

Diwali's "Spirit of Giving" Celebrated in Dