

COMMUNITY BUILDER OF THE WEEK

CELEBRATING THOSE WHO STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY

How do you contribute to your community group, activity, or action?

I am the founder member of Gurmat Parchar Sewa Society (Compassionate Connection). I have been in the role of collaboration Officer for 10 years. I bring like-minded people together and initiate joint ventures so that everyone involved is able to reach their goals as an individual and as a group and give them a sense of purpose.

What significance does your community group, activity, or action hold?

When I moved to Australia from India, about 14 years ago, there were not many people in my community around me. I missed the sense of belongingness. However, I started going to the local community groups of Australia and it felt so good, and my sense of belongingness re-emerged. It makes me think that having a sense of community really unites us. Being a part of a community can make us feel as though we are a part of something greater than ourselves. Our "Compassionate Connections" wants people to feel this. We want people to feel that they belong and that they are important. Their basic needs of food shelter and a healthy environment are important.

Why do you volunteer?

I am motivated by seeing positive outcomes, and meeting and interacting with people gives me the energy to keep going. By empathizing with others and offering support, I cultivate a sense of gratitude for the trust and openness shown by those who share their problems. Drawing upon their values and teachings, I strive to provide meaningful suggestions and solutions, contributing to the betterment of the community and fostering their needs.

What achievements are you most proud of?

We have organised an annual tree planting event in Alice Springs since 2018 where we plant 500 trees every year. When I see that these plants are growing or when people come back and tell me...

“**Hey, the plant you gave last year is blooming or growing.**”

and they get fruits from the trees and share them with me, I feel my goal is achieved.



HARPAL SINGH SANDHU

Anything else you would like to say?

My objective in my life is to see people beyond their colour and culture. I believe that I can make a difference in this world and make it a better place to live with my actions and that's what most of the people I work with from various organisations also want to do. So, I wanted to bring all of those people together and make that happen. I would like to see everyone come together to help each other, to achieve more rather than struggling individually.

How many years have you called Alice Springs home?

Six Years (6)

What are your favourite sports teams, bands, or movies, and why?

Soccer. Not a fan of any team. I like to watch if it's a fun game. I like to listen to Satinder Sartaj, a Punjabi poet and singer.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO NOMINATE SOMEONE AS THE COMMUNITY BUILDER OF THE WEEK, PLEASE SEND YOUR NOMINATION VIA EMAIL TO: INFO@MASCF.ORG



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ENCOURAGE,
SUPPORT,
AMPLIFY**



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