethnic shopping vendors and local business booths, play area for kids, art fair, food vendors, health stop and many more attractions.

Diwali with Worcester Art Museum: We continued our tradition of partnering with the Worcester Art Museum (WAM) to host Diwali. This day-long event showcased Indian cultural programs, local Indian artists & authors and mouthwatering Indian food within the museum compound.

Navratri: Sanedo! Sanedo! Lal lal Sanedo... the song echoed at ISW's Garba events on October 13th and October 14th, 2023. Friday night had live traditional garba music by Jhankar, and Saturday night was foot tapping music by DJ Sid. Both nights featured a collection of ethnic shopping vendors and mouthwatering Indian food. This event is truly breathtaking where the community comes together to celebrate the feminine form of divinity Maa Durga and dance to the family favorite tune of Sanedo.

ISW Christmas: The 17th Annual India Society of Worcester Christmas celebrations were held at the Function Hall of St. Mary's Syria Orthodox Church in Shrewsbury on December 2nd 2023. Families dressed in Christmas colors in Indian attire, from women in their Red/Green Saris, to men in their suits and cultural garb, set off the very first Christmas celebration of year!!! Christmas lights with the sounds of joyous Christmas carols sung in various Indian languages rang through the hall and brought the Christmas Joy!



CULTURAL COMMITTEE

Chair: Amita Rao

Committee Members: Komal Tanna, Neha Kaushal, Tejal Shah, Rekha Gupta, Sarita Deshpande, Snehalata Kadam, Arathi Cowlagi, Geena Virmani, Kajal Dixit, Neha Ujlayan, Rashi Khanna, Smita Manjrekar, Yogitha Parayil and Preeti Khilnani

ISW Cultural Committee hosted exceptional events throughout the calendar year. This was another year which brought back audiences to our events in big numbers.

Key Events

Harvest Festival: ISW kicked off the New Year with our Annual Harvest Festival on February 18, 2023. Harvest Festival is unique in the sense that it is celebrated not just in India, but throughout the world. In India, each state celebrates the harvest festival in their own way. ISW's Harvest Festival strives to bring all that diversity together and celebrate as ONE. ISW's Harvest Festival is a cultural program and a dance competition. It featured a variety of acts, including Indian traditional dances, semi-classical dances and Bollywood medleys.

Antakshari: ISW Antakshari, the only one of its kind in this region, brings to life a home-grown concept of connecting over music. In 2023, ISW hosted Antakshari on Sat, May 6th and it was an all-day family event with Bollywood songs and mouthwatering Indian food. The contest starts with classic Antakshari round, the one that is most loved during our road trips, on a train journey, in a dorm room, or in a college canteen when someone just says Baithe Baithe Kya Karen, Karna Hai Kuch Kaam.

Spirit of Shrewsbury Talent Competition: ISW has been hosting the Shrewsbury Got Talent contest during Shrewsbury's Spirit week for years. We continued the tradition this year. We hosted the event at Oak Middle School, Shrewsbury on September 23, 2023. We were amazed to see the same level of participation from our community at large, and we could not be happier. The audience was awed by the amazing performances by the contestants.

Diwali Puja at India Center: Over a hundred devoted ISW members joined in prayer and praise for a Diwali Laxmi Puja at our beloved India Center.

Diwali Cultural Program: ISW hosted its flagship Diwali Cultural Program on Nov 18, 2023. This is the event where we invite the society at large to participate and we were treated to a scintillating display of dance, music and entertainment capturing the spirit of Diwali.



SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Chair: Ruchi Chauhan

Co-Directors: Ruchi Chauhan & Shiamin Melville



We had our Open House on Sep 17, 2023. It was well attended by parents. We had our first full day on Sep 23, and Sep 24. We currently offer 25 classes in 7 languages including Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Gujarati, Kannada and our newest addition on is our online Sanskrit language class. Our admissions are only continuing to grow! We also had mid-term exams and final exams during the school year.

Overview

Our language classes are held on Saturday and Sunday. On Sunday we also have an hour of assembly offered to all the languages and consist of Yoga for parents and students, Religion, Craft activities like Diwali diya making, winter craft, Indian Instrument workshop, Talent show and festivals of India. Our current enrollment is 138 students plus 15 adults in our online Sanskrit program.

Students from the school also participate in India day and Diwali dance program. Even while school was closed for summer, the students and teachers were engaged for India Day 2023 at DCU, by submitting artwork for the brochure and writing articles on *60 Years of ISW* and *30 years of ISW School*, so they could show their art and writing strengths. Our teachers showcased our school language classes and assemblies at the school booth. We continued the tradition of opening the celebrations by singing the Indian and American National anthem that they had practiced diligently and our rockstar teachers sang *Zindagi milke bitayenge*.

Volunteer Teachers

<u>Hindi K1 Beg</u> - Nidhi Relan, Tanvi Gahlot, Kunal Chauhan	<u>Gujarati 1</u> - Vaishali Amin & Shamik Shah
<u>Hindi K1 Adv</u> - Anju Shukla, Leisha Gupta	<u>Gujarati 2</u> - Kajal Raval
<u>Hindi K2</u> - Anu Debroy	<u>Telugu 1</u> - Babu Tammisetti & Madhavi Chaliki
<u>Hindi 1</u> - Swati Agrawal	<u>Marathi L1</u> - Sarita Deshpande
<u>Hindi 2 Beg</u> - Mrunal Khandkar/Divya Gahlot	<u>Marathi L2</u> - Priya Vaidya
<u>Hindi 2 Adv</u> - Bindiya Jain	<u>Marathi L3 & L4</u> - Vijayanti Joshi/Shilpa Nikte
<u>Hindi 3 Beg</u> - Rangarajan Krish & Prachet Mahawar	<u>Yoga</u> - Alka Yadav-Mehta/Narendra Karapakula

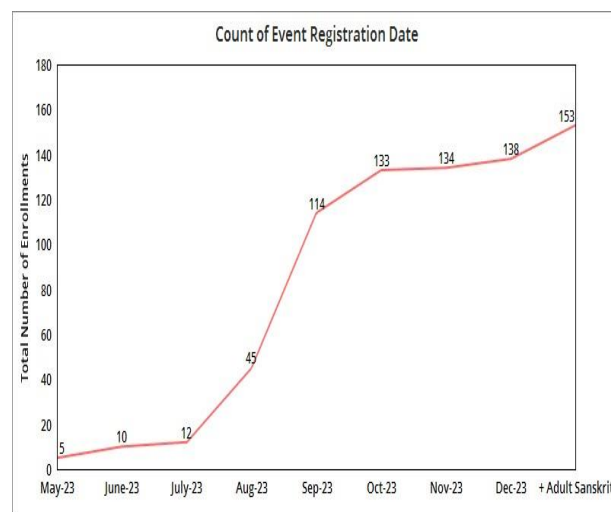
<u>Hindi 3 Adv</u> - Smita Gupta	<u>Art</u> - Bindiya Jain/ Mrunal Khandkar
<u>Hindi 4</u> - Sonia Gera	<u>Music</u> - Sarita Deshpande
<u>Hindi teens ++ Beg</u> - Kinkin Kumari	<u>Dance</u> - Trishna Nikte/ Annika Savla
<u>Hindi teens ++ Adv</u> - Vandana Mahawar	<u>Religion Adv</u> - Priya Vaidya/Sonia Gera
<u>Hindi Adult</u> - Renu Bhardwaj	<u>Religion Beg</u> - Poornima Saravanan
<u>Hindi Adult Adv</u> - Ragini Seth	
<u>Sanskrit for Adult</u> - Ravi Raja	<u>Kannada</u> - Damodar Hegde
<u>Tamil</u> - Tejpravin Ravikumar	<u>Kannada</u> - Avinash Prakash

ISW School Committee

Ravi and Geetha Raja, Madhavi Chalaki, Divya Gahlot, Swati Agrawal, Bindiya Jain, Sarita Deshpande, Vaishali Amin, Sonia Gera, Damodar Hegde, Ruchi Chauhan, Shiamin Melville

Assembly, Projects & Teacher Substitutes and Volunteers: Rekha Cowlagi, Beena Krishnan, Carolyn Passey, Mukul Agrawal, Anjali Paranjpe, Shiamin, & Ruchi and our lovely parent volunteers

Co-Founder: Carolyn Passey, Nalini Goyal & Pushpa Joshi



Highlights of our academic year

This year the ISW school completed 30 years since its inception and we celebrated this achievement in an extra special way. On a bright and sunny morning, this fabulous event was graced by the presence of over 270 attendees including students, parents and teachers.

ISW school celebrated this year's Republic Day with an Assembly presentation, learning about the Indian flag, constitution, how it's celebrated in India and more. We also had a veteran share their experience of the Republic day parade with us. We concluded with making Flag of India. We hosted Vijay Gupta, violinist and Music Worcester's artist in residence. ISW School teamed up with We Care Charity, and collected sarees and Indian clothes and sent package 4,250 pounds of saris and clothes to India.



We had an amazing celebration for Holi and a fun Easter Egg Hunt and all the students, teachers and parents actively. We are trying to include a variety of activities along with yoga and religion which will give our kids exposure to culture, music like Dhol Tasha, holidays, history, sports and their significance. Our parents have played a crucial part in planning these assemblies alongside our teachers since we are always looking for new ideas and suggestions.

We at ISW school don't just focus on teaching kids' language and culture, but also on teaching kids how to give back to the community. To this end, we organized a donation drive through Our Giving Tree where parents and volunteers donated hats, mittens and greeting cards which were sent to people in Turkey and Syria who've been severely impacted by the earthquakes.

