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Gene Efird | Financial Advisor

Donald Brown ChFC®, CAP® | Wealth Management Advisor

Haley Efird | Director of Operations & Client Servicing

Emily Smith | Director of Investment Operations

Deva Martin | Scheduling Coordinator

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Manan Shah
Chair, Taste of India

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends, Guests, Sponsors, and Esteemed Members of Our Community,

Namaste and Welcome to **16th Taste of India 2025**.

I welcome you all with the deepest humility and pride in my heart to this vibrant celebration of culture, cuisine and togetherness that we call TASTE OF INDIA. This celebration is more than an event, it is a mosaic laid in epochs of heritage, harmony and hope. Through flavors, rhythms, colors and connections, we invite you to experience the soul of India in all its richness and generosity. Together we celebrate the essence of a culture that has inspired the world for millennia.

This year's theme "**INDIA'S TIMELESS TRADITIONS & INSPIRING INNOVATIONS**" elegantly captures the dual spirit of India. We embrace and honor the ancient wisdom and heritage that have guided us through centuries, while also celebrating the forward-thinking and ever-evolving ingenuity that positions India at the forefront of global innovations today. From Ayurveda to Artificial Intelligence, from Classical Arts to Cutting-Edge Startups, India's story is one of graceful continuity and bold transformations.

In a world facing complex challenges and uncertainties like conflict, climate, inequality or cultural division, we believe that cultural celebration can be a powerful unifier. Taste of India creates space for understanding, for conversation, and for connection. They remind us that while we may come from different backgrounds, our aspirations are shared. It is through cultural exchange and mutual acceptance that we can forge stronger communities built on respect and cooperation.

I welcome you all in the spirit of **VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM – "the world is one family"**. I invite you all to break down walls and build bridges. This ancient Indian ideal calls upon us to look beyond borders and differences, and to embrace one another with empathy, respect, and shared purpose. I would like to remind you all that as global citizens, we have a responsibility to uplift one another, to learn from each other, and to create a future where all voices are heard and valued. It is a timeless principle that feels more relevant today than ever before.

Taste of India is a living expression of the above vision. Whether it is your first time attending or you have been part of this journey for years, your presence strengthens our commitment to fostering mutual growth and understanding through culture. With each booth you visit, performance you witness, or a conversation you strike today, you are contributing to a global dialogue rooted in unity, celebration and love.

To our sponsors and partners, thank you for your generous support and belief in our mission. To our guests, thank you for being here, for celebrating by opening your hearts to colors and culture of India.

Your presence today is a powerful affirmation of the values we cherish: Unity in Diversity, Pride in Heritage and Hope for Brighter Tomorrow.

Enjoy the festivities, explore new traditions, and let's continue building bridges together.

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TO ALL ATTENDING THE
16TH ANNUAL TASTE OF INDIA
OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY'S CHARTWAY ARENA
"INDIA'S TIMELESS TRADITIONS AND INSPIRING INNOVATIONS"
SATURDAY, April 26, 2025

Greetings!

As Mayor of the City of Norfolk, it gives me great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all those attending the 16th Annual Taste of India. Norfolk is honored to be the host city for this all-day festival at ODU's Chartway Arena.

Since its inception in April of 2007, Taste of India has served as our region's largest single gathering of Asian Indians. This year's festival themed "Mystical India: Highlighting India's Mythology and Folklore," invites attendees to enjoy this authentic and informal window into Indian culture and explore India's incredibly diverse traditions, customs, languages, attire, music, food, and dance. Thank you to all event organizers, sponsors, and volunteers for providing local residents with the opportunity to experience India's rich cultural heritage through cuisine from area restaurants, shopping, children's activities and live entertainment.

As a city characterized by diversity, we are inspired by this annual display of Asian Indian heritage, culture, and authentic cuisine. Hampton Roads is home to a vibrant Asian Indian population comprised of IT professionals, scientists, physicians, engineers, professors, business owners and more. I would like to commend Old Dominion University for recognizing the role Asian Indian Americans have on the success and beauty of our city and for bringing India to our backyards for all to experience.

