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A non-profit organization dedicated to the overall achievement and advancement of South Asian professionals.

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About NetIP

The Network of Indian Professionals is a not for profit organization dedicated to the professional and cultural development, community service, philanthropy and the overall advancement of South Asian Americans and the communities in which we work and live.

Contact Us

<http://www.netipphoenix.org>
info@netipphoenix.org
<http://www.netip.org>

NetIP Phoenix 2009 Board

Sri Narasimhan
President

Poonam Patel
VP of Member Relations

Onika Patel
VP of Events

Rita Dangarwala
Secretary

Happy Anniversary, NetIP Phoenix!

It's been over one year since NetIP Phoenix was established and recognized as an official NetIP Chapter. We celebrated our one year anniversary at The Whip Lounge on Mill Ave. in Tempe on Friday April 10.

Thanks to all of the hard work and time put in by the NetIP Board members, committees, and members we have become one of the nation's fastest growing chapters!

Let's keep this momentum going as we move forward and continue to leave our mark on the Phoenix-area community!!

[Check out pictures from the Anniversary Party on our website!](#)



Committee Spotlight: Cultural Awareness Committee

NetIP Phoenix's Cultural Awareness Committee is dedicated to working with other organizations in the valley to promote, coordinate, and participate in various cultural events that the valley has to offer. Some organizations we have worked with include the India Association of AZ, Assistance for India's Development (AID), and Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Sorority at Arizona State University.

We were active participants with our NetIP booth at the India Association's Discover India Festival this past November in Downtown Phoenix. We also attended and promoted a wonderful musical performance by Sur Aur Taal hosted by AID India in February. Most recently, we attended and promoted the Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Sorority's 5th Annual "What a ONEderful World" Cultural Show where two of our very own members performed a few weeks ago. As far as future events are concerned, we will be hosting "Chai Chats", which will be a series of roundtable discussions addressing various cultural topics relating to South Asian culture.

If you have some ideas for future events and would like to get involved with the Cultural Awareness Committee, please contact the Committee Chair, Monali Shah at monali.shah99@gmail.com

Recap of Past Events

- **March's Monthly Social Event** took place at D'Arcy McGee's in Tempe on Thursday March 12th. Thank you to all who attended, it was great to see so many new faces!

- **April's Monthly Social Event** was held at The Whip Lounge on Mill Ave in Tempe on April 10th. It was great meeting everyone that was able to make it out!!

- Our very first **Chai Chat** was held on April 30th, attendees got the opportunity to discuss various topics including immigration reform, H1B visas, the TARP bill, and much more! Keep your eyes open for the next event in the Chai Chat Series!

Upcoming Events

Check out the latest information on upcoming events on our **Website Calendar**, the NetIP Phoenix Group on **Facebook**, and **Twitter** (<http://twitter.com/netipphoenix>).

Meghna Chandra
Treasurer

Ashar Zaman
Corporate Liaison

Monali Shah
Cultural Awareness
Committee Chair

Renuka Laddu
Professional Development
Committee Chair

Dipesh Goel
Social Committee Co-Chair

Pooja Suresh
Social Committee Co-Chair

Josh George
Political Awareness
Committee Chair

Palu Dedhia
Community Service
Committee Co-Chair

Ram Gopalakrishnan
Community Service
Committee Co-Chair

Murugan Patham
Technology Committee
Chair

Mark your calendars for NetIP Phoenix's future events!

May

Thursday May 7th - Professional Development Event followed by Monthly Networking Mixer – We will be having a keynote speaker, Jaime Casap, talk to us about GOOGLE and application innovation within universities.

6-7pm – Networking hour with snacks and refreshments on the **second floor of the Jobing.com building (4747 N. 22nd Street, Phoenix, AZ 85016)**

7-8pm – Google Speaker – Jaime Casap

8pm-onwards – Social Networking Event at **Merc Bar at the Biltmore, 2525 E Camelback Rd # 102 Phoenix, AZ 85016**

Cost: This event is FREE to all NETIP members, and will be \$5 for non-members. For any additional questions regarding this event, please call Renuka at 602-769-2584.

Saturday May 9th – NetIP Phoenix Members-Only* Spring Picnic – Come join us in thanking all of our members with a fun-filled afternoon of FREE food and games (Relay races, sand volleyball, basketball, kickball tournament, and water balloon toss)

Time: 1-4pm

Location: Tempe Kiwanis Park - Fiesta Picnic Ramadas (next to the Volleyball Courts), [Mill Ave. & All-America Way, Tempe](#) ([click for directions](#))

Cost: FREE for all members

Please RSVP by emailing vp_poonam@netipphoenix.org so that we can contact you in case we have to cancel due to any bad weather that may arise.

*This is a paid members-only event, if you would like to attend our member appreciation picnic its not too late to join! Visit www.netipphoenix.org and click "Join Now!!"