At the end of the school year, the parents again donated towards Teachers Appreciation, and the teachers, in turn, recommended we donate the amount to the local charities and family in need around the area.

We want to acknowledge and give shout out to the amazing group of 34 teachers and our largest team of 6 student teachers who come every weekend to volunteer!!

HUMRAHEE

Chair: Mr. Sharat Amin

Organizing team: Mr. Sharat Amin, Dr. Kirti Nagpal, Mr. Narayan Sharma

March: Ekta Jain from Ekta Dance Academy taught us some dance moves at the India Center. We danced to 70's Bollywood songs and had fun. Ekta taught us some steps for any music. After a snack break, we sang Karaoke. Talented people sang and we all had fun. Our Humraahi group is full of talented people and we make fun happen.

April: Humrahi at India Center was a fun-filled and informative event. Dr. Kirti Nagpal discussed blood pressure, followed by an incredible Tabla performance by Yash, a disciple of Maestro Zakir Hussein. Deepti led an energetic dance session, and talented singers performed popular Mukesh and Mohammad Rafi songs during Karaoke.

May: A record number of community members attended a workshop on Five Wishes and Health Proxy by Mr. Girish Mehta, founder of Indian Circle of Caring. The informative workshop answered all queries on living wills and Health Proxy. The event also included an energetic dance session and lively karaoke session with popular songs from the 70s and 80s, led by Ekta Jain from Ekta Dance Academy.

June: The Humrahi program began with a Reiki session led by Priyanka and Parag Morre, followed by insights from Dr Sanduja on Satvik foods and A2 ghee. Pooja Tiwari, a science teacher and trained Kathak dancer, performed an enthralling dance and taught us some dance steps.

August: We started our day with line dancing, taught by Narayan Sharma. Once we got the rhythm, we danced like pros to "Cupid Shuffle". Our Manoranjan Karaoke program was a hit. Trupti and Pushpa sang beautifully, leaving us spellbound.

December: The ISW Annual Musical event was a mesmerizing evening of captivating performances and melodic music. Raju Alagawadi, Rajay Goyal, and Trupti opened the event, followed by star singers Sarita Deshpande, Kaizad Patel, and Vijay Parmar. Their exceptional performances and musical camaraderie enchanted the audience who rose to their feet, fully immersed in the magical atmosphere created. Overall, the event was a resounding success, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees.



Other events

August: We took the stage on India day celebration at DCU center and presented Patriotic songs with full vigor and energy.

September: Humrahi members participated at fundraising event for VFS (Volunteers for Seniors) organization. We presented a dance on Bollywood melody.

October: We showcased the talent of our Humrahi clan again at VFS annual program at Framingham. This time it was the Fashion Show. All the members were fabulous and rocked the stage with their ramp walk and groovy moves.

We are unstoppable now. The Humrahi is getting local and state level recognition. We all are poised to reach great heights. We are here to inspire our senior friends to strive for a fun and fulfilling life.



RELIGIOUS COMMITTEE

Chair: Geetanjali Virmani

Committee Members: Geetanjali Virmani, Nisha Bawa, Caroline Passey, Shiamin Melville

ISW Religious Committee continued to host Divine Religious events throughout the year.

Key Events

MahaShivratri Festival: The wonderful puja was performed and hosted to almost 100 people at the center, Full Shiv puja and bhajan was performed.

Mata Ki Chauki/ Ramvavami: Attended by almost 160 people this event we had for a very first time a Mata ki chauki, and was loved by many people.

Gangaur: For the very first time a gangaur puja was performed with a demand for people to do it at the IC. It was attended by 60 ladies and was a colorful gathering.

Grad hawan: A hawan performed by Our dear Usha ji and had many young participants. Attended by the graduate families.

Janamasthami: ISW hosted its flagship Janamasthami event attended by almost 120 people. Made an impactful event by having kids fashion show.

Durga Puja: A five-day event attended by almost 500+ people over the span of 5 nights this was a blissful event with major cultural programs by Harvard and other local music schools.

Karwachauth: A wonderful event performed and attended by 80+ ladies was very well received by the community.

Diwali Puja at India Center: Many devotees of ISW members joined in prayer and praise for a Diwali Laxmi Puja followed by dinner.

INDIA CENTER COMMITTEE

Chair: Chella Palaniappan

Committee Members: Shri Garg, Sharat Amin, Ravi Raja

The rental of the old hall was really good last year, as we had about 60 days of rental and generated over \$71,000. However, there were no new long-term rentals added from previous years. The committee has been working with Vice President Jagan to ensure the maintenance and operations of the entire facility are being taken care of.

We have been receiving a lot of requests - around 200 web form requests and 5-10 voice calls daily. It takes us significant time to respond to these requests, including emails, texts, follow-ups, payments, and other related tasks.