We are glad you are here, so please enjoy yourself, enjoy sampling the many different "Tastes of India", and enjoy Norfolk.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Cooper Alexander, Ph.D.
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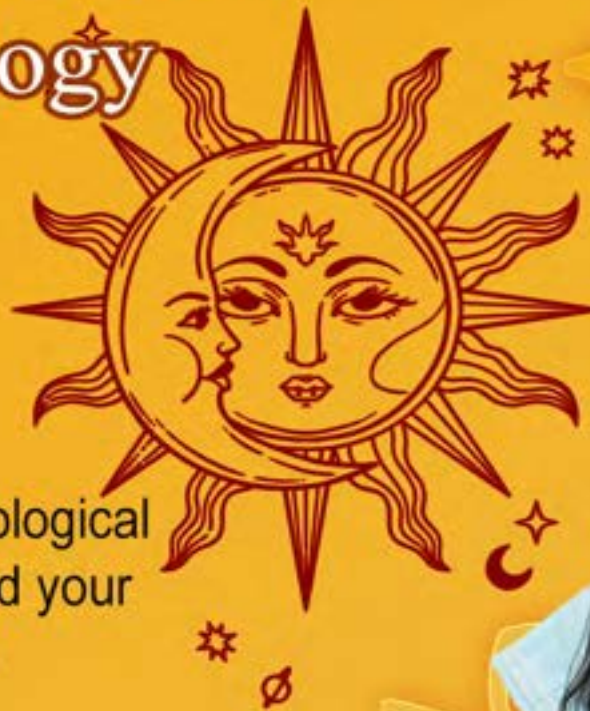
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PUBLICATIONS

Editor's Note

It was indeed a pleasure to work closely with all the other Taste of India committee members as chair of the publications committee. I thank all of them for their great cooperation. In particular, like to recognize Brijesh Patel, Manan Shah, for their continued help.

This is the 12th year the souvenir is published by The Virginian Pilot - now Virginia Media.. I wish to recognize Sanjay Patel (Photographer) who helped in creating the lovely collages from last years Taste of India event. All committee chairs provided relevant information about the activities. This year Brijesh Patel and his team provided excellent support in creating artwork, cover page design and relevant material for the souvenir. I sincerely appreciate their help. Any error/omissions are unintentional and regretted.

Wishing continuing success to TASTE OF INDIA for years to come.

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Words to Ponder...

- Kites rise highest against the wind, not with it. —Winston Churchill
- Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it does not matter. —Mark Twain
- The mold of a man's fortune is his own hands. —Francis Bacon
- Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible. —Dalai Lama
- Sometimes you win, sometimes you learn. —John Maxwell
- Relax, destiny has a way of finding us. —Lisa Kleypas
- Small hinges swing big doors —If we make small changes in life, it can lead to big results. —W. Clement Stone
- Never regret a day in your life: Good days give Happiness; Bad days give Experience; Worst days give Lessons, and Best days give Memories. — Sukhraj Dhillon

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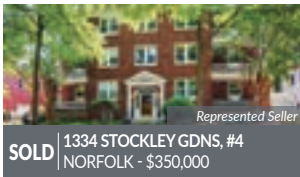
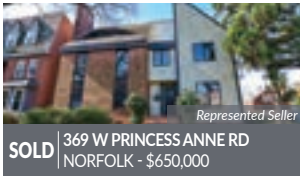
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- Average market time for sold listings - 15 days (my listings sold twice as fast as the local market average of 36 days)
- Median market time for sold listings - 6 days (my listings sold 3 times faster than the local market average of 19 days)
- 100% of the listings closed on or before the date in the contract
- 100% of the listings appraised at purchase price or higher

BUYER RESULTS

- Average contract to closing time for resale purchases - 28 days
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“Best wishes to Taste of India 2025”

From,

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Dr. Kinjal Sohagia is a board-certified and fellowship-trained physician in Sports Medicine and Interventional Pain Management. He has 12+ years of extensive experience in a variety of non-surgical procedures to help patients suffering from sports injuries, spine, vertebral, and disc-related problems. He has a special interest in back pain, overuse injuries, and regenerative medicine.

