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TELUGU CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

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WTC Fundraiser

The Telugu Cultural Association organized a quick fund-raiser meeting for families of the victims of the terrorist attack (09/11/01). In view of the short notice many executive committee members and local leaders in our telugu community made over 150 telephone calls to members requesting them to attend the fund-raiser meeting. The meeting was held on Sunday (September 29, 2001) at the banquet hall of Sarovar restaurant in Austin and over 65 members attended!

Former Mayor pro-tem & former city council member and present leading Mayoral Candidate Hon. Gustavo Garcia was the keynote speaker at this event. Chairperson Rayudu Vrudhula welcomed Mr. Garcia and the attending members of TCA. Mr. Dinesh Vakaharia and Dr. Chandrakant Yagnik rendered the US National Anthem as Gus Garcia joined. Many speakers including several community leaders in the area such as: Meena & Dinesh Vakharia, Subhash Vohra, Padmini Chary, Dr. Harnek Singh Baines, former TCA Chairperson Govardhan Darsi and a host of others expressed their sentiments and concerns on this great tragedy that befell on our beloved country USA. Dr. Yagnik sang Bhajan Kirtans in Sanskrit expressing our sentiments.

The group donated a total of \$2,630 towards this cause. As approved by the TCA executive committee this amount will become part of the total that is being collected by various other Indo-American Organizations in the Austin area and it will be given as a total contribution to Red Cross from our Indian-American communities.

- Rayudu Vrudhula

TCA Picnic

It was a day in spring with gorgeous sunshine and nascent cool breezes of wind with a backdrop of a shimmering silvery lake, panoply of verdant meadows, and a potpourri of cackling and chirping of birds. It was a propitious day for a picnic for the Austin Telugu community to rejoice in a fun-filled medley of activities.

As our community members started to trickle in around noon, the pace of activities picked up and culminated in a crescendo of games as more families and individuals sauntered in by late noon. The first activity was shuttle badminton that required some innovative and spirited help from a few members to set up the net warding off the fiery ants and gusty winds. The endeavor was quite fruitful as several adults and children played badminton throughout the meet. Then, the focus shifted to the volleyball courts in the vicinity and there was a ball bouncing everywhere within the courts as well as far off the courts thanks to the varied skills of the participants. As hunger and thirst started to gnaw at the members, Sarovar set up a few stalls and provided members with scrumptious edibles and cold potables with help from several members including Ms Uma Pingali. With renewed vigor, members resorted to other activities such as cricket, card games, and full-throttled discussions.

The highlight of the picnic was the consummate gusto and exultation on the faces of our children as they frolicked in several activities such as piñata-bashing, sprinting, etc, thanks to the planning, coordination, and execution on gargantuan scale by Ms Shanti Aradhyula. With a multitude of simultaneous activities ongoing, it was a sight to behold as there was camaraderie, esprit de corps, friendship, and happiness everywhere as adults and children alike partook in all these activities. By the end of the day, as physical fatigue and weariness settled in, it was time to fold up the tents and head back home with a feeling of sheer satisfaction and delight and memories to cherish.

- Ravi Mandava

NOTE: Please allow me to take this opportunity to proffer plethora of gratitude to all members who helped us and participated in it, and to offer special thanks to Mr. Govardhan Darsi for lending his sports paraphernalia such as cricket gear, badminton kit, etc.

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