I am very grateful to my committee members Shri Garg, Ravi Raja, and Sharat Amin for their incredible help. Shri and Balki stepped up and covered extended periods while I was away in India, and Sharat is always available whenever I need him. I couldn't have done it without all of them.

I want to thank Puneet and Jagan for organizing the new facility management company. It has made things so much easier for us, and we couldn't be more grateful. Thank you all for your continued support and enthusiasm.

INDIA YOUTH GROUP

President: Dhruv Jagan

Co-Secretaries: Arin Shinde and Anushka Singh

Project Manager: Sohan Hegde

Vice-President: Tanvi Gahlot

Treasurer: Aaditya Yadav

Advisors: Shilpa Kulkarni and Usha Yadav

IYG is a unique youth leadership and community engagement program that builds cultural awareness, leadership skills and lifelong friendships, while fostering a strong commitment to community service. IYG is managed entirely by youth members. IYG has over 100 current members. Most of 2023 was spent with efforts supporting the IYG Reboot initiative. The reboot initiative focused on fully bringing back IYG in person events, especially team bonding and monthly meetings. The last portion of the reboot initiative will be completed this year with the reboot of Showcase.



Key Events in 2023:

- IYG Summer Kick-Off Picnic
- Volunteering at the Spirit of Shrewsbury
- India Day Volunteering
- Cultural Events: Diwali, Garba
- College Planning Session
- Team Bonding: West End Creamery



CRISIS COMMITTEE

Chair: Rajoo Ananth

Members: Kumkum Bhasin, Foram Shah, Saravanan Ramalingam, Neelam Jain, Indira Desai, Vaishali Patil, Kavita Mamidala, Mohan Nannapaneni, Pooja Saraf, Sharat Amin, Madhu Mathur Anand, Manoharan Ganapathy, Gina Virmani, Vijay Jain, Usha Verma, Nishi Bhava, Jonjy Ananth, and Rajoo Ananth

Special Thanks to Ernest and Manjula Gulla, Prashant Palakruthi, Girish Navani, Subu kota, Shruti Mankad, Pradeep Sharma, and Priya Vaidya

We continued to provide crisis assistance during illness, bereavement, domestic violence intervention and prevention. Some of these activities we have been engaged include:

- Helpline and Safety Planning
- Legal & Immigration Support (U visa filings)
- Referrals to support groups
- Assistance to obtain public benefits and emergency shelter
- Accompany and Interpretation/translation for police and court
- Rides for doctor's appointments and essential needs
- Help to report abuse
- Assistance with obtaining restraining orders, child support/custody and divorce
- Assist DYS with their interventions for Asian American children and families
- Assist with loss and bereavement crisis

We partner with several domestic violence organizations including Saheli, Jane Doe, YWCA, Worcester Legal Aid, Team Aid.org, and Indian Circle for Caring. We also collaborate with New England Tamil Sangam, New England Malayalee Association, New England Kannada Koota, Telugu Association of Greater Boston and Chinmaya Mission. Our members have provided approximately 1,185 hours of service. We have \$11,048 from donations in the ISW account for crisis intervention activities. In 2023 we received \$500 from New England Indian Christian Fellowship.

Few examples of Crisis intervention Services:

- Individual we were helping for over 5 years with serious court issues is now back home with family
- Domestic violence survivor with two children received U-visa through our efforts over several years
- We succeeded in negotiating for extended rehab care for out-of-state family member
- Achieved success in bringing a patient via air ambulance from India to USA
- Helped families locate senior assisted care services for their family members in India
- Arranged for emergency prescriptions for parents visiting from India
- Assisted several seniors with medicare/medicaid applications
- Assisted several seniors during eviction process
- Provided assistance to families having issues with DCF
- Assisted and collaborated to provide food and gifts during Christmas for children

In accordance with Massachusetts State Law, we currently have three crisis committee members who are certified with advanced training in Trauma informed Care. Two of our members are currently White Ribbon Ambassadors for Jane Doe.

Our crisis committee members bring with them expertise in medicine, law, and social services. We thank every one of them. We also thank the support of ISW President and EC team to help us with our mission.

