



SHANTI FUND, a Long Island based charitable organization, is committed to the enlightenment and peace through education. Most of its members are Indian Americans who reside in Nassau and Suffolk counties, collectively known as Long Island. After several informal events the very first charitable act of Volunteers of Shanti Fund (VOSF) was to raise funds for the victims of earthquake in Maharashtra, India. VOSF were able to raise \$10,000 in less than two weeks and a \$10,000 check were given to the Red Cross in 1993. For the next several years, monthly events were hosted to build bridges between mainstream and newly arrived immigrants.

Volunteers of Shanti Fund have promoted educational exchanges on Long Island for over last two decades by planning breakfast meetings to which speakers in many different fields of expertise were invited to speak, having roundtable discussions where prominent activists, diplomats, and elected officials have discussed on-going world issues of concern; and by sponsoring a teachers exchange program between India and the USA.

Officials of Suffolk County noticed the activities of the Volunteers of Shanti Fund and invited Volunteers of Shanti Fund to build a Gandhi Memorial on the county property. The Gandhi Statue was built by an American sculptor in 1998 and is now at the Plaza Level of the H. Lee Dennison Building in Hauppauge, New York. For the last several years, following the United Nations declaration **“To Promote a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence Among Children,”** Volunteers of Shanti Fund have been inviting children from several area schools, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and youngsters from Indian cultural organizations to promote Gandhian values.

Volunteers of Shanti Fund were instrumental in laying a concrete foundation to establish the India Study Center at Stony Brook University in 1996. One of the educational/charitable activities are very memorable that took place in 1997. VOSF supported second generation of Indian American students at Ivy League colleges under the leadership of the then Chairman Vivek Murthy of Vision World -Wide. Their mission was to educate people in India about spread and horrors of AIDS and preventive measures. Dr. Vivek Murthy is now the first Indian American Surgeon General of USA.

VOSF were honored again to host a gala event to recognize Kwasi Enin with the Exceptional Education Excellence Award for being the first student in modern time to secure an admission to all eight Ivy League colleges in 2014.

VOSF, to inculcate the value systems of the peace leaders of the world, have reached out to dozens and dozens of schools on Long Island to implement unique and creative ways to impart peace education to our youths from the first grade to the twelfth grade. Over the last 15 years thousands of students have participated in this program and now it is one of the signature project of Shanti Fund that require year around efforts.

Having Gandhi statue at the Suffolk County office provides added advantage of celebrating Gandhi birthday (October 2) every year along with students' peace activities. One of the daily activities of Gandhiji were to have a morning and evening multi-religious prayer services. To honor this much needed efforts to promote peace and harmony among the diverse residents, VOSF hosts peace prayer services on Gandhi Punya Tithi (January 30th - death anniversary).

Many faiths of Long Island Multi Faith Forum and other institutes participate in this prayer services every year.

**Schools' students' peace presentations on Saturday October 1, 2022, at 9:30 AM
H. Lee Dennison Building, 100 Veterans Hwy., Hauppauge NY 11788**

AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV



Dr. Donna Jones

Superintendent of Schools - Patchogue Medford School District



Donna Jones is a passionate leader who has devoted her life to her family, profession, philanthropic endeavors, and her spiritual growth. She has worked in the field of education for more than twenty-nine years in positions ranging from accountant to superintendent of schools. She currently serves as the Superintendent of Schools for the Patchogue Medford School District in Suffolk County where she strives daily to improve the learning experiences for students and staff members as she continues to foster strong relationships with the community. She is responsible for the management and supervision of the daily operations of the 7,500-student school district.

Donna balances her busy career with rewarding philanthropic work. She has been a proud member of the Greater New York Chapter of the Links, Incorporated for fourteen years and is the immediate past President of the Chapter. She spends countless hours of service, providing programs and supports to the marginalized, oppressed, and underserved communities locally and internationally.

Donna is the proud mother of four lovely daughters and four beautiful grandchildren whom she loves dearly. During her spare time, she enjoys spending quality time with her family and traveling around the world. She has visited Israel, South Africa, Greece, Spain, and France to name just a few of the countries she has explored.

Donna holds a Doctorate in Education, a Master's in Public Administration and a Bachelor's in Business Administration. She has been honored by numerous organizations throughout Long Island. She is a lifelong learner who never runs away from challenges, but embraces them with confidence, perseverance, and determination.

PAST GUEST SPEAKERS AT SCHOOL STUDENTS PRESENTATION

- 2021** Dr. Mary O'Meara • Superintendent, Plainview - Old Bethpage CSD (COVID-19)
- 2020** COVID-19
- 2019** Dr. Kusum Sinha • Superintendent, Garden City UFSD
- 2018** Dr. Lorna Lewis • Superintendent, Plainview - Old Bethpage CSD
Mr. Richard Brown, Jr. • Principal Jackson Main Elementary School, Hempstead
- 2017** Dr. Mary T. Kelly • Superintendent, Amityville School District
Prof. S. Sitaraman • Amity Educational Group
- 2016** Dr. Kishore Kuncham • Superintendent, Freeport School District
Mr. Gilbert Anderson • Commissioner, SCDPW
- 2015** Dr. Timothy Eagen • Superintendent, Kings Park School District
- 2014** Dr. John E. Bierwirth • Superintendent, Herricks School District
- 2013** Dr. Michael R. Lonergan • Superintendent, Longwood School District
- 2012** Dr. Susan Agruso • Superintendent, Kings Park School District
- 2011** Dr. Kenneth Bossert • Superintendent, Port Jefferson School District
- 2010** Dr. Anthony Annunziato • Superintendent, Bayport-Blue Point School District
- 2009** 10th Anniversary Celebrations • 10 School Superintendents
- 2008** Dr. Rosemary F. Jones • Superintendent, Sayville School District

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