Dr. Sohagia completed his residency at the Institute for Family Health, NY where he also provided medical coverage for numerous athletic events, including the New York City Marathon in 2007 and 2008. He completed his fellowship at the University of Utah which is recognized as one of the top training programs in the field of sports medicine. During his fellowship training, Dr. Sohagia received extensive training in various spinal procedures and other non-operative techniques to treat back pain. He also provided medical coverage for orthopedic and sports injuries at various ski clinics and athletic events. He received extensive training in advanced spinal procedures and other techniques for non-operative treatment of back pain.

Dr. Sohagia is a member of the North American Spine Society, American Medical Society for Sports Medicine, American Medical College of Sports Medicine, and American Academy of Family Medicine. He enjoys painting, outdoor sports, and spending time with his family.



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It has been my pleasure and honor to be involved with the **TASTE OF INDIA** from its inception and also as past Chair. I am glad to see Taste of India celebrating its 15th annual event after a break due to the pandemic. The event has significantly grown over the years and the **HAMPTON ROADS** area has been fortunate to be able to enjoy a **TASTE OF INDIA** without leaving Hampton Roads.

An event such as this is possible only by full dedication and hard work of its volunteers. I would like to dedicate my appreciation to them and wish them continued success for years to come.

Ashok Patel

Wishing continuing success to

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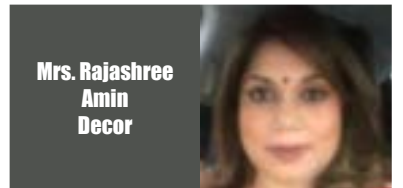
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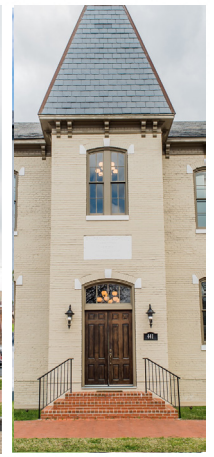
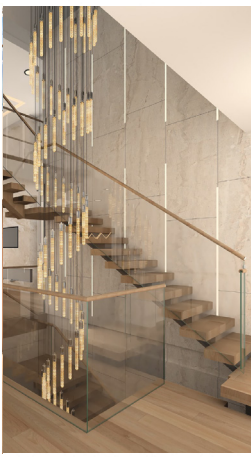
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Meghana Shah
Chair, Community Outreach

At the heart of Taste of India lies a profound commitment to giving back to the community. Our organization thrives thanks to the selfless efforts of dedicated individuals who volunteer their time, provide financial support, and work tirelessly to make a positive impact.

Our mission is to unite the community through acts of kindness, compassion, and joy, ultimately enhancing the lives of those in need. By giving back, we collectively contribute to creating a meaningful difference in people's lives.

The Community Outreach team is dedicated to upholding Taste of India's mission of service. With kindness and love, we work to support various communities, spreading kindness and support far and wide.



Thanks to the unwavering support of our team and members, we've expanded our efforts to:

- Distribute handmade holiday cards to hospital patients
- Donate clothing, shoes, and essential items to those in need
- Bring joy to seniors through Valentine's treats and breakfast
- Provide snacks and food to local public schools for underprivileged children
- Send gifts to young kids during holidays
- Support local food pantries and homeless shelters
- Contribute to medical research, including Multiple Sclerosis initiatives
- Participate in volunteer events, such as the Shamrock Marathon
- **Honored Our Heroes:** Participated in the Wreaths Across America event, honoring and respecting those who have served our country
- **Supported Families in Need:** Provided breakfast/meal to McDonald House, who provides a homely environment to families needing to stay near CHKD hospital for their kids

As Chair of Community Outreach, I'm proud to lead a team of dedicated individuals who share a passion for giving back. We're committed to arranging more events to support our community.



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CULTURAL & THEME



Dharti Patel
Cultural & Theme Chair

India's Timeless Traditions and Inspiring Innovations

India is a land where ancient traditions seamlessly merge with groundbreaking innovations. With a history spanning thousands of years, India has been a cradle of cultural heritage, spirituality, and scientific advancements. Today, it continues to be a global leader in technology, space exploration, and medicine while preserving its deep-rooted traditions.

Ancient Traditions

India is the birthplace of major world religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism. Religious rituals, yoga, and meditation, which originated in India, are now practiced worldwide for spiritual and mental well-being. Festivals such as Diwali, Holi, Eid, Christmas, and Gurpurab reflect India's diversity and unity.

Ayurveda, an ancient system of medicine recognized globally for its preventive and therapeutic approaches, has been practiced for over 5,000 years. The use of natural herbs, yoga, and holistic healing methods continues to influence modern medicine. India's classical dance forms, such as Bharatanatyam, Kathak, and Odissi, have evolved over centuries, preserving cultural storytelling through movement. Traditional music, including Hindustani and Carnatic styles, has inspired global musicians. Indian handicrafts, textiles, and paintings, such as Madhubani and Tanjore, continue to be treasured worldwide.

India's Innovations

India's contribution to mathematics, including the concept of zero and the decimal system, has shaped global numerical systems. These foundational principles continue to influence modern mathematics, science, and technology. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has made remarkable advancements in space technology. Missions such as Chandrayaan (India's lunar exploration program) and Mangalyaan (Mars Orbiter Mission) have established India as a leader in space exploration at a fraction of global costs.

India is at the forefront of the digital revolution with initiatives such as Digital India, UPI (Unified Payments Interface), and Aadhaar, the world's largest biometric identification system. These innovations have transformed banking, governance, and everyday transactions.

India is one of the world's largest producers of generic medicines and vaccines. The country played a crucial role in supplying COVID-19 vaccines globally. Innovations in telemedicine and affordable healthcare solutions have made medical services more accessible.

With a strong commitment to sustainability, India is investing in solar and wind energy. The International Solar Alliance, led by India, promotes the use of solar power worldwide. The country's push for electric vehicles (EVs) and clean energy solutions demonstrates its commitment to a greener future.

India has emerged as a global startup hub, with companies innovating in fintech, edtech, and artificial intelligence. Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Mumbai have become major centers for technology and innovation, attracting global investors.

India's success lies in its ability to blend tradition with innovation. From using artificial intelligence in traditional handloom weaving to incorporating ancient yoga techniques in modern wellness apps, India embraces the old while adapting to the new. Even in education, the Gurukul system of personalized learning is being reimaged through online platforms.

India's rich traditions continue to provide a strong foundation for its rapid innovations. As the nation progresses, it retains its cultural essence while pioneering breakthroughs in technology, space, and healthcare. This unique blend of heritage and modernity makes India a remarkable example of how tradition and innovation can coexist, inspiring the world.



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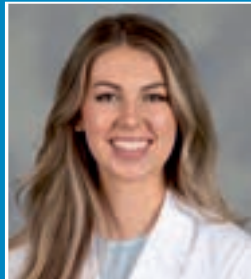
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Rajeshree Amin
Chair, Decor

As an experienced professional and a dedicated classical dancer/choreographer, I also have a deep passion for decor that seamlessly blends functionality with aesthetics, infusing creativity and purpose into every space. Rooted in compassion, my character fosters meaningful connections, enriching every endeavor with empathy and artistic vision.

Title: A Fusion of Heritage and Modern Design

Traditional Indian design thrives on layering various textures and vibrant colors, exemplifying Indian heritage and culture through the use of intricate wooden carvings and textiles such as silk and cotton. This year, Taste of India aims to elevate this timeless Indian design by incorporating contemporary elements, including brass accents, heritage paintings, and bright fabrics. These designs will strike a balance, blending the old with the new, while preserving Indian heritage and welcoming modern revitalization.