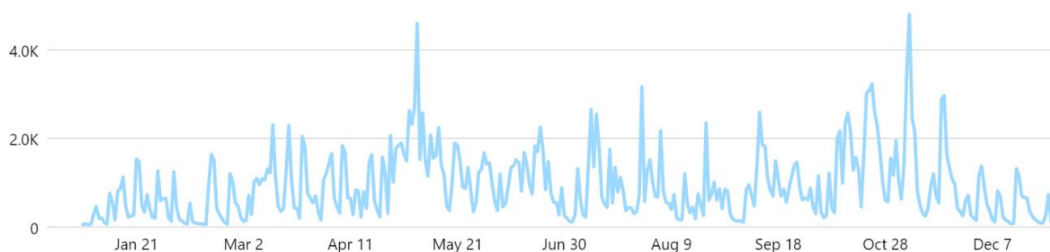
IT COMMITTEE

Webmasters: Shiamin Melville, Sarita Deshpande, Puneet Kohli, Ashish Cowlagi

ISW Digital presence continues to be dominant across all our platforms – website, Facebook, WhatsApp and LinkedIn. We also manage the regular updates on the outdoor LED sign and the signage within India Pavilion. Some of the stats below will show the growth in 2023. Our new webmasters have ensured our events and content on the website is updated regularly. Our eSandesh has been a major source of information sharing to the society.

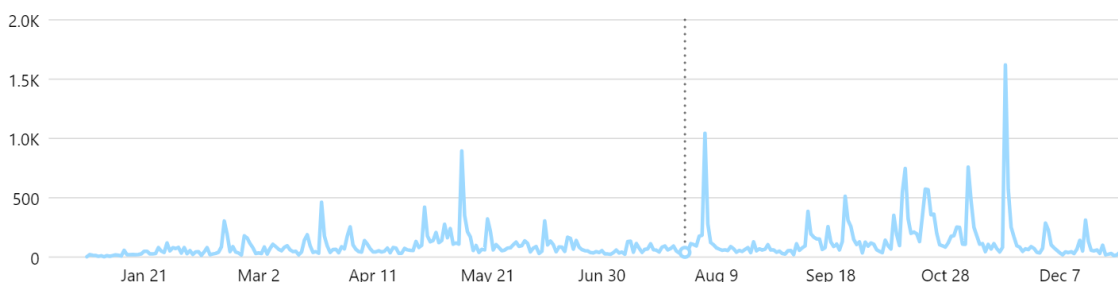
Facebook reach ⓘ

70,744 ↑ 7.9%



Facebook visits ⓘ

41,181 ↑ 255.3%



ISW Website continues to be a key source for information for the community. We have a consistent growth in the user visits and repeat user visits. WhatsApp has become an important communication platform for organizing events and activities.

Membership growth continues to be strong.

Level	Total	Active
Family (Recurring subscription)	697	431
Family (non-recurring subscription)	385	356
Life	217	216
Student	38	23
Total	1,337	1,026

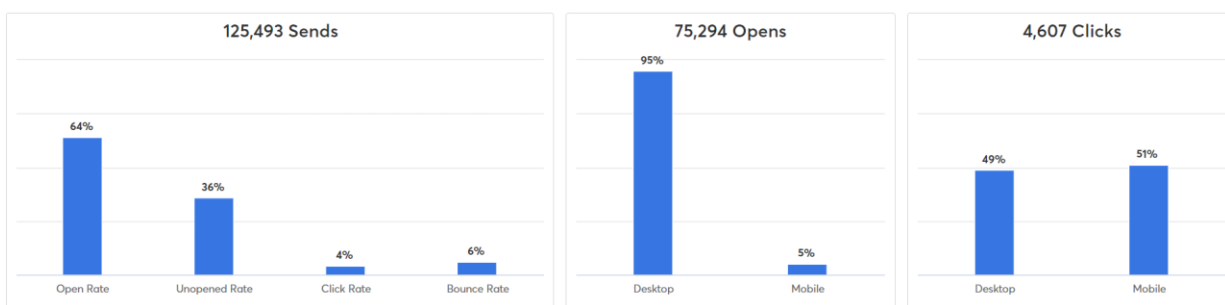
ESANDESH COMMITTEE

Editors: Abhijeet Nikte & Suchitra Shinde

Newsletter Team: Ashish Cowlagi, Ragoo Raghunathan, Shiamin Melville, Raj Melville

In December '23, Raj Melville stepped down as the Chief Editor of eSandesh after several years of leadership. We thank Raj for all his contributions to eSandesh! In 2023 we debuted a new mobile friendly format for eSandesh. We also welcome the new eSandesh editors – Abhijeet Nikte and Suchitra Shinde.

eSandesh readership continues to grow organically, with substantially better performance than industry average, and consistent YTY growth. We currently have 4,826 email contacts.



Trends

Compare your stats over time and across your industry during the selected time range.

Your open rate:	64%	Your click rate:	4%
vs. previous 364 days	+8% ↓	vs. previous 364 days	+0% —
vs. industry average	+22% ↓	vs. industry average	+2% ↓

FREE HEALTH STOP

Chair: Dr. Sahdev Passey

During the year 2023 the Free Health Stop was able to provide services to our community despite of COVID concerns, The Free Health Stop was open on Wednesday evenings during the whole year.

We provided medical services to 462 community members and as of 12/27/2023, since its inception in 2005, we have conducted 918 Sessions of Free Health Stop at the India Center

We are very grateful to our volunteers, physicians and medical students from the UMass Chan Medical School who come and provide services to our patients at the FHS.

