

“Shree Ramkabir Satya Chhe”



# Shree Ramkabir Mandir

*“The place that inspires us to serve others”*

530 E. 231<sup>st</sup> Street, Carson, CA 90745, U.S.A

Tel: (310) 549-4492

Federal Tax ID No. #33-0432554

Website: [www.ramkabirmandir.com](http://www.ramkabirmandir.com)

## **Serving Wholesome Food to the Homeless, Downtown LA, 2016**

Every year around Thanksgiving our Mandir (along with sponsors and volunteers) organizes a hot meal to be provided to the homeless that live around downtown Los Angeles. The meal usually consists of hot pasta, hot vegetable side dish, salad, rolls, fruit drinks, dessert treats and bottled water. Part of the meal can be eaten over several days, providing much needed nourishment and additional sustenance.

This year, may we add our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your outstanding teamwork and seva and generosity. Thanks for planning the menu, purchasing all the needed items in a timely manner and in sufficient quantities. Thanks for coming to our Mandir and preparing the hot meal, and special thanks to the sponsors. Special thanks to Sai Centers of Glendale and Arcadia who permit us and join with us every year to help coordinate this unique seva project in downtown Los Angeles.

The food turned out great, and for the record, the homeless we served had more smiles on their faces than at any time we have experienced. Your warmth definitely was appreciated and felt by them.

Rains threatened to drench us but the Divine Will would have none of it, and the rains desisted. Minutes after the meal service concluded, the rains burst through. Coincidence? Perhaps.

Where there is a genuine desire to do good, our Satguru Kabir always helps us all the way!

This seva is definitely a “do good and feel good” opportunity, one that no Bhaktajan should miss out on!

But as our SatGuru Kabir teaches us, it is more, much more. When one gives selflessly, one improves and transforms oneself – slowly but surely -- to a higher awareness; the awareness of the Divinity within and outside. That is the goal and purpose of life. The way we do service is critical to achieving such a transformation.

Selfless service – done with the right spirit -- ushers the ultimate awareness that we all are One Self!

Serving with humility and love nurtures and brings out Godly qualities in us.

It helps us to experience the presence of the Lord who truly resides in our own hearts. Those we serve have the same God residing in their hearts.

Thus we must learn to serve with the spirit that it not “I” (my ego; my lower self) that is serving or who deserves credit, recognition or publicity, but it is really the God within me that serving

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the God in “others’! All are One; God is One; God is All! This is the valuable spiritual lesson that is taught to us by the practice of selfless service.

It is a blessing from the Lord to have the opportunity to, and be able to, serve our families, friends, community, country and the world at large. The meals we prepare and serve really provide critical relief to the most unfortunate and the destitute in our society, but the path of service itself serves the highest purpose: it helps us attain progress towards becoming aware of who we truly are – spiritual beings on a human journey!

We plan on carrying out this event annually. If you wish to sponsor or volunteer, please contact a Mandir trustee. The cost of the food is approximately \$350, involves two hours of cooking time for 10 volunteers at the Mandir, 10 volunteers are needed at the distribution site. It takes about 10 additional hours for planning and purchase of supplies. This small effort provides several meals to about 175 folks (~\$2 per person) and is a nice treat to receive a hot tasty meal, especially in times of cold weather.