Decor Team Members: Margi Shah, Parita Patel, Ankur Khullar, Raji Kaloji, Dharti Patel





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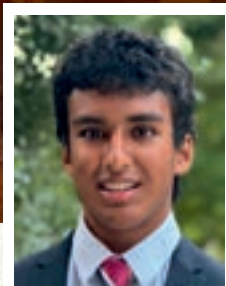
On behalf of the Taste of India 2025 Sponsorship Committee, I want to extend a heartfelt and joyous thank you to our incredible sponsors! Your generosity and unwavering support has been the driving force behind the success of this celebration, allowing us to bring our community together in a vibrant showcase of India's rich cultural heritage.

A special and resounding THANK YOU to our Diamond, Platinum, Gold, and Silver sponsors. Your exceptional support has truly elevated this event in ways that words can hardly capture.

Thanks to your generosity and commitment, we've been able to make this occasion bigger, brighter, and more impactful than ever before. Your support has allowed us to showcase the beauty, rich traditions, and vibrant spirit of India to a broader audience, fostering deeper connections, greater understanding, and a more profound appreciation of this incredible culture. We are grateful for your invaluable contributions, which has played a crucial role in the success of this event.

I feel immensely proud to be part of such a passionate and dedicated team. My deepest gratitude goes to Manan Shah, Chair of Taste of India, for his outstanding leadership and vision, as well as Dr. Rutul Shah and all of our community leaders for their tireless efforts in promoting this event and uniting our community. Your contributions have been nothing short of extraordinary.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for making Taste of India 2025 an unforgettable celebration. Your support, enthusiasm, and dedication truly brought the event to life in ways that exceeded all expectations. We are genuinely humbled by the energy and passion that was brought to this experience, and it's because of you that we were able to create something so special. We can't wait to collaborate again in the future, bringing even more incredible experiences to life and continuing to build on the success of this year's event. Here's to many more unforgettable moments and shared achievements ahead!



YOUTH

Aarush Desai

Nidhi Aleti

———— Chair, Youth Committee ————

Hello everybody, we are grateful and excited to be taking on this new role as youth chair for Taste of India this year. Our team and we will be doing our best to help our local youth be involved in and volunteer for Taste of India and its related events.

We hope to see both returning and new youth volunteers sign up to help this year. From helping run Contest Mania to staffing the youth games during Taste of India, our volunteers will be there, making sure everything is run smoothly.

We want to personally thank all the youth volunteers who will be helping us this year, as well as everyone else who helps run this amazing event. We are looking forward to seeing our Indian youth's efforts to support our beloved event.

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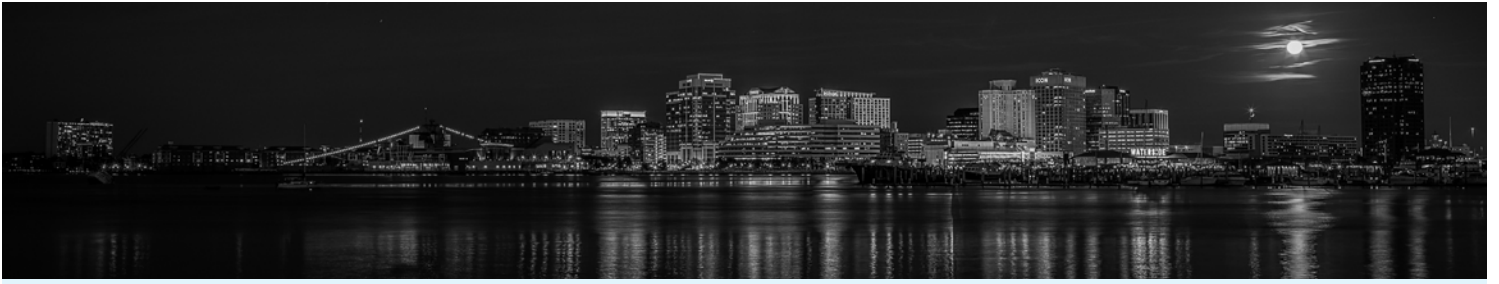


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Sireesha Aleti Contest Mania Chair

CONTEST MANIA

Taste of India organized Contest Mania to unite the community and provide a platform for individuals of all ages to showcase their talents. The event, was held over in March , attracted around 750+ participants who engaged in various contests, including academic competitions, artistic displays, sports, games, and fun challenges.

The Contests Included:

- **Kids & Youth:** Art, Math Bee, Geography Bee, Karaoke, Public Speaking, Poetry, Essay, Photography, Mini cake decorating.
- **Adults:** Rangoli, Paani Puri Eating, Charcuterie Board and more
- **Games and Sports:** Badminton, Chess, Carroms, Pool, Table Tennis, Tennis and Pickle Ball

I am honored to lead Contest Mania and be a part of Taste of India. The dedication of our volunteers, members, and organizers made it an unforgettable experience. Working together fostered a sense of positivity, teamwork, and collaboration, creating a ripple effect that uplifted everyone involved.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Taste of India Chair Manan Shah, entire team, Hindu Temple of Hampton Roads committee and every individual who played a part in this journey.

Thank you all for your commitment and for making this event unforgettable!

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*CONGRATULATIONS TO TOI 2025
CONTEST MANIA WINNERS*

Team Leads	Contest list/Age group	1st place	2nd place	3rd place
Hiral Shah & Payal Shah	Art Grades K-2	Annais Aron	Niharika M K	Aadhya Balaji
Hiral Shah & Payal Shah	Art Grades 3-5	Samit Katkar	Samhita Mishra	Priyanshi Swain
Hiral Shah & Payal Shah	Art Grades 6-8	Samyuktha Satheesh Kumar	Megha Solairajan	Neelakshi Swain
Mali Patel & Ruma Patel	Essay Grades 3-5	Priyanshi Swan	Shritik Mishra	Tharani Nivas
Mali Patel & Ruma Patel	Essay Grades 6-8	Megha Solairajan	Samyaktha Satheeshkumar	Shiv Sohagia
Mali Patel & Ruma Patel	Essay Grades 9-12	Sanavi Chitikeshi	-	-
Sanjeev Sagar	Geography Bee Grades 1-2	Sayan Dhaakl	Vaishnav Hari Sarma & Ariv Karthik	Neil Ajith
Sanjeev Sagar	Geography Bee Grades 3-5	Nolan Bhandari	Shritik Mishra	Sanjay Rajagopal & Samhita Mishra & Aadhav Karthikeyadurai & Hasini Saravanan
Sanjeev Sagar	Geography Bee Grades 6-8	Ronak Polkampalli	Hardik Baviskar	Rushil Pathak & Bharatwaj Bharanidharan
Aarti Sanghavi	Karaoke Grades K-2	Oliviya Ranjith	Tiara Dey	Akira Ponniah
Aarti Sanghavi	Karaoke Grades- 3-5	Shreya Aravind	Srinithi Murali	Anvika Saxena & Sharadhi Chakraborty
Aarti Sanghavi	Karaoke Grades-6-8	Yamini Kimora & Mihita Badiye	Riona Roychoudhary	Bharatwaj Bharanidharan
Daniel Viar & Bhranti Patel	Math Bee Grades 1-2	Neil Ajith	Aekaansh Shirke	Ariv Karthik
Daniel Viar & Bhranti Patel	Math Bee Grades 3-5	Samhita Mishra	Adit Saraswat	Nolan Bhandari
Daniel Viar & Bhranti Patel	Math Bee Grade 6-8	Aarav Malhotra	Abhinav Hari Sarma	Sharvil Shah
Urjita Dani	Mini Cake Decorating	Yoshita Padiri	Sanjana Sabbineni	Shruthi Girigdharan & Saanvi Jadhav
Jolly Patel	Poetry Grades K-1	Neil Ajith	-	-
Jolly Patel	Poetry Grade 2-4	Aashi Adhikari	Deetya Parol Upendra	-
Jolly Patel	Poetry Grades 5-7	Abhinav Hari Sharma	Hardik Bhaviskar	Devika Padiri
Jolly Patel	Poetry Grade 8-10	Adarsh Laxmanan	-	-
Bhranti Patel	Photography Grades K-2	Akira Ponniah Manikandan	Shreyansh Zulapi	Aarya Patil
Bhranti Patel	Photography Grades 3-5	Thara Ponniah Manikandan	Raeya Velappan	Pratiti Mohan
Bhranti Patel	Photography Grades 6-8	Shruthi Giridharan	Saanvi Jadhav	Archita Basnet
Madhu Komira	Public Speaking Grade 1-3	Aviksha Gowda	Tara Ponniah Manikanda	Prishka Sivakumar
Madhu Komira	Public Speaking Grade 4-6	Archita Basnet & Kriya Prabhu	Avika Vikas	Pranay Sabbineni & Moksh Komira
Madhu Komira	Public Speaking Grade 7-10	Harsha Kacham & Srivardhini Kesavamoorthy	Devika Padiri & Shiv Sohagla	Sanavi Chitikesi
Jawahhar Jayaraman	Chess - Open	Aaradhya Patil	MJ Jawahhar	Avyukt Thalluri
Jawahhar Jayaraman	Chess - Novice	Naga Harsha Kacham	Aadhav Karthikeyadurai	Samit Katkar
Jawahhar Jayaraman	Chess - Senior Rookie	Noah Kim	Adarsh Sharma	Abhinav Hari Sarma
Jawahhar Jayaraman	Chess - Junior Rookie	Reyansh Mishra	Adit Saraswat	Sayan Dhakal
Dona Basu	Rangoli	Priyanka Pandhare & Ketaki Madkikar	Mayuri Patil	Rekha Padiri