We also thank the leadership of the India Society of Worcester and the Indian Medical Association of New England for their continual financial support of Free Health Stop since 2005 and Dr. Raj Goyal Family Charitable Foundation for their commitment to support us in future.

We are always looking for new physician (I emphasize physicians only) volunteers to serve at the FHS. If you or you know someone, who might be interested in volunteering few hours a month at the FHS please do not hesitate

to contact me. Attached is updated current list of our volunteers who are working at the FHS and number of patients we have cared at the FHS over the years.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Name	Specialty	1st Wed.	2nd. Wed.	3rd. Wed.	4th. Wed.	5th Wed.
2			12/6/2023	12/13/2023	12/20/2023	12/27/2023	
3	Physicians						
4	Dr. Sahdev Passey	Pediatrics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
5	Dr. Gyatridevi Ika	Internist	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
6	Dr. Ashish Verma	Renal	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
7	Dr. Kirti Nagpal	Pediatrics	No	No	Yes	No	No
8	Dr. Mary Gulla	Internist	No	No	No	No	Yes
9	Dr. Shabnam Cheriya	Internist	No	No	Yes	No	No
10	Dr. Sangeetha Punjabi	Internist	Yes	No	No	No	No
11	Dr. Kastoori Iyengar	FP	No	No	No	No	No
12	Dr. Manjul Shukla	Internist	No	No	No	Yes	No
13	Dr. Jyoti Nagakar	Internist	No	No	No	No	No
14	Dr. Aanchal Gupta	ID	No	No	No	No	Yes
15	Dr. Dipavo Banerjee	Psych			Yes		
16							
17	Support Staff						
18	Hasu Patel	Dietician	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
19	Carolyn Passey	Volunteer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
20	Pinku Kumar	Volunteer	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
21							
22	Physician in training						
23	Aishwarya Khanna (cc)	Med Student	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
24	Ishan Bhatia (pcc)	Med Student	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
25	Umika Paul (pcc)	Med Student	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
26	Michael Marget (cc)	Med Student	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
27	Rohan Bhat	Med Student	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
28	Soomin Myoung	Med Student	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
29	Akanksha Nagakar	Med Student	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
30	Elaine Trottier	etrottier@gcc.mass.edu					
31							
32	On Call				YTD patient	encounters	462
33	Dr. Rohit Vakil	Nephrology			Total pateint	2005-2010	951
34	Dr. Neeta Shah	Cardiologist			Total pateint	2011-2015	1469
35	Dr. Kirit Patel	Psych			Total pateint	2016-2020	1380
36	Dr. Kavita Navani	Internist			Total pateint	2021-2022	396
37	Dr. Raj Dharampuriya	Internist			Total pateint		4658
38	Dr. Flessas	Cardiologist					
39	Dr. Archana Shah	FP					
40	Dr. Veera Sudireddy	Internist					
41	Dr. Rekha Nair	Internist					
42							
43	12/31/2023	Total sessions 918					

ISW STUDENT AWARDS

Chair: Rashi Khanna

ISW Student Awards formerly known as ISW Scholarship Awards, were presented at India Day, 2023

Academic Award: Raghav Kanzaria, Maya Kasbekar.

Citizenship Award: Anjali Amin, Maurya Virmani

We would like to thank the donors without whom these awards would not have been possible.

- Dr. Sahdev & Mrs. Carolyn Passey,
- Mr. Raj & Mrs. Shiamin Melville,
- Mr. Ajai & Mrs. Sridevi Thirumalai,
- Mr. Manoj & Mrs. Sonia Gera (In loving memory of Sonia's parents Mrs. Poonam & Ved Prakash Malik),
- Mr. Anand & Mrs. Ekta Jain
- Nishant Bist Memorial Fund

There were no changes made to the format this year. We followed with the same criteria of applying: (1) a minimum of 20 hours of ISW service is required in high school. (2) if winner was granted a Student Award the previous year, we do not accept a second application.

GRANTS COMMITTEE

Members: Atul Deshpande, Ashish Cowlagi, Raghvendra Cowlagi, Priya Vaidya, Puneet Kohli, and Jagan Srinivasan

The Grants committee applied for and received a significant grant from the Asian Community Fund at the Boston Foundation. We thank the foundation for their support. In addition, the grants committee appreciates the efforts of Dr. Sahdev Passey in working with the Goyal Family Charitable Foundation, and gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the foundation in support of the Free Health Stop.

INDIA CENTER FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

There were no major activities by fundraising committee in 2023. All the same, ISW raised over \$60,000 during the year thanks to the generosity of our members. Our deficit is currently \$109,000.

