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Indian Doctors Charity Clinic Continues to Provide Community Service

HOUSTON: The Indian Doctors Charity Clinic, reached out again to people in the community by providing some volunteers in the 10th annual BAPS health fair on Saturday, April 17.

Dr. Rakesh Mangal, president of the Board of the charity clinic, said that for the last two years, the IDCC has been taking the “free” healthcare out of the clinic and take it directly to the community. In addition to providing free medical services in the clinic to those who cannot afford care, the clinic volunteers feel privileged to work with hard working leaders of the BAPS medical team and supporters.

The ID Charity Clinic itself has provided very comprehensive health fairs at George R. Brown Convention center. Last year, the clinic provided medical screening and testing for more than 800 people in one single day. The tests included diabetes, hypertension, cholesterol, anemia, thyroid, osteoporosis, urinalysis, vision screen, dental screen, colon and prostate cancer screens. But this would not have been possible without the support of many local area hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, and laboratories. “It was our earnest effort to deliver the medical service to people in their own community setup,” said Dr. Mangal.

The IDC Charity clinic, a non-profit (401c3) organization, was established in 1999, for the solitary purpose of serving the Houston community people, who are in dire need of medical services that they could not afford. The clinic opens every Saturday (except major holidays) and is located at 6550 Maple Ridge, Suite 229.

All the services are completely free to anyone who cannot afford general medical care in Houston area. For the past ten years, the clinic has made valuable contribution to the Houstonians, thanks to the very generous support from people in the community, and a number of Indian American physicians who have contributed their time, expertise, and resources. There are over 1,200 Indian Amer-



From left: Dr. Ramesh Patel, Dr. Rakesh Mangal (President, Indian Doctors Charity Clinic), former Mayor Bill White, Dr Jay Chavda (Director, BAPS medical services) and Manzoor Hoorani at the BAPS Health Fair last Sturday

ican physicians in the Greater Houston area.

In 2005, the Indian Doctors Association (IDA) of Houston was very active in helping victims from Louisiana in the aftermath of the hurricane Katrina tragedy. These doctors received many messages of thanks for organizing a large task force of Indian American physicians to help the community. Their efforts were acknowledged not only by city of Houston (including then Houston city Mayor Bill White and President of the Harris County Medical Society), and the state of Texas (including Governor Rick Perry’s office and the President of Texas Medical Association), but also nationally by our Houstonian, former President George Herbert Walker Bush and Barbara Bush and Surgeon General, Dr. Richard Carmona.

In their continued efforts to serve the community, these doctors serving ID Charity Clinic have made alliances with “Gateway to Care” and imaging centers to provide healthcare beyond its physical barriers. The clinic is thankful to hospitals and their volunteer doctors that provided free surgeries to the clinic patients who otherwise



IDC Charity Clinic medical volunteers with Dr. Rakesh Mangal

would have had adverse outcomes without such generosity.

For providing these services on an ongoing basis, at no cost to many thousand of patients, the clinic has recurring expenses such as rent, medical and office supplies, equipments, and others.

The clinic is having a fundraiser on Sunday, May 2 at 5pm in the old Stafford Civic Center. Media Circle & Art promotions is bringing a very popular Bollywood Hindi and English comedy play—“The Blue Mug,” starring Konkona Sen Sharma and other Bollywood stars.

The clinic president says, “Every ones presence at the show will certainly advance the clinic’s mission of serving the less fortunate among us, as the country weathers the worst economic crisis, forcing many people out of jobs and healthcare coverage.”

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