



Hampton Roads Malayalee Association (HRMA)

www.hrmava.com

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Annual Report 2021

In many ways, especially because of the pandemic, the last several years have been unusual, but we've learned to operate in new ways. Despite the pandemic condition, the new HRMA committee, led by NisarajDharmarajan (President HRMA), has made every effort to assist society as a whole and our community members. Throughout the year, we've improved our collaborative mentality, and our passion for serving our community has enabled us produce a number of initiatives that follow the Covid principles. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the community for its unwavering support of HRMA's efforts. HRMA received 45 subscriptions for the year 2021

The HRMA executive committee for the term 2021-2022 were:

- Committee President: NisarajDharmarajan
- Vice President: Chanchal Rachel
- Treasurer: Sreejith Chandran
- Secretary: Latha Sasidharan Nair
- Board of Directors: Deepak Satheesh, Prajeesh Sekhar, Aneesh Panachikkuth , Biju Abraham

HRMA's contribution to fight against COVID-19

During the first quarter, we joined hands with Hague Pharmacy to obtain Covid Vaccine for our community members falling under Phase 1A and 1B categories. We also devised a year-long roadmap for 2021 and established multiple subcommittees to oversee and execute our planned programs. We also created a COVID-19 Fundraising Campaign to aid India in its fight against the crisis. HRMA as a community raised \$1600, which is equal to Rs106,750 (One Lakh Six Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty rupees), and contributed to Kerala's Chief Minister Distress Relief Fund (CMDRF) to aid India's fight against the COVID-19 disaster. The funds generated through this campaign were all donated to the Kerala Chief Ministers' Disaster Relief Fund.

Clean the Bay Day

On June 5th 2021, HRMA in association with Chesapeake Bay Foundation volunteered for the "Clean the Bay Day" to help clean, protect, and make our shorelines even more beautiful by picking up litter. By participating in Clean the Bay Day 2021, our mission was to we pledge to get outside, pick up litter, and work to improve the wellbeing of the 18 million people and 3,000 species of plants and animals that call the Virginia watershed home. The event was organized at Sandbridge Beach and marked an attendance of 38 volunteers. The event witnessed active participation of HRMA Youth Club members to make a positive change in our community. We are truly proud of the steps we took together towards clean water, clean air, and sustainable resources for all. One of the highlights for the event was the food prepared by our own committee members. HRMA is also proud to announce that we are the winners for the Clean the Bay Day photo contest with Chesapeake Bay Foundation



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Malayalam Class

HRMA started a new batch for Malayalam Class on May 1, 2021 under the leadership of Chanchal Rachel. The focus was to introduce the kids to a fun and interactive learning experience of Malayalam Language. Due to the Covid situation, the classes are held online fortnightly. 14 kids from our community grabbed this opportunity and enrolled for the new batch of Malayalam Class.

Malayalam Class for Senior batch has 9 students on roll and managed by Volunteers (Snitha Krishnan, Rejith Raveendran, Linda Nisaraj) from our community following the Grade 2 syllabus prescribed by the Kerala State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT). We planned a Secret Santa Program for Malayalam students towards the end of the year, as well as a fun painting session on canvas in collaboration with MusePaint Bar. HRMA would like to thank all volunteers, parents, and kids who helped us with Malayalam Class. The cost associated with holding classes is covered by generous donations by our committee members.

HRMA Sports

Once COVID-19 restrictions were relaxed for outdoor events, HRMA ventured into conducting sports events and activities especially beneficial to the kids and youth in our community. HRMA conducted P. V. Chummar Memorial EverRolling Tennis Tournament on Saturday June 12, 2021 at Greenbrier Park Tennis Courts, Chesapeake. It was the first time HRMA was organizing Tennis Tournament. The event was a grand success with a participation of 32 players from our community. The tournament suited all players including beginners. It was run as an A-B-C-D drop-down event and catered to A players (experts), B players, C players and D Players (beginners). Trophies were awarded to the winners and losing finalists in each bracket. Winners from A bracket (father/son team Joy & George Kannarkat) won the 2021 P.V Chummar memorial ever rolling trophy. Many volunteers from HRMA community came together and worked as a team towards the success of conducting the tennis tournament. HRMA congratulates all the winners of Tennis Tournament in each bracket :

Group A - Dr Joy Kannarkat and George Kannarkat

Group B - Rajeev Kumar and Subin Raj

Group C - Ponniah Manikandan and Sujith Mitta

Group D - Rejith Raveendran and Prajeesh Sekhar

HRMA Youth Club Activities

HRMA is proud to have launched the Youth Club on May 15, 2021 which includes a wide range of activities catered for all children under 21. Through the initiative, HRMA aims to provide children with access to volunteering, social opportunities and supporting them to express their ideas. HRMA held our Youth Club Inaugural Meet via zoom on Saturday, May 15th from 5:30PM to 6:30PM. We have 38 Youth Club Members registered and all our members had fun meeting each other. HRMA has actively involved the youth members in all the association's relevant activities such as Clean the Bay Day, Tennis Tournament, Onam, Picnic, Thanksgiving Food Drive, and SpringFest programs. Thank you to all the

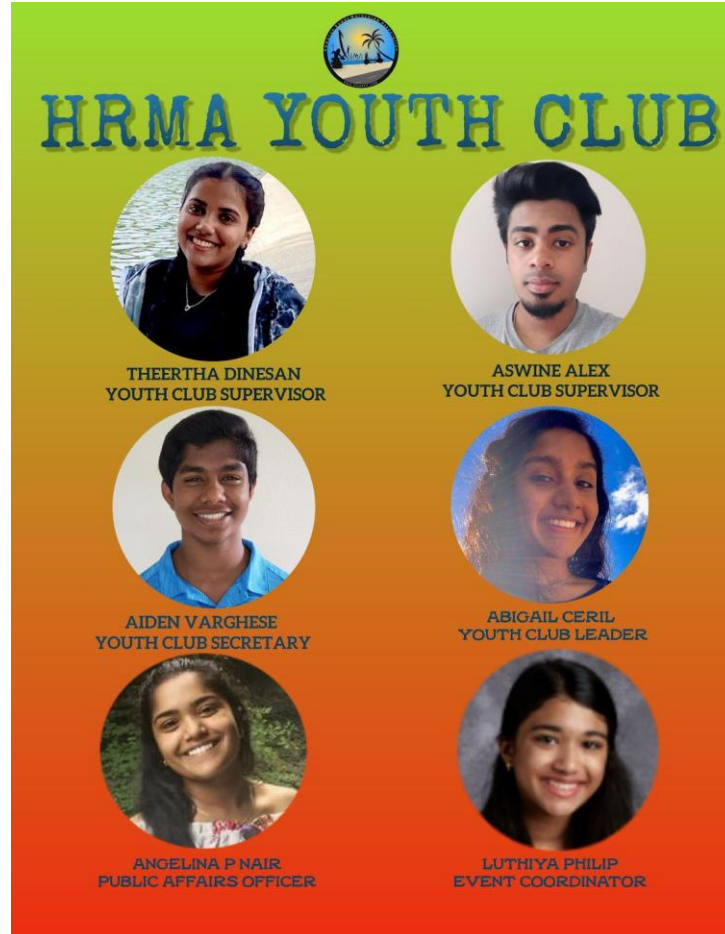


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parents for their support and we would like to take this opportunity to introduce our Youth Club Leaders:



HRMA Youth Club Movie Night

HRMA Youth Club held an Outdoor Movie Night on Saturday, July 24th with lots of fun activities. HYC Leaders coordinated lot of outdoor games for the youths and they all had a blast. Around 30 youth club members participated in the movie night. Volunteers played a key role in making this Movie Night a reality.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Youth Club wanted to give back to the community and they thought thanksgiving was the best time to do so. HRMA Youth Club Coordinated a Food Drive for Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia and collected



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355 lbs of non-perishable food items from our community. The Food Drive was conducted from 13th to 20th November and various drop sites were set up all over Hampton Roads. All food collected were turned in to the food bank before Thanksgiving so as to help the needy during the holiday season.

Thanksgiving Party

HRMA Youth Club hosted a Thanksgiving Potluck Party exclusively for the Youth Club members on Saturday, November 20th at Bayside Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. Thanksgiving Party included a welcome speech by HYC Supervisor Aswine Alex, Thanksgiving message by Dr. Govindan Palat, Thanksgiving lunch, Craft activities, Game sessions, and Vote of Thanks by HYC Supervisor Theertha Dinesen. Thank you to all the volunteers, parents and youths that took time in bringing food for the potluck and for making the Thanksgiving party a grand success.

HRMA Onam 2021

HRMA conducted Onam Celebration on August 14, 2021 at the Hindu Temple of Hampton Roads. It was unprecedented in a lot of ways with the best ever venue, authentic Onam Sadya, and engaging participation from our Youth Club. The cultural show was a feast for our eyes with amazing performances from our community members. We also conducted fun filled games which took the whole event to another level. All of our wonderful volunteers invested great energy and time into making a lip-smacking Onam Sadya. Everyone who attended the event truly enjoyed the mind-boggling medley of colors, flavors, and aromas spread on a shiny, emerald banana leaf.

HRMA Picnic:

This year's annual picnic took place on October 16, 2021 at the Chesapeake City Park Shelter. The thattukadam managed by Philip was an instant hit and received rave reviews from the community. Volunteers served selflessly to conduct the games and cook the food which helped us to manage the event in a smooth and efficient manner. HRMA congratulated and distributed awards and coupons to the winners for games conducted as part of the picnic.

Blood Drive

HRMA partnered with the American Red Cross to conduct our first ever blood drive for our community. The event was conducted at St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church, on December 5, 2021. The blood drive was a great success and with the support from HRMA community members and non-community members, American Red Cross was able to collect 34 units of blood.

HRMA Newsletters

In the interest of being connected with community, HRMA committee decided to publish newsletter twice a year (June, December). HRMA wanted to recognize community contributions/achievements, awards, professional advancements and significant life events of Malayalees in the Hampton roads



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area. Primary focus was to inspire and motivate the school aged children in the academics as well as in any area of talent by the citations in the newsletter.

HRMA Cricket Team

Kerala Kombans HRMA won the 8th Ruchit Patel Memorial Cricket Tournament (RPMT) , the first championship win since the team's inception in 2016. In the finals, held at Chesapeake Temple Grounds on December 5th, 2021, Kombans defeated Newport News Lions by 4 wickets. The Championship victory marked significant milestone for Kombans Team

HRMA Sponsors:

For the year 2021, our sponsorship subcommittee has received sponsorships from our Sponsors Royal Bazaar , Deepak Satheesh, Realtor - Fathom Realty, Lakeshore Dental, Anas Halal Grocery, and Papa Johns. HRMA received a total of \$1750+ coupons for the year 2021 as sponsorships. Sponsors are always a big part of moving the association forward and for that we are thankful to all our sponsors.

As a result of the work of the Executive Committee, HRMA had a very productive year in 2021. Furthermore, people are showing interest in performing at our events, and many volunteers are offering their help. A detailed evaluation of all HRMA events was conducted by the executive committee at various committee meetings. Our sincere appreciation goes out to the selfless volunteers who have supported HRMA's efforts unwaveringly, and we look forward to another exciting year ahead.