The project financials:

Total Funds raised including 2022 gala	\$2,648,000
Gala Expenses	\$80,000
Net Funds raised	\$2,568,000

India Center Expansion Project Costs:

Construction	\$2,589,000
Fundraising costs	\$51,000
Interest paid to DCU bank thru 12/31/22	\$37,000
Total Costs	\$2,677,000
Net Deficit	\$109,000

Plan for 2024: A smaller scale fundraising gala is under consideration to eliminate the deficit. More details to follow.

ISW OPERATIONS

Members: EB Members, Ankush Rathi, Shiamin Melville, Shri Garg, and Jagan Srinivasan (Chair)

Last year after the AGM, we constituted an operations committee together with the ISW rental committee to oversee the proper running of the center.

Activities included in the purview of the committee include maintenance and running of door opening schedules, panels, and general upkeep of the center.

Other responsibilities include maintenance of the storage space of the center. To address this need, we bought two containers and use these to store items needed by the center. All items are catalogued and stored on the cloud account. We also are preparing a tutorial manual that details the operations of all the stuff in the center including electronics.

We also employed a custodial company Infinity Group Cleaning Services to help caretake the center before and after events.

ISW SPORTS COMMITTEE

Chair: - Abhijeet Nikte

Committee Members: - Puneet Kholi ,Sakshi Gurao, Ashish Cowlagi, Shiamin Melville ,Raj Melville, Radhika Chitapalli, Mangesh Shinde, Milind, Kanitkar, Durgesh Wartti , Ashok Kale , Smita Nair , Deepak Sharma.

ISW Sports continues to grow with nearly 300 members in its WhatsApp group. Pickleball, table tennis and the monthly Family Games night remain popular as ever. A new Bridge Club now meets weekly and offers lessons for beginners. During the warmer months the new Outdoor Club organized several weekend family hikes. There is something for everyone young and old.



ISW UNIVERSITY

Chair: Shiamin Melville, **Advisor:** Usha Yadav, **Registrar:** Tanvi Gahlot

Members: Usha Yadav, Atharv Deshpande & Tanvi Gahlot

Possibilities are endless, all ideas are welcome !

ISW University in its third year 2023 provided limited online classes in Spring and Summer, in Spanish Math and English, but by Sept interest in online tutoring dwindled. Classes in 3D printing in collaboration with IIT Agne taught by Ashish Cowlagi, plus a 3D printing Ganpati workshop proved popular. Shamika Kanitkar taught Summer SAT prep classes for Math on Saturdays and chess classes in person on in Spring, Summer and Winter proved most popular thanks to Tara Chintapalli. ISW yoga continues with weekly chair yoga sessions and one daily session at 6.30 am attended by 4-5 people per Hemant Gera. ISWU Heartfulness Meditation and Yoga added Sundays in addition to the Saturday mornings. A full house participated in a Spiritual Anatomy workshop led by Devesh Srivastav, Sreedhar Shanmugavelu, Sister Olga and Sister Elanor that provided a framework for wellness and health through 'Heartfulness'. The session opened with yoga and ended with the group immersed in meditation. In June 2023 Narendra Karapurkar conducted International Yoga attended by our members on the patio outside



137 in free yoga whatsapp group

57 in free meditation group

145 enrolled in free/paid classes,

\$2670 fees collected in 2023

We thank tutors from last year and welcome new freshmen 9th grade and Adults to sign up for teaching or enrolling in classes.



ISW PROFESSIONAL AND ENTREPRENEURIAL NETWORK

Chairs: Ragoo Raghunathan, Kelly Mittal

ISW Professional and Entrepreneurial Network is one of the four initiatives that came out of the strategic development plans of ISW and is designed to be a forum based in MetroWest Boston for like-minded professionals and entrepreneurs to network, exchange ideas and learn from other's experience. The ISW India Center serves as a hub for a variety of activities and programs that encourage professional growth and entrepreneurial activities.

The initiative co-chaired by Ragoo Raghunathan and Kelly Mittal with active collaborations and support of Milind Kanitkar, Resmi Nair and Tejas Shah, with the able guidance of Raj Melville and Ashish Cowlagi has been very successful in 2023.

We picked up on the heels of our success in 2022 covering various topics last year with several more events this year. We continued hosting the events at the India Center on the second Saturdays from 11 am to 12.30pm. We have had over 30-40 attendees per event with a record 150 people* for one of the events coming in from Shrewsbury, Northboro, Southboro, Westboro, Grafton, Worcester and a few from Boston/Cambridge and Connecticut as well. Our participants include accomplished professionals in Education, Computer Science and information technology, STEM, Medicine, small business owners to mention a few. They participate and share their experiences and are willing to contribute and support the community.

