

# ANNUAL REPORT



2023/2024





# MESSAGE

## JEET SUCHDEV QSM JP Chairperson

Dear Members, Supporters, and Friends,

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I present the annual report for Bhartiya Samaj. This year, our organization has continued to demonstrate resilience, innovation, and dedication in providing essential support services to senior citizens, children, youth, and migrants. The achievements outlined in this report are a direct result of the unwavering commitment and teamwork of our staff, volunteers, and partners.

2024 marks Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust's 29th year of operations, making a positive difference in the lives of diverse communities in Aotearoa.

In 1995, we started with our mission to assist people in their times of need. Today, while we have almost completed three decades in service, we have expanded to not only help people in times of need but also work towards creating happier and healthier communities in Aotearoa and Australia.

As we live through a period of considerable economic challenge, with rising costs of living and climate challenges placing people in acute distress, Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust has always been a central part of the collective response, helping those in need, and offering support, courage, and hope to the communities.

We ourselves face multiple challenges with ever-increasing demand for our services, increased costs, and the real risk of declining community funding. However, with the contribution, passion, skill, and commitment of our staff, trustees, board members, and the support of like-minded organizations and volunteers, we have been able to navigate through.

It is often in the face of serious challenges that we can demonstrate our resilience and our capacity to make a difference in the community. Bhartiya Samaj has demonstrated resilience and excellence by continuously delivering support services for senior citizens, children, youth, and migrants. This success is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the entire Bhartiya Samaj team, who tirelessly contribute to empowering our community and fostering a spirit of inclusion and support.

I take great pride in the fact that we supported AEWV migrants who were recently reported to be living in inhumane conditions in Auckland.

Besides, the Trust has been supporting several victims of elder abuse and domestic violence, with the help of other organizations, including Roopa Aur Aap Charitable Trust.

Our fortnightly meetings for seniors have proved to be a platform for them to mingle in the community, learn something new, and feel inclusive in New Zealand.

Our Bal Vikas classes, conducted every Sunday, provide opportunities for Kiwi-Indian children to learn Hindi and Indian culture so they stay connected with their roots and take pride in their identities.

Most importantly, Bhartiya Samaj's expansion to Queenstown, Canterbury, Bhartiya Samaj Lower North Island, and Brisbane in Australia has provided us with several opportunities to offer support to communities irrespective of geographical location.

Once again, I would like to thank the staff, trustees, board members, volunteers, and like-minded organizations for their unwavering support and active involvement in bringing courage, joy, and hope to our communities.

"Our strength lies in our unity and shared vision."

Jeet Suchdev QSM JP  
Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust



# FOREWORD



Roopa Aur Aap Charitable Trust, established in 2008, is the legal face of CEO Roopa Suchdev's efforts to further her endeavour in helping those without a voice of their own.

Since 1996 Roopa Suchdev has been passionately working to help the victims of domestic abuse across New Zealand. She has been a famous Indian radio and television personality in New Zealand. RAA continues its venture through its tenacious team members working towards its mission of developing a society nurturing and empowering individuals reach their ultimate potential.

RAA focuses on the development of the members of the South Asian Community who face inequality and violence.

The aim is to provide free counselling, offer interventions programmes to the victims of domestic abuse, and resolve family disputes with help of qualified and certified experts.

## OUR SUPPORT SERVICES

### • Culturally appropriate Counselling/Mediation

RAA provides a range of therapeutic services and acts as a compassionate facilitator, who are experts in providing culturally appropriate services to the families. We also provide post traumatic solutions as a part of recovery and resilience.

### • Community Services

RAA conducts several campaigns to create awareness and positively change the way people think and act on family harm. During the COVID-19 pandemic, RAA raised awareness about the benefits of getting vaccinated and also provided RAT kits, food parcels, medicines and other essential goods to hundreds of people to fight with covid in New Zealand.

### • Crisis Intervention

We have well-crafted intervention system in place for victims of family violence. Through our services, we try to determine options to resolve the conflict, and counsel the victim as well as the perpetrator to help stabilise their emotions, enabling them to thrive in the face of chronic stress. It assists in reducing the incidences of family harm and forms a strong family bond.

### • Legal Support

We have professional lawyers on board who assist and guide the victims about the civil and criminal legal matters. We help victims engage with the lawyers who help them resolve legal issues and issues relating to immigration.

### • Immigration Support

We provide support on immigration matters with the help of certified immigration advisers. These immigration adviser guide the victims/clients to obtain their visas.

### • Elder Abuse Awareness

In collaboration with Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust, we carry out interactive workshops & activities for seniors to spread elder abuse awareness.