Thursday May 14th - NetIP 2nd Thursday Happy Hour - Come Meet and Network with other professional from the Valley at NetIP Phoenix's Second Thursday Happy Hour.

Time: 5:30 pm to 8 pm

Location: Sutra Sushi at Barcelona Scottsdale

(<http://www.sutrasushi.com/>)

Cost: FREE for members, \$5 for non-members

Appetizers provided! Half off Selected Drinks and Sushi rolls all night. For those who feel like dancing, stay late and enjoy Barcelona's Live band performing the latest hits.

Saturday, May 16th - Third Saturday Community Service Volunteer Event @ St. Mary's Food Bank - We have established this event as a monthly volunteering opportunity open to anyone who is interested! The dates for the third Saturday events are as follows: 5/16, 6/20, 7/18, 8/15, 9/19.

Time: 11:45am

Location: St. Mary's Food Bank, 2831 N. 31st Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85009

Please keep in mind that, due to health code and safety concerns, the food bank has implemented a required dress policy: Closed toe shoes, Shirts need to be short or long sleeved (No tank tops, spaghetti straps, muscle shirts), Shorts are okay, Better to not bring purses or backpacks.

Sunday, May 17 –Desi Speed Dating Event* - Open to all Desi singles between ages 21 and 39. Mini-dates in a fun and comfortable environment.

Time: 6-8pm

Location: The Melting Pot, Ahwatukhee - 3626 E Ray Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85044

Cost: \$25 per person includes appetizers

Please visit www.diyaeventz.com for more information

*** PLEASE NOTE THIS IS NOT A NETIP SPONSORED EVENT, IT IS AN EVENT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WITH NO AFFILIATION WITH NETIP PHOENIX***

June

Sunday, June 7 - NetIP-Phoenix Fundraiser for AID (Association for India's Development) – Join NetIP and other members of the community for an Indian Lunch Buffett benefiting AID!

Time: 11:00 - 12:30 and 1:00 to 2:30 pm

Location: Udupi Cafe- 1636 N. Scottsdale Rd, Tempe, 85281

Cost: \$15/person

ALL Proceeds will benefit AID's various projects, visit AID's website at www.aidindia.org to learn more about AID's initiatives.

Saturday, June 20 - Third Saturday Community Service Volunteer Event @ St. Mary's Food Bank

Time: 11:45am

Location: St. Mary's Food Bank, 2831 N. 31st Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85009

July

Saturday, July 18 - Third Saturday Community Service Volunteer Event @ St. Mary's Food Bank

Time: 11:45am

Location: St. Mary's Food Bank, 2831 N. 31st Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85009

Member Spotlight: Poonam Arora

Every month, NetIP Phoenix will be spotlighting a different NetIP Phoenix member to get their insight into various topics.

This month's Member Spotlight is on Poonam Arora. Poonam has been in Arizona for close to four years. She works as a Software Quality Analyst at the University of Phoenix. She is an active member of the Valley's Indian Community and is involved with the non profit, AID (Association for India's Development).



What are your views on the Indian Community within the Valley?

I think that the Indian community in the valley is pretty diverse. Frankly it took me some time to know such diversity after I landed here in the US in July 05. The community at large loves celebrations, getting together, promoting the Indian culture and helping the needy back in India.

I understand you are involved with AID (Association for India's Development), can you tell us about its initiatives?

AID, a 501(c) (3) organization, is a volunteer movement promoting sustainable, equitable and just development in India. AID supports grassroots organizations in India and initiates efforts in various interconnected spheres such as agriculture, energy, education, livelihoods, natural resources including land and water, health, women's empowerment and social justice.

AID was found by Dr. Ravi Kuchimanchi in 1991 at University of Maryland. The group of volunteers grew by leaps and bounds and in 1995, some of them returned back to India to work at grassroots level. It makes us proud that today we have 36 chapters in US and 6 chapters in India. We have supported so far 365 projects and 100 are ongoing. We have a volunteer base of around 1000.

We show compassion wherever there is suffering. We have the Conviction that our compassion is strong enough to eliminate suffering. And We have the Courage to make our conviction a reality...

Please visit www.aidindia.org to learn more about our projects. We meet every Saturday for Community Service Hour between 3:30 and 6 pm at Memorial Union Building off Apache Blvd and Normal Avenue to review projects, discuss and plan fundraisers et al.

How did you become involved with AID?

After finishing my Masters in Computer Applications in India, I joined Infosys Technologies in Pune. I was actively involved in the community Outreach group there which was led by Mrs. Narayan Murthy. I worked at ground with HIV positive kids, Prostitutes, Street Children and County hospitals.