The individual ISW-PEN events held in 2023 include:

- Real Estate Investing 101 – Why and How
- Real Estate Investing Part 2 – Deep dive into multi-family ownership and passive investing
- Open Networking event
- **College Planning 101 – most attended event**
- Asian Business Pitch Contest

In addition to doing our own events, the PEN initiative collaborated with ElevAsian, an organization that supports Asian based small businesses this year to organize a joint event – Small Business Pitch Contest, where we had successful local business owners on the judging panel.

This was the FIRST Asian Business Pitch Contest in the MetroWest area and an opportunity for all Asian owned early-stage business to pitch their concepts and win \$500- \$1,000 in prize money. We had around 15 new and early start-ups pitch their ideas that included 6 high schoolers with their fantastic ideas. In fact, the winner of the contest was a pair of high schoolers – Julie Jain and Jai Khanna.



ISW WOMEN EMPOWERING WOMEN

Chair: Snehalata Kadam

Team: Neha Kaushal, Kalyani Kanuri, Priya Vaidya, Kajal Kaushik

In the past couple of years, India Society of Worcester has encouraged and given women a voice through the platform *Women Empowering Women* (WEW). In 2023, they had five outstanding events motivating and inspiring other women within the community. Sticking to their core values, ISW-WEW created a creative environment to encourage meaningful conversations, while inspiring and spreading confidence within the community.

WEW organized **5 distinct events** throughout the year around various topics as shown below

- “I can’t to I can”
- Mental Well-Being Discussion: A Positive way to enlightening a healthy life
- Selfless Community Service
- Rising Up the Professional Ladder
- Let’s Celebrate “HER”
- Next Generation Speaks, Life Beyond Academics



ISW SYMPHONY

Chair - Sarita Deshpande

Operations - Sakshi Gurao, Visual Arts - Nehal Ujlayan, Bindiya Jain, Shrikant Savant

Dhol Tasha Coordinator - Rajesh Khare, Ashok Kale, Sanket Gurao

Music - Ashish Cowlagi, Nityajit Hem

Visual Arts

Art Festival

Event Volunteer - Neha Ujlayan, Suchitra Patil, Rashmi Pitre and Cultural Committee members

Second year of successful Art Festival

- Around 20 Volunteer Artists displayed their artifacts and demonstrated their artwork
- Art Contest for kids - More than 30 kids participated
- Approximately 250 attendees enjoyed the event.



Art Workshops

- Two successful Art workshops held by our own community volunteer artists
- 20 + participants who made beautiful artwork
- High demanding activity by members

Applied Arts

Ganesha Idol Workshop

- Ganesha Idol making workshop
- 20 Participants who made beautiful Ganesha Idol with eco-friendly clay.
- Step by step guidelines and demonstration of making and painting Ganesha idol out of eco friendly clay



3D Model Printing - Ganesha Workshop

- Making 3D model of Ganesha and festive lamp
- Workshop for kids and adults on the occasion of Ganeshotsav



Performing Arts -Music

Dhol Tasha Lezim Pathak (Folk Rhythm Group)

- Grand Performances: Stole the spotlight with high-energy performances at local festivals and ISW community gatherings.
- Cultural Ambassadors: Represented our culture proudly, showcasing the rich tradition of Dhol, Tasha, and Lezim to diverse audiences.
- Community Engagement: Conducted teaching workshops and interactive sessions at ISW School, fostering a deeper appreciation for the DTL traditions.
- Chenda Melam blended traditional beats with contemporary elements (We will, we will, rock you!).



Dhol Tasha Lezim Pathak - (Folk Rhythm Workshop)

- Workshop attended by 15 participants
- Demonstration and practice of Dhol (Big Drum) Tasha (Snare Drum) and Lezim (Handheld percussion instrument)
- Detailed instructions on basic technique of playing an instrument
- Instructions on making a sound of different rhythm patterns
- Practice of fundamental ensemble

Wintertainment

- First ever Music Program by the local and community members for the Community Members
- Popular, Melodious Bollywood songs presentation appreciated by a150+ attendees

**Classical Music Baithak**

First ever collaboration with Learnquest Academy

- Sarod, Veena, Vocal recital by well-known artists from India and local artists in the month of March as a kickoff concert of Music Conference.
- A platform to cater to the classical music lovers, learners and audience
- Around 125 music lovers attended the concert
- Sitar and Tabla concert in the month of May with more than 30 attendees.

**Vocal Ensemble Group - with ISW University**

- First ever collaboration with our own ISW University initiative
- The music lovers and enthusiasts from our own community meet biweekly and sing and share the beauty of their favorite music from Hindi and other regional songs.
- The group performed on the stage of India Day event and Diwali Cultural Event in 2023.

**Theatre**

Hindi Play - Collaboration with Kalashri-Boston

- First ever collaboration with Kalahari - a nonprofit dedicated to the theatre projects
- Successful event of Hindi Play that brought new audience who likes theatre and art
- Encouraged many to become ISW members and life members.
- Around 125 attendees included our Humrahee members, DTL members, Sports members and many more



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