

September '2019 Newsletter

The ServicePlace community has grown a lot since we last communicated. I am excited to fill you in on the details.

1. Elder-Care Pilot in Guwahati: We are about 3 months into the Pilot, which will run through the end of the year. We are working with around 25 elders, and activities are being planned on a weekly basis. The inspiration behind this effort in Guwahati, Amiya Sharma, has been able to start this effort under the auspices of RGVN a non-profit organization based out of Guwahati. To view a quick video of our elders celebrating World Senior Citizen Day, please check out our website at: <http://serviceplace.org/elder-care.html>

To support this work, and our other India based projects, we are planning to start a non-profit sister organization in India. In addition to organizing the projects, and applying for grants locally, we would also like to start a small IT support group for the Elder Care project.

Although paid services (transportation, food, pharmacy, etc.) are available in many parts of India, the vision of ServicePlace is to make ours a Community based effort. In person, and using the App, we would like our elders to be able to support and help each other out, organize community events (as they are doing in the Guwahati Pilot), and still be able to access the external volunteer and paid services – should the need arise.

2. This next phase marks a significant escalation in our community engagement. To support this, we are putting into high gear our fund raising efforts. Our Sept 20th Confluence (Classical Indian music) concert is also a fund-raiser for ServicePlace (flier attached). We are now set up to receive our donations directly via our web site. <http://serviceplace.org/contribute.html>

The sponsor levels for this year have been set as follows:

- A. Fund-Raising Event (Sept 20th) Sponsor - \$100 and up. Includes 2 tickets to the Confluence concert.
- B. Save-A-Life Video Sponsor. \$500+, we will acknowledge you in one or more Video Credits.
- C. Elder Care app/equipment sponsor. \$1000. One smartphone and 3 months of data usage for your participating Elder Person in India.
- D. Documentary Sponsor: \$2000. We will acknowledge you as a sponsor in our next documentary.
- E. Annual Gold Sponsor for ServicePlace. \$5000. This will support all four of our efforts and be acknowledged in all the areas.

3. Our CPR video is now available in 8 languages. <http://serviceplace.org/cpr-videos.html>

We now have started a multi-department effort to develop the next generation CPR dummy at IIT Kharagpur. This next gen product will give much more precise training feedback, and be connected to the Save-A-Life app via bluetooth.

The current App developed by Celtic has been revamped so that it can collect the name and phone number for every user who goes through CPR training. The music that is used for CPR training has a new non-copyrighted version, thanks to our musician friend Pandit Subhen Chatterjee. A future generation of this App will be bluetooth enabled to support the next gen CPR dummies being developed.

A CPR training event is being held in Phoenix on September 18th (flier attached), in conjunction with a local non-profit - BCAA's youth group. It is a free event and will be hosted by our very own – Dr. Tapas Mondal.

Work on the next few Save-a-life modules will be starting up next month, and the vision is to provide life saving videos/instruction that will enable the bystander to recognize and act in a variety of life threatening situations. We anticipate doing 12-15 modules in all, and positioning them for possible inclusion in school/college curriculum (in India to start with).

4. The next Cultural Preservation documentary will be on Odisha. The video material and interviews have been collected over several trips to Odisha this spring. Part of the coverage is from the very South-West of Odisha – Raygada district. And of course, part of the coverage centers around Puri, the Jagannath Temple, and the various kinds of arts (from temple paintings to fabric/potochitra)

Our official organization has also grown, as we welcome Tery Spataro as the Treasurer of ServicePlace starting August 1. Our budget was prepared with Tery's help and presented at the Annual Meeting at the end of July, and the 990 and statutory filings have been completed in a timely manner.

Thanks again for your participation in, and continuing support of ServicePlace. We have set out some ambitious plans for this year – the third year of our presence as an organization. I feel confident that, working together, we can make it all happen.

Regards,