



Walk for Values

A Walk for me, my family and my community!



21 Years of Walk For Values | 9 Years of Human Values Day

www.walkforvalues.com | www.humanvaluesday.com



Mayor, City of Stratford

Re: Proclamation Human Values Day on April 24, 2024

Your Worship Dear Mayor Martin Ritsma,,

Global peace and happiness can only be achieved by each one of us embracing the eternal and universal human values of truth, right conduct, peace, love and nonviolence. Human values are those attributes and qualities that are the very heart of humanity, representing the highest expression of the human spirit. While human values are non-denominational and transcend race, gender, nationality, caste, creed, faith and religion; practicing these universal human values can positively transform people and bring peace.

In today's world, we see increased conflict and violence attributable to religious and ethnic divisions; chaos and unrest due to the neglect of these fundamental human values at the individual, family, community, national and international levels. By bringing greater awareness to these human values, we can raise character at all levels. It is a transformation that will bring enrichment to a person's character, harmony in the home, accord in the community, order in the nation and peace in the world.

This increased awareness on the universal human values can be promoted at many levels in the community, seeking cooperation of all community and interfaith groups, educators, health care professionals and the downtrodden people living in remote communities. Many local and national governments have recognized the importance of practicing human values and acknowledged that these values should be highlighted on an on-going basis for everyone's benefit.

May 27, 2010 was a historic day when the Canadian Parliament congratulated the Sathya Sai School of Canada for its efforts in reinforcing values in Canada and around the world. Hon. Michelle Simson, MP, read a Statement by Members of the House of Commons and paid a tribute to the Sathya Sai School of Canada for spreading values by organizing a 'Walk For Values' to spread this important message. Messages poured from the Prime Minister, Premiers, Governors, Mayors, MPs, MPPs and Councilors to further spread these universal human values.

Since 2015, we have received over 300 proclamations. Several provinces, including Alberta, New Brunswick, British Columbia, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, including various municipalities, have already declared April 24 as Human Values Day. This widespread recognition underscores the growing understanding of the positive impact that the practice of human values can have on individuals and communities. Also, various landmarks across Canada like CN Tower, Niagara Falls, Toronto 3D sign, City Hall in Toronto, Hamilton Signature Sign, Mississauga Clock Tower, The Peace Bridge, BC Place in Vancouver, High Level Bridge in Edmonton and City Hall Vancouver all observed Human Values Day on April 24.

This year we are planning to have Walks, volunteer at local food banks and volunteer in planting tree to combating climate change and improving the environment.

With this request I have attached our Human Values Special Edition Newsletter. We look forward once again for The City of Stratford to proclaim April 24 as the "Human Values Day".

We propose that we all take the time to reflect on ourselves and observe April 24 every year as "Human Values Day." This proclamation will dedicate a day each year to increasing awareness of Canada's commitment to human values by encouraging citizens to foster a climate that promotes, supports and celebrates "excellence in character" in our schools, businesses, homes and community-based organizations in order to strengthen the families and communities in Canada and around the world. Rekindling human values around the world by Canadian initiative is step forward to achieving universal peace and security on the planet, and harmonious coexistence among different people and cultures. In addition, if you have any suggestions in bringing the transformation and it will be very much appreciated.

Thank you in advance.

Manish Rughani (Advisor Team - Walk for Values)



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SUMMARY OF OUR ORGANIZATION:

What is Walk for Values?

Walk for Values is a walkathon which was started in the town of Malvern, ON., in 2003 by the Parent Council of the Sathya Sai School of Toronto - Canada, an independent elementary school, registered with the Ontario Ministry of Education. The school's thrust is **Education in Human Values**, where the staff, parents, students and volunteers all focus on *integrating human values* into the regular curriculum.

In 2004, this Walk became a national event being conducted annually in the cities of Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, and *Coquitlam* where representatives from Vancouver, Surrey, and Abbotsford join together with the City's Teddy Bear Parade. In 2007, it continued at Dundas Square, in downtown Toronto and in 2007, it also became *international* when it was done in Australia in 5 major cities on a national scale. This is **the little Walk that grew** from just over 3000 walkers in Malvern in 2003 to over 5000 participants in 2010 at Yonge-Dundas Square, the heart of downtown Toronto, growing by the end of 2014 to an annual **international event**. Today this walk has grown to over **40 major cities** across **6 continents** and counting! Since 2013, this Walk is being conducted from the prestigious **Nathan Phillips Square**, at Toronto City Hall.

This Walk is aimed at raising awareness of the importance of practicing **positive values** at helping in the eradication of violence, bullying, drugs, crime, disrespect and greed in our society. The uniqueness of the event is that **it is not a fundraiser**. Rather, each participant resolves to make the community richer **by pledging to practice a value of his or her choice**. In this way, it is a "**walk of love**" aimed at making our city, one citizen at a time, richer in our commitment to human values as a first step towards raising our social conscience.

Mission Statement

"Walk for Values" is a walk designed to raise awareness of *Human Values* and to promote individual and collective responsibility for the progress of humanity, one step at a time.

Vision Statement

A non-monetary, non-denominational event, this unique initiative, based on the five basic universal human values of Truth, Right Conduct, Peace, Love and Non-violence, is part of a global drive to seed human consciousness with timeless affirmations such as hope, kindness, patience and honesty, along with other positive values deemed integral to the sustenance and survival of mankind.

It calls for an honest self-examination from all its participants who identify areas for personal growth and pledge to practice associated values not only for self-transformation but also collectively for social, environmental and global reformation.

The Objective of the "Walk for Values"

The objective of the "Walk for Values" is to give members of the community, participating organisations and students a clearer understanding of the importance of a values-based life. Basic Human Values of truth, right conduct, peace, love and non-violence have been on the decline in our communities and our nations. We can see this in the daily reports in the newspapers, radio and TV news broadcasts. Guns, violence and drugs have infiltrated our streets, our communities and our families. By doing nothing we contribute to the increase of this decline. As responsible citizens, we simply must do something about it. This WALK is an opportunity to fulfil that responsibility in a positive way by raising the awareness of human values in our community.



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The Values we walk for are Values to live by

TRUTH - honesty, integrity, optimism, excellence

RIGHT CONDUCT - courtesy, gratitude, fairplay, perseverance, determination, responsibility, sacrifice, initiative, leadership, courage, duty, ethics

PEACE - contentment, discipline, humility, patience, satisfaction, self-control, self-confidence, self-respect, understanding, modesty

LOVE - caring, compassion, reverence, forgiveness, generosity, kindness, enthusiasm, tolerance, dedication, devotion, unity

NON-VIOLENCE - gentleness, consideration, moderation, cooperation, brotherhood, equality, cultural respect, social justice

Current Locations, touching the 6 continents ~ North America, South America, Europe, Australia, Asia and Africa.

Canada: Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary Fort McMurray and Coquitlam. **USA:** New York, Austin, Houston, Dallas, Raleigh, Seattle, Detroit, Ann Arbor, Chicago and Tampa. Mexico **Australia:** Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Canberra, Perth and Brisbane. **India:** Chandigarh, Visakhapatnam New Delhi. **New Zealand:** Auckland. **Malaysia:** Kuala Lumpur **Hong Kong:** The city of Hong Kong. **Europe:** UK. **South America:** Suriname **Africa:** Hosted in all 13 regions in South Africa, covering 9 locations around the country.

Event Highlights focusing on the 10th to 21th Anniversary of Walk For Values and Human Values Day

- 9 Years of Human Values Day.
- It's not a fund raiser, but an event to promote Human Values and Character Development.
- The only major public event that supports & promotes excellence in Character in communities
- Collection of non-perishable food items - **with goal of 10 tons** - on a **National** basis for the Food Banks across Canada
- Conducting a **National Blood Donation** drive in partnership with CBS
- Collecting new and re-usable **clothing** to be distributed to the needy
- Donated **108 Children's' beds to charity** through the agency of '**Furniture Bank**'
- Colorful floats, music bands and participation by other local public schools
- Motivational keynote speakers from the various community organizations
- "**Go Green**" was the theme for 2009 and continues as an underlying goal of all events
- Promotion of family values with fun games and prizes for children
- Leaders from the three levels of Government and other community organisations lead the parade
- Ignite Partner of Pan Am Games & Alliance Partner for Canada 150
- Park cleaning
- Received Proclamation of Human Values Day Across Canada from Premiers of 4 Provinces and Mayors of over 300 municipalities across Canada since 2015
- For Human Values Day 2020, we supported Daily Food Bank and Malvern Food Bank by collecting and donating over 8000KG of necessity items.

Hosted by the Parent Council - Sathya Sai School of Toronto – Canada , Sathya Sai International Organization, Canada
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Values Without Borders!



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Summary of 2023 Proclamations



APRIL 24, 2023
HUMAN VALUES DAY
PROCLAMATIONS & LANDMARK RECOGNITION

WALK FOR VALUES

 City of Brampton	 City of Edmonton	 City of Kingston	 City of Markham	 City of Ottawa	 City of Pickering	 City of Prince Albert
 City of Quinte West	 Town of Richmond Hill	 City of Saskatoon	 City of Toronto	 Township of Scugog	 Town of Ajax	
 CN TOWER	 TRUTH	 RIGHT CONDUCT	 PEACE	 LOVE	 NON-VIOLENCE	 NIAGRA FALLS