



Charity Work and Community Engagement Through 3-day Multicultural Spiritual Program

Punya Foundation organised a 3-day fundraising multicultural spiritual program (MCSP) on 14-16 July 2023 in Salisbury, South Australia. This is one of the annual events of Punya Foundation.





Ms Gillian Aldridge, the mayor of the city of Salisbury, was the chief guest. Mr Glenn Docherty, Mr Dipak Dhamala, Ms Renuka Lama, Mr Johnny Chewparsad, Mr Milan Kapasi, Mr Celian Kidegra, Mr Nabin Kambang, Mr Moti Naral, Mr Kapil Pande, Ms Mary Ceravolo, Mr Dinesh Kalikote, Mr Mahesh Gautam, Ms Ashika Rai, Ms Priyanka Rai, Mr Mohan Hangkhim and Mr Hari Sharma Poudyal were special guests.





The MCSP has primary and secondary goals. The primary goals were

- To generate funds to provide scholarships for the education of blind, orphaned, poor and vulnerable children in developing countries.
- To give continuity to micro-finance projects for empowerment of women victims of rape and sexual assaults in developing countries

The secondary goals were

- To provide an opportunity to migrant communities for interaction and socialisation through yoga and spirituality to promote their health and wellbeing.
- To orient Australian born migrant children to multicultural practices and role of spirituality in healing process.





A show case of multiculturalism





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Justice through Education & Empowerment





The program observed several multicultural, religious, social, creative, and networking activities. Hindu priests performed puja, bhajan, hawan and prabachan. The Buddhist guru delivered a sermon and engaged the community in lighting of 108 butter lamps for peace and prosperity of the world. The Kirat group performed spiritual songs. The Aboriginal community leader welcomed the guests to the country.



Facilitators guided children with art program over 3 days. Children, youths, including older persons engaged in cultural dances. Children from different families came together and engaged in the art activities as well as dance and bhajan. Parents were equally enthusiastic taking the opportunity to catch up with friends and families and establishing new social connections.





Volunteers engaged over 3 days cooking variety of food items and served delicious meals to guests and participants.





Cultural program performers receive token and certificates from the Mr Tilchand Sapkota, the CEO and Mr Hari Adhikari, the Program Coordinator.



Mr Mohan Bhattarai, the volunteer coordinator for the program, appraised a number of volunteers who worked tirelessly for 3 days to make the program successful.

The mayor of Salisbury and Playford councils appreciated such programs being organised. Community organisation representatives praised the program and expressed committed support.

Mr Sapkota outlined the need of such programs in the community. Mr Sanman Kafley, the director of administration, appreciated the community participation. Mr Adhikari thanked guests and sponsors. He, in particular, thanked the Salisbury Council for the grant, sponsors for their support and the community for donation and their participation.



**EXPENDITURE**

Items	Amount	Remarks
Hall Hire	1500	Invoice: St Joseph Community Centre
Decoration	1476	Invoice: Namaste Supermarket 3
Catering	2465.79	Invoice: Namaste Supermarket 2; Woolworths 1, 2, 3, 4; CostCo, Campbells 1,2,3
Material for puja	287.79	Invoice: Namaste Supermarket 1
Material for children artwork	339.98	Invoice: BIGW1,2,3; Officeworks 1,2
Offerings	625	Invoice not available
Farmer's market fresh vegetables, herbs, etc.	780	Invoice not available
Total	7474.6	