### • Outreach services beyond New Zealand

Our services extend to those beyond New Zealand. Often, victims are not the only ones affected by violence, but also those related to them. RAA ensures that its actions have far-reaching impacts and, therefore, we provide service to the victims' families in other countries as well.

### • Awareness campaigns & Education Workshops

RAA conducts regular education workshops at various locations to create awareness on several social issues. These workshops encourage people to stand up for themselves and lead an independent life. Various activities/classes are also undertaken including English speaking lessons, computer skills, gardening, sewing, and information on managing the finances to help the clients/victims to be up to date.

### • Children Programmes

In collaboration with Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust and other community organisations, we organise workshops for children during summer holidays and school breaks. Also, RAA provides support to children who have been the victims of family violence.



"तन से करो या धन से करो, सेवा करो तो निस्वार्थ करो।"

As the popular Hindi idiom says, the Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust lives up to the universal values of humanity and community service.

BSCT was established with a vision to support diverse communities, particularly South Asian communities in New Zealand.

Over the past 28 years, BSCT has grown tremendously, supported by local and central government and, most importantly, by our volunteers, staff, trustees, and board members. Whether it's senior citizen meetings, childcare programs, or youth and migrant support initiatives, BSCT is a go-to organisation for people in distress.

In this challenging and uncertain economic climate, we feel a responsibility to continue supporting those affected by abuse, exploitation, health-related issues, or educational challenges. We strive to provide the highest quality of service to address these pressing needs.

Bhartiya Samaj's most valuable assets are its members and the people who find solutions, hope, and joy by coming together. Our experience shows that uniting people creates synergies.

Post-COVID challenges, natural disasters, and the rising cost of living present major difficulties for many. In these tough times, we aim to bring communities together, and in cooperation with other stakeholders, including Roopa Aur Aap Charitable Trust, we are working to address the issues confronting communities in New Zealand and Australia. (Ask Jeet ji whether to add these lines or not.)

While BSCT has successfully supported diverse communities, challenges to the well-being of children, youth, and families remain and continue to evolve. The aim of Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust is to empower individuals from children to elders. We have been organizing summer camps for the last 20-plus years, focusing on culturally appropriate education and empowerment through workshops & camps.

Therefore, it is essential that we continue our preventive and developmental work within the community to advocate for those we serve.

In the coming year, we plan to expand our operations to more geographical locations and internationally with various projects, including support for senior citizens and the rollout of children's programs in more regions of New Zealand.

As we offer these platforms, we seek support to improve the livelihoods of diverse communities in Aotearoa.

With this, I invite BSCT members, trustees, board members, staff, and volunteers to continue this meaningful journey with us.

Roopa Suchdev QSM  
CEO  
Roopa Aur Aap Charitable Trust

# BSCT TEAM

## FOUNDERS



Jeet Suchdev QSM JP



Roopa Suchdev QSM



Dr Bruce Hucker QSO



Dr Ashraf Choudhary QSO, Ex MP

## TRUSTEES



Roshni Chadha



Ami Chand QSM



Harish Lodhia

## BSCT Chapters



Ravinder Kaur (Dolly)



Mangal Behal



Abhishek Sharma



Surinder Tandon



# BSCT TEAM

## Board Members



Jaspreet Singh Kandhari



Rushikesh Ahinave



Ghouse Majeed



Santanu Roy



Simran Chadha



Ranjana Gupta



Vanitha Kalra



Prashant Vijan



Sudha Tata



Ansh Chadha



Naresh Malhotra

## Our Dedicated Team



Gurpreet Singh



Kanika Ranga



Gurpreet Kaur



Gurdev Kaur Kuka



Vidya Teke



Mita Suchdev



Kanishk Mahajan



Archita Sharma



Sandhya Bokil



Nitin Bhaskar



Dheeraj Bhardwaj



Mudit Bhargava



Shruti Bhargava



Asmat Rehman



Yamini Gupta



Neeraj Gupta



Rekha Doshi

# OUR SERVICE



- **Senior Citizen Wing**

Mutual support and companionship for the Senior citizens through regular get togethers/programs, festival celebrations, recreational outings, Skill development programs and other services making them socially inclusive, connected, strong and confident. To empower them and enhance their skills we constantly keep adding new programs for their benefit.



- **Children & Youth Wing**

Multicultural Playgroup for children from 0-5 years, where young children and their mothers get a space to express their creative play capabilities and have a safe space for learning and socializing. Language and Cultural classes, Annual summer camp and Holiday Programme for Children 6-14 years for building and nurturing skills, values and attributes of self-awareness, self-management and responsible decision making. It also helps them to keep them connected with their cultural roots thereby helping in stronger family bonds.



- **Migrant Settlement & Distress Support**

Assisting new Migrants to settle down in New Zealand by providing them with relevant information and resources. To ensure wellbeing of the people and community, we offer support and professional advice to people in distressed situations. Provide social services by resolving issues such as family harm, elder abuse by assisting them in seeking counselling, legal help and advocacy support



- **Culturally Appropriate Care Home**

To address the cultural needs of older people requiring rest home care, we collaborated with Bupa David Lange Care Home to launch a culturally appropriate Aashirwad Wing for the South Asian Communities. Community development programs through partnerships with other government/local organisations like Auckland Council, Wastewise, Electoral Commission and many more.





## **Learn Digital, Live Digital!**

Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust proudly kicked off a new term of Digital Learning lessons, offered in partnership with Digital Inclusion Alliance Aotearoa. This initiative saw a strong turnout from senior members eager to enhance their digital skills. In the first session, participants learned the basics of smartphone operation, with further guidance on how to protect their devices and stay connected with friends and family.

The program also focused on educating seniors about online safety, including how to identify and avoid cyberbullying, scams, phishing, and other forms of online fraud. Mentor Leilani Ji expressed confidence in the seniors' progress, stating that both batches were well on their way to becoming digitally robust, ensuring they can safely navigate the digital world in Aotearoa.

## **Honoring Cultural Unity Through Pan Asian New Year Celebrations**

Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust, along with Communities Action Trust NZ, was proud and humbled to have been part of one of the largest Pan Asian unions in New Zealand at the Pan Asia New Year Celebrations. The event brought together diverse communities, fostering cultural exchange and unity across the Pan Asian diaspora.







## **"Yeh Jo Mohabbat Hai": A Musical Fundraiser for a Cause**

Roopa Aur Aap Charitable Trust, in collaboration with Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust, hosted a successful fundraiser, Yeh Jo Mohabbat Hai, at Auckland's SkyCity Theatre. The event, featuring renowned singer Gopal Bhatia, raised awareness about domestic violence and autism, drawing a packed house despite challenging weather conditions.



## **Celebrated Motherhood Across Generations at Bhartiya Samaj**

Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust celebrated Mother's Day with seniors, who fondly recounted cherished memories with their mothers and children, honoring the significance of motherhood. The event provided an opportunity for singing, dancing, and connection. Additionally, the Bal Vikas Language and Cultural Classes marked the occasion with children creating heartfelt cards, showcasing their love and appreciation for their mothers.





## **Celebrated International Yoga Day Promoting Health and Well-being**

On International Yoga Day, Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust promoted well-being by encouraging kindness towards our bodies through yoga. We were honored to have Her Excellency Mrs. Neeta Bhushan, Honourable High Commissioner of India, join us in Auckland. Her presence inspired us to prioritize our physical and mental health through the practice of yoga.



## **Organized a Workshop on "Magical NZ" with Engaging Senior Participation**

Roopa Aur Aap Charitable Trust (RAA), in collaboration with Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust (BSCT), organized a workshop themed "Magical NZ." The event was graced by RAA Chairperson, Roshni Chadha ji, who interacted with the seniors, helping them solve activity-related questions. The seniors thoroughly enjoyed the interactive and engaging experience.



## **Raised Awareness on Elder Abuse for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**

Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust raised awareness on elder abuse in honor of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Seniors heard from dignitaries, including Bhav Dhillon ji and Jessica Phuang ji, and engaged with a skit and film on the issue. The event empowered seniors with knowledge of the support available within the community.



## **Celebrated Matariki by Honoring Māori Culture Through Music and Learning**

Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust celebrated Matariki with music, dance, and learning about Māori culture. Members enjoyed kapa haka performances by Kathleen Williams and her whānau, who also shared insights into their traditions. Kanika ji, a BSCT volunteer, educated members about Matariki and useful Te Reo words. Puketāpapa Local Board Chairperson Ella Kumar ji spoke on the importance of understanding Māori culture. Jeet Suchdev ji highlighted how Matariki offers an opportunity for South Asian communities to connect with New Zealand's rich heritage.







## **Came Together to Support AEWV Migrants Through Collective Efforts**

Words cannot express how the Indian community came together to support AEWV migrants. We extend our gratitude to all involved agencies, including the High Commission of India and Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust, who worked tirelessly to assist affected migrants in every possible way. Their dedication provided much-needed relief and support during challenging times.

## **Participated in India's Independence Day Celebrations at Mahatma Gandhi Centre**

Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust was delighted to be part of India's Independence Day celebrations at the Mahatma Gandhi Centre in Auckland. We expressed our gratitude to the community, dignitaries, and the Indian diaspora for attending this significant occasion for our democracy. Special thanks were extended to Simran Chadha, Prajita Sarkari, and Sheetul Bisnauthsing for their outstanding performances, and we were proud to receive acknowledgment for their contributions.





## **Embarked on a Journey of a Lifetime Aboard a Cruise Ship**

Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust's seniors embarked on a journey of a lifetime aboard a cruise ship in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. They enjoyed life to the fullest, showcasing the vibrant spirits of seniors and creating lasting memories. This remarkable experience highlighted the joy and camaraderie within our senior community.



## **Celebrated International Day of Older Persons with Vibrant Performances**

Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust, Roopa Aur Aap, and Auckland Indian Association celebrated International Day of Older Persons with vibrant performances from seniors and Bal Vikas children. Hon MP Michael Wood ji felicitated Kanika ji for her contributions. Jeet Suchdev ji thanked all participants, dignitaries, and volunteers for their support in making the event a memorable success.





## **Celebrated Diwali with Joy, Unity, and Cultural Festivities**

Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust, in collaboration with Roopa Aur Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust and Roopa Aur Aap Charitable Trust celebrated Diwali with music, dance, and joy, emphasizing unity, progress, and new beginnings. Seniors and children enjoyed the festival with vibrant activities like rangoli, mehendi, and diya decoration. The event was supported by Hindu Elders, Shanti Niwas, Tarana, Radio Spice, and Blood Balti.



## **Celebrated Christmas with Joy and Festive Cheer at Bal Vikas**

Children at Bal Vikas celebrated Christmas with joy and excitement, spreading holiday cheer through festive activities. The event brought smiles and a sense of togetherness as the children embraced the spirit of Christmas with enthusiasm.





## **Celebrated 75th Republic Day of India in Auckland**

Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust proudly participated in the 75th Republic Day celebration of India in Auckland. The event featured traditional Rajasthani performances, speeches by dignitaries, and vibrant cultural displays. Our seniors and volunteers actively contributed, and we thank everyone involved for making this significant occasion truly memorable.



## **ANZ Provided Crucial Information on Scams and Fraud Prevention**

ANZ Royal Oak Branch Manager Smita Kanwar ji, along with Priyanka Chukka ji and Roshni Balsaraf, joined Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust to share crucial information about scams and frauds. They provided valuable insights on protecting hard-earned money, covering topics like cold call and investment scams, along with practical tips to stay safe.





## Bhartiya Samaj and Bal Vikas Celebrated Holi with Joy and Tradition

Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust and Bal Vikas celebrated Holi with joy and festivity. Attendees engaged in traditional singing and dancing, joyfully tossing flower petals. The celebration was filled with laughter, smiles, and dancing to upbeat songs, creating cherished memories for all who participated in this colorful and happy occasion.



## Organized "Bridge to Wellness" Workshop to Address Wellness Challenges

Roopa Aur Aap Charitable Trust, in collaboration with Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust, organized the "Bridge to Wellness" workshop. The RAA team led a group activity titled "Solution to a Situation," which focused on addressing wellness challenges faced by older adults and discussing strategies for their improvement.







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CHARITABLE TRUST

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"Roopa Aur Aap understood my problems. Thank you for the support, care, and love during my difficult times."

"Thank you for showing me the beauty in the world. I'd like to thank Roopa ma'am and her team from the bottom of my heart for making me live my life again."

"We are now in a safe environment, all thanks to the support we got in our tough times."

You Are Not Alone,  
We Stand With You



**CONTACT US**

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**OUR SERVICES**

- Counselling / Mediation
- Social Worker Support
- Crisis Intervention
- Legal Support
- Immigration Support
- Elder Abuse Awareness
- Outreach Services Beyond New Zealand
- Awareness Campaigns
- Educational Workshops
- Children's Programs

**ABOUT US**

Since 2008, Roopa Aur Aap Charitable Trust has dedicated itself to supporting victims of domestic violence. Our focus is to empower them and address their day-to-day life issues. We care for our clients, so we offer culturally appropriate tailored services as per their needs. We strive to support them through crisis and trauma by taking care of their every vital requirement.

Our team comprises of skilled, experienced, qualified, and knowledgeable individuals fluent in multiple languages. We also provide legal and immigration consultation services, through professionals, to our clients facing various problems related to Legal and Immigration matters.

Additionally, we provide educative and informative workshops. We try our best to educate the migrant community about domestic violence and help them to get assimilated into the mainstream kiwi life.

We provide counselling services to strengthen relationships and bond families, which is free of cost. We prioritise the confidentiality of our clients.

**BHARTIYA SAMAJ**  
CHARITABLE TRUST





# Our Stakeholders



**Te Tari Matawaka**  
Office of Ethnic Communities



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

