

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is *Be the Change*?

Be the Change is an annual national day of service to inspire and foster civic engagement through volunteerism and community service. Every year, hundreds of participants nationwide collectively contribute thousands of hours of community service in the spirit of Gandhi's most famous quote, "Be the change you wish to see in the world."

When is *Be the Change*?

The event is held on the first Saturday in October. This year, the event will occur on **Saturday, October 4th**.

What are the goals of *Be the Change*?

- Encourage South Asians and others around the country to collectively engage in community service
- Identify and develop leaders in the South Asian community nationwide.
- Foster effective partnerships with local and national organizations.
- Build unity within the South Asian community and with other groups in America.

In 2008, the theme of *Be the Change* is "**Solidarity in Service**"- which reflects the way in which public service can build coalitions, deepen relationships, and bring about solidarity among people of different backgrounds. *Be the Change* 2008 will be an opportunity for South Asians around the United States to engage in collective public service activities that will lead to further collaboration, civic engagement, and unity.

Who is SAALT?

South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT) is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to fostering an environment in which all South Asians in America can participate fully in civic and political life, and have influence over policies that affect them. SAALT works to achieve this goal through leadership development, community education, community education, advocacy, and local capacity building. SAALT cultivates partnerships with and among South Asian organizations and individuals; amplifies the concerns of disempowered community members; and works in collaboration with broader civil and immigrant rights movements.

Who are the national partners ?

The national partners of *Be the Change* 2008 are :

Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI)
Delta Epsilon Psi
Delta Phi Omega
Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)
North American South Asian Law Student Association
South Asian Marrow Association of Recruiters (SAMAR)
Sigma Beta Rho

Beta Chi Theta
Delta Kappa Delta
Delta Sigma Iota
Network of Indian Professionals (NetIP)
Sigma Sigma Rho
The Sikh Coalition

How can you be you participate in *Be the Change*?

1) Be a part of a core city planning team!

Currently, *Be the Change* will be hosted in 4 core cities including the Bay Area, Chicago, New York and Washington D.C. We are looking to expand to include additional core cities, specifically *Atlanta, Boston, Houston, New Jersey and Philadelphia.*

A core city planning team is responsible for spearheading *Be the Change* events in their city with support from SAALT.

2) Be a part of campus city planning team!

This year, *Be the Change* will be conducted in universities nationwide including University of North Carolina, University of Miami, Rutgers University and more. We are looking to include more students in this event from campuses all across the nation.

A campus planning team is responsible for spearheading *Be the Change* on their campus.

3) Volunteer in your city's *Be the Change* event!