*CONGRATULATIONS TO TOI 2025
CONTEST MANIA WINNERS*

Team Leads	Contest list/Age group	1st place	2nd place	3rd place
Sheela Shah	Pani Puri Men's	Amit Kumar	V Voja Sivaramaskanthan	-
Sheela Shah	Pani Puri Women's	Debjani Kanjilal	Priti Zemse	-
Urjita Dani	Charcuteri Board	Priyanka Sharma	Maithili Barot	Mayuri Patil
Dhrumil Patel	8-Ball Pool - Youth	Dev Patel	-	-
Dhrumil Patel	8-Ball Pool - Adults	Neeraj Agarwal	Sanjay Kumar	-
Ponnaiah Manikandan	PickleBall - Mixed Doubles	Mohan Kornad & Pranav Mohan	Siva Velappan & Julie Soriano	
Ponnaiah Manikandan	PickleBall - Mens Doubles	Siva Velappan & Karthick Rajasingh	Prabhu Jayabhaskaran & Chandra Molli Jeyanthi	
Mahesh Patel & Sanjay Patel	Badminton Women's	Kanchan Mishra & Adwitha Mishra	Shivangni Singh & Vaishnavi Kaliappan	-
Mahesh Patel & Sanjay Patel	Badminton Men's	Aneesh PK & Chaitu Chowdary	Rahul Bandela & Sudhagar Selvaraj	
Pringal Parikh & Sai Kumar Ponnaganti & Srikanth Yapala	Bowling Women	Sruthi Senthilkumar	-	-
Pringal Parikh & Sai Kumar Ponnaganti & Srikanth Yapala	Bowling Men	Roumit Basera	-	-
Pringal Parikh & Sai Kumar Ponnaganti & Srikanth Yapala	Bowling Youth	Dev Patel	-	-
Ram Babu	Carroms Men's	Murali Krishnan Radhakrisnan Satishkumar Jayakanthan	Saikumar Ponnaganti & Ramaiah Vidiyala	-
Ram Babu	Carroms Woman's	Madhuvanathi Rajabhoj & Shyamala gowri subburam	Anitha Arumugam & Push-palatha Bauliah	-
Umang Agarwal & Satish Chekuri	Table Tennis Men's	Vivin Deshpande	Vijay Sheth	-
Umang Agarwal & Satish Chekuri	Table Tennis Women's	Upasna Aron	Sujata Dutta	-
Umang Agarwal & Satish Chekuri	Table Tennis Kids 7-9 yrs	Kavin Prabhu	Kyara Molli	-
Umang Agarwal & Satish Chekuri	Table Tennis Kids 10-12 yrs	Sharvil Shah	Ayaan Gupta	-
Umang Agarwal & Satish Chekuri	Table Tennis Youth 13-17 yrs	Mruthyunjay Jawahhar	Pranav Mohan	-
Veeram Shetty Guttula	Tennis Kids Doubles 2025	Ariv Karthik & Harish Sathish	Kyara Molli & Deetya Parol	-
Veeram Shetty Guttula	Tennis Youth 2025	Mruthyunjai Jawahhar	Anya Patel	-
Veeram Shetty Guttula	Tennis Adult Singles 2025	Sanjog Thapa	Naren Mohan	-
Veeram Shetty Guttula	Tennis Adult Doubles 2025	Vikram Aleti & Ram Babu Surapneni	Ritesh Rathi & Milind Chokshi	-

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Since 2010 AAPI-HR has donated \$1,150,000 to local free clinics, medical scholarships and health programs in Hampton Roads.

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- Free Clinics in Hampton Roads
- EVMS Medical Scholarship
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- Annual Health Camp



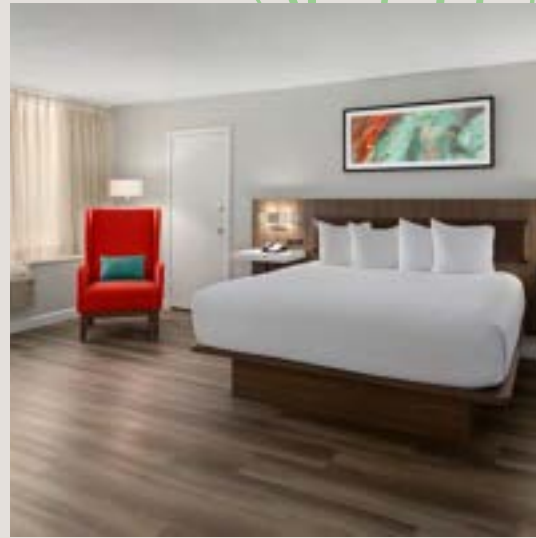
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Best wishes,



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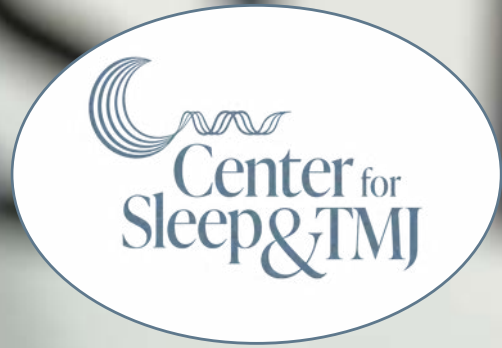


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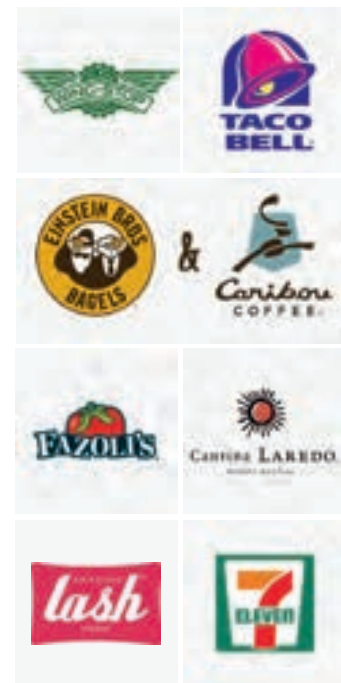
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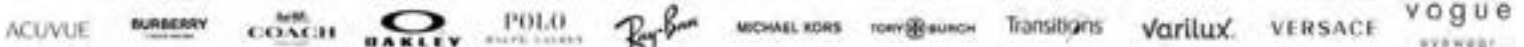
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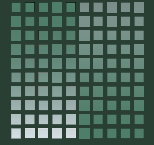
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