

AIWO Annual Activity 2021

Sammi Mander (President), Nilima Lad (Vice-President), Anjna Gupta (Treasurer), Renu Govindaiah (Secretary)

January 4	The Member Spotlight initiative was relaunched with profiles on Aruna Mathur, Anju Daphne Sinha, Shobhana Vakharia and Purvi Patel Bhandari.
February 2	AIWO met with HSHS, MMC Foundations to discuss possibility of a joint fundraising event to benefit a community health initiative. Further talks suspended pending an in-person event becoming a possibility.
February 22	AIWO filed annual tax returns through Cowan, Epperson and Associates and paid \$453 in Federal and \$333 in State taxes.
February 22	EC and members of the advisory body participated in Sangamon County Health Needs Assessment Survey for the identification of key areas to be included in the County Health Improvement Plan.
March	EC designed and developed AIWO spirit-wear for members to wear at charity events and otherwise. EC proposed a hike in annual membership fee to \$100 from \$30. Resolution in favor of the increase was passed by the general body.
Feb/Mar	EC researched and weighed the pros & cons of filing for tax-exempt status . Though a favorable proposition, EC determined that the task of handling receipts and remittances as a 501c3 for India Night necessitated a dedicated accountant and decided against a status change during its tenure.
May 7	AIWO launched the Breath for India campaign partnering with Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach, IAGS and HTGS.
May 23	Annual lunch was organized as a potluck picnic at Lake Springfield , in compliance with covid protocol and safety guidelines. Attended by 25 members.
May 30	The Breath for India campaign received front page coverage in State Journal Register in an in-depth article by Steven Spearie.
June 27	Book signing and reading event coordinated by AIWO, for children's book author Cinda Clickna at Montesorri SchoolHouse.
June 30	Breath for India portal brought down with over \$146,000 collected in net. AIWO coordinated with Springfield physicians (Drs. Ashish Moonat, Vidya Sundareshan, Bharati Jhaveri, Didar Singh) to procure and deploy an oxygen plant producing 450,000 liters per day, 40 oxygen concentrators, two ambulances equipped to provide rescue transport to low income COVID patients, 3400 pulse oximeters, 3350 digital thermometers, 89,500 masks to rural, under-served regions throughout the country.

September 13	AIWO donated 50 meals for the Homeless Shelter. Meals procured at and delivered by Hyvee.
September 18	AIWO participated in Walk to End Alzheimer's under the leadership of Nilima Lad. Members volunteered, walked and Nilima's social media campaign raised over \$1500 in funds for Alzheimer's research.
October 10	The only in-person general body meeting in 2021 was held at Sammi Mander's house to host guest speaker Karen Witter, Chair - Women for Women Giving Circle of CFLL and to present the incoming Executive Committee. Chandana Nandi confirmed as President, Rambha Chaudhary as VP, Kalpana Desai as Treasurer and Richa Pandey Kochar as Secretary.
November 4	AIWO donated 515 lbs of boxed food to Central Illinois Food Bank on Diwali. Supplies were procured at Sam's Club and delivered to the Food Bank.
November 14	AIWO hosted guest speaker Dr. Sudeep Sharma for a talk on Emotional Intelligence – Why and How it Matters. Great feedback was received from members in attendance.
November 21	AIWO was presented the Humanitarian of the Year Award by the Greater Springfield Interfaith Association (at its virtual Thanksgiving event, based on nomination submitted by Mr. Vinod Gupta); in recognition of its service to the Springfield community and for the humanitarian work done under the Breath for India campaign.
November 22	AIWO received news coverage in the State Journal Register for winning the Humanitarian of the Year Award.
December 18	Holiday Lunch planned at Roots Latin Grill was cancelled on account of rising Omriconos.