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BAPS Charities Annual Health Fair promotes healthiness

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The health fair offered a range of services and information for children and adults. A number of volunteer healthcare specialists were involved including, physicians, pharmacists, dentists and nurses. Specialists in the fields of cardiology, pediatrics, gynecology, orthopedics, neurology, dermatology, gastro-entriology, pulmonary and endocrinology were also on hand and in total, provided personal consultations to over 450 visitors. "I really enjoyed volunteering at this event; working alongside BAPS Charities reminds me of the reason I became a doctor – to help people," said Dr. Sherry Merchant.

Until just recently my wife and I did not have insurance," said Ashok Patel of Hoffman Estates, IL. Neither of us visited a doctor in the past three years, and this health fair was extremely helpful to both of us. The doctors performed numerous tests to check for blood pressure, cholesterol etc. and made good suggestions and referrals," said Ashok Patel of Hoffman Estates, IL

All participants received preliminary physical examinations and had their blood pressure, blood sugar level and body mass index measured. "The dangers of undetected high blood pressure can be fatal," said Dr. Umang Patel, a healthcare physician who volunteered at the fair. "In the spirit of the saying, 'an ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure,' BAPS Charities is educating individuals about potential risk factors and prevention methods to improve their quality of life."

"The health fair addresses one of the growing concerns in healthcare today and that's physician access. In most cases we will go see one physician who'll be the quarterback but then eventually you will be referred to a specialist. It's hard to find both of them under one roof. This is one medium where patients can come and get a routine primary care check up and hopefully start initiating what is a wellness program for the rest of their life," expressed Dr. Mehul Sekhadia D.O. anesthesiologist at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. Dr. Sekhadia was lecturing physicians on Osteoporosis, metastatic cancer and vertebral compression fractures at the health lecture which was also hosted at the event.

Two weeks prior to the health fair, a separate teddy bear clinic was held for younger children. Over 70 children sat in special sessions and were taught about healthy eating habits along with how to maintain good hygiene. They learned the proper techniques of brushing their teeth, the importance of washing one's hands after sneezing, how to care for cuts and wounds, and handle emergency situations. "This fair was so much fun," said six-year-old Ashir Patel of Streamwood, IL. "I found out where germs come from and how to stop myself from getting sick by washing my hands regularly."

Many people in the United States do not seek healthcare for fear of not being able to afford it. BAPS Charities aims to create a new culture of preventative health care through interactive health fairs and educational seminars, which supplement government healthcare programs by raising awareness and providing information about alternative healthcare options.

"Dedicated volunteers, local physicians, and local community organizations, all contributed to the success of this event," said Dr. Sanjay Patel, BAPS Charities event organizer. "With their support BAPS Charities provided this service to over 450 members of the community."

The BAPS Charities Health Fair at the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Bartlett, IL is one of over 40 such fairs which BAPS Charities organizes annually throughout North America. In total, over 2,500 health care professionals from local communities treated nearly 12,500 participants across the nation.

In India, BAPS Charities regularly provides treatment to villagers in remote areas and manages 9 charitable hospitals and 11 mobile medical vans, which have treated over 2 million patients to date. Throughout the year,

BAPS Charities hosts Health fairs, Blood Donation Drives, Flu Vaccination Drives, Health Awareness Lectures, Walkathons, education and career development seminars, disaster relief operations, blood drives and much more. BAPS Charities sincerely serves the community, by improving the quality of life of individuals and families.

About BAPS Charities

BAPS Charities is a 501(c)(3) registered nonprofit international charity organization committed to sincerely serving the world by caring for individuals, families, and communities. It is affiliated with BAPS as an independent charity and social services arm. The 55,000 BAPS volunteers networked in over 3,300 centers around the world provide over 12 million volunteer-hours of service annually.

Among social service charities, BAPS Charities is a well-respected and trusted name. It has amassed over 50 years of firsthand experience in initiating, managing, and sustaining 160 humanitarian operations throughout the world in such diverse fields as: medical services, environmental services, community services, tribal services, and disaster relief services.

For additional information on BAPS Charities and its international and local philanthropic activities, please visit www.bapscharities.org

Photographs and Press release by: BAPS

Suresh Bodiwala

Chairman

Asian Media USA

Bus: (847) 679-8583

Fax: (847) 679-5336

Cell: (847)420-4789

sbodiwala@sbcglobal.net

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