



# CHINMAYA MISSION® PORTLAND

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Chinmaya Mission was founded in 1953 by devotees of Swami Chinmayananda in India. They formed the nucleus of a movement of spiritual renaissance that now encompasses a wide range of spiritual, educational, and charitable activities, ennobling the lives of thousands in India and outside its shores.

In 1996, Bala Vihar classes started with a handful of kids whose parents were devotees of Swami Chinmayananda and who had a strong faith in the principles taught by Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda. The classes were held in the homes of the participants. In 2014 Swami Tejomayananda (head of Chinmaya Mission worldwide) inaugurated our center, Chinmaya Haridwar, located in Hillsboro.

Today, Chinmaya Mission Portland has well over a hundred families participating in the Study Groups and Bala Vihar programs, operating as an all-volunteer organization. The center follows the Beaverton School District calendar for its class schedule. After the regular Bala Vihar and adult study groups, Yoga, Music, and Language classes take place. Chinmaya Mission Portland also has a small library. We also have a bookstore where publications from Chinmaya Mission are available.

We celebrate and share Indian culture with festivals like Diwali, and Navaratri, to name a few. Chinmaya Mission Portland's "Holi" festival, celebrated as a festival of colors, is very popular and we manage the event in collaboration with Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District.

Chinmaya Mission Portland takes a leadership role in assisting our friends and neighbors in the community in which we live.

The homeless crisis is exacerbated by the pandemic, which has led to food shortages, health risks, and economic challenges. We serve the needy with weekly nutritional meals to Transitions Projects, which help individuals work their way back into independent lives in our society. We also volunteer to assist at Oregon Food Bank on a periodic basis.

For the last 5 years, we have been providing critical supplemental educational opportunities for both children and adults from less fortunate backgrounds on their English language conversation & reading skills (ELL/ESL).

We believe that we can solve the climate crisis and limit global temperature rise by transitioning to 100% renewables, protecting & restoring our lands and seas, and shifting to regenerative agriculture. Positively impact through many hands-on human-environment interactions. We have a team of students focused on making a positive impact by planting trees and educating our community about using sustainable resources.

For the last few years, we have been cleaning up streets under the "Adopt a Roadway" program in collaboration with the city of Beaverton on a quarterly basis.

We strongly support the Concurrent Resolution being considered by this committee. We are very happy and grateful that the Oregon State Legislature is recognizing the contributions of the Indian Community as we celebrate the 75th year of Indian Independence.

Thank you.

Subha Varma Pathial  
Outreach Coordinator