



Background

Gurseva was set up in 1998 during the height of the Bosnian refugee crisis to extend the philosophy of Sarhatt da Bhalla (universal peace and prosperity for all). Currently Gurseva delivers food and clothing to refugees and others who are in need.

Gurseva is a generic project which will try to encourage voluntary work. Concentrating mainly on humanitarian work, for instance in the field of providing food to the hungry, shelter and opportunity to victims of torture, rehabilitation programmes, education programmes in difficult parts of the world and so on, there are currently a number of Gurseva projects operating.



Figure 1. Gurseva volunteers delivering hot food to the refugee centre in Brixton

The Gurseva Children's Project

A children's project in India. These are children of families in which the bread earner has been killed or tortured excessively by State institutions. The project looks after these children, houses them, gives them medical care and trains them for life.

It is intended that similar projects be established in Punjab and they act as framework for other projects.

Langar project.

This is a project in which young people and other volunteers are involved in taking left over langar from Gurdwaras and deliver it to the needy in streets of major cities. The project has been running for over 11 years. It needs to expand to other areas, towns and countries.

Enviroseva: A Zero Waste Project.

This is to redistribute and recycle food, clothes, toys, furniture, old computers etc and send it to places where it is needed, either here locally in our communities or if practical to those in need such as villages in India, Africa etc. A coordination system is needed to facilitate collection and redistribution.

GURSEVA

Gurseva is a community, non-profit organisation. We are dedicated to helping the community and the environment around us, currently Gurseva acts as a volunteer gateway for the community to participate in helping others and society at large, this includes recycling resources, delivering food & clothing to refugees and others who are in need.

At present we are seeking volunteers to participate in community focussed projects as well as assisting other projects by providing volunteers.

Gurseva has mainly been operating in London with the assistance of the local community centres there. It is currently expanding and requires volunteers to assist in distributing food. This service only requires a few hours a week of your time. So if you can contribute to the philosophy of Sarhatt da Bhalla (Universal Peace & Prosperity) then please contact us.

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2011 Helping Hands- Communities in Heston and Hounslow recognised the problem of those students suffering financial difficulties and were being forced to live on the streets, struggling to survive. Many found themselves in this situation due to closure of their Universities or colleges. Many of them are too proud to return with no qualification and indeed will not be able to explain their early return without a degree or qualification and hence are in some ways stranded. Others have become so depressed by their situation that they have turned to alcohol and drugs. Backed by the "Evening Standard Dispossessed Fund" grant funded by Big Lottery funding for this project was made possible through The Capital Community Foundation. Gurseva volunteers are currently working with these youngsters to give them new hope.

Rehabilitation with community help

Helping Hands is also a project to assist alcohol and substance abuse amongst people who need assistance with giving these up and long term rehabilitation. The project intends to set up an extensive programme within the community, offering counselling both through existing support as well as via Gurseva volunteers. Similar institutions providing assistance in the local area will also

be approached for such individuals to find support.



Figure 2. Volunteers taking hot drinks to the streets

The Gurseva Project has excellent experience working with the homeless and economic refugees and is best placed to work with these youngsters to find solutions to their problems. Short term we propose to provide food and clothing as well as find them accommodation in the local area and long term we wish to assist in either their continuing education or if they choose, assist in their safe return home.

Short term- The homeless and impoverished will be able to find a place to sleep out of the cold.

Clothing will be provided to fight the oncoming colder months.

Mid to long term- Provide information and support to those effected by alcohol and drug abuse as well as access to professional help available in the local area in a language that they can understand.

Long term- Those that are not homeless and have some sheltered accommodation are often living with up to 8 people in a single room, with poor standards of hygiene etc.

Finding accommodation for those that are effected, ideally in the local community with residents that may be able to supply a spare room to those that guarantee they will stay away from substances and alcohol.

The 2011 Helping Hands project was made possible thanks to :



**The Capital
Community
Foundation**



Figure 3. Gurseva working with the community