After coming to US, over the weekends I was either traveling and exploring new places or was volunteering. When I joined University of Phoenix, I talked about my passion of giving back to the community to some folks around and I was introduced to Karthik who was the AID Tempe Chapter coordinator at that time, and that was the beginning of this unending commitment to an organization where people do live the Mahatma's thought "**Whatever you do may seem insignificant, but it is most important that you do it**".

How do you think NetIP has benefited the community in Phoenix?

I would first like to congratulate NetIP Phoenix who have exhibited tremendous growth since their inception last year. Bringing together all young professionals to work towards Professional Development, Cultural Awareness, Community Service and Political Awareness is a great initiative and an assurance of a good support system around for each of the individuals. And of course, socializing is always fun!

What advice would you give young people who would like to be involved in volunteering?

I know NetIP is a group of folks who came to US for work or those who have been born and brought up in this country. Since I am in this category of folks, I have so many acquaintances around who are willing to contribute but don't know from where and how to start. You could visit sites like <http://www.volunteermatch.org/> or <http://handsonphoenix.org/> and find projects which match your interest.

For friends who have been born and brought up here in the US, community service and

volunteering is so integral a part of the school life and the society in general. I am sure most of you would have given so many community service hours and are continuing to do so even during these busy years when work keeps you so occupied.

Volunteers and volunteer groups can:

- Bring food to hungry people
- Find homes or clothes for those who need them
- Make neighborhoods safer and more beautiful
- Protect wildlife and natural areas
- Help care for pets and other animals
- Bring comfort and happiness to lonely people
- Care for people who are sick, or help find cures for diseases
- Help people learn to read or do better in school

I am sure each one of us at least feels for one of these causes...Here are some of the things you might get in return for your giving:

- Making new friends
- Gaining important skills and experience that will help you later in life
- Seeing more of your community and world
- Building confidence and self-esteem
- Feeling satisfaction at getting things done and helping others
- Meeting people who could be role models
- Using your mind, body, and creativity
- Getting active and healthier
- Relieving stress
- Spending time doing what you really care about
- Feeling like you are part of a community

Isn't that good enough to give it a shot once if you already have not? Friends, gather some **courage**, make some **commitment** and join millions of those who are striving hard to be a catalyst for **change** to make this world a better place to live in.

Please feel free to contact me if you need some help to get started with,
poonamarorain@gmail.com

What are your views on social networking, Twitter, Facebook and MySpace?

Well when I go home, the first thing I do is log on to Facebook! Does that answer your question?

What's your favorite thing to do on an evening after a hard days work?

Well if it has been crazy hectic at work, Poonam ain't cooking! So I head straight to Chipotle from work, and once back home just play any random DVD of "Friends" (got the whole collection). And then crash early, just so that you know one of my hobbies is sleeping and I totally respect my hobbies ;)

Become A Member Today!

The benefits of membership just keep getting better!!

As a member of NetIP Phoenix, you will get free or discounted entry to many of our events, not just at a local level but on a national level as well! We are continuously working to provide our NetIP members VALUE to their membership!

As NetIP Phoenix grows, so do the benefits of becoming a member, with more frequent and diverse events, the networking possibilities (and savings) are endless!!

*All NetIP Phoenix members receive FREE entry to our Monthly Social Networking Mixers! The math is simple - at \$5 per monthly social networking event, a \$40 membership saves you at least \$20 annually!

NEW - COUPLES MEMBERSHIP RATES!!! You and your spouse/domestic partner can become NetIP Phoenix members for a special rate of only \$70!

NetIP Phoenix's Annual Membership Fee is \$40/individual and \$70/couple.

Membership is open to all adults age 21 and over.

Go to www.netipphoenix.org and click "Join Now!" to sign up.

Committee Involvement



Want to get involved in NetIP Phoenix?

We have several committees that plan the various events that NetIP Phoenix hosts. For more information on the committees, meeting times, and how you can get involved, contact the following Committee Chairs:

- **Cultural Awareness Committee:** Monali Shah - monali.shah99@gmail.com
- **Professional Development Committee:** Renuka Laddu - renukaladdu@gmail.com
- **Social Committee:** Dipesh Goel - dipeshgoel@gmail.com & Pooja Suresh – poojasdds@yahoo.com
- **Political Awareness Committee:** Josh George – joshgeorge83@gmail.com
- **Community Service Committee:** Palu Dehdia - Palu07@yahoo.com & Ram Gopalakrishnan - Rgopalakrish77@yahoo.com
- **Technology Committee** – Murugan Patham – M_k_patham@yahoo.com

Corporate Partnerships



The Network of Indian Professionals – Phoenix Chapter is proud to partner with [Jobing.com](http://jobing.com) to provide you with the most comprehensive listing of employment opportunities throughout Arizona.
<http://netipphoenix.jobing.com/>

If you're interested in becoming a Corporate Partner of NetIP Phoenix, contact our Corporate Liaison – Ashar Zaman at ashartz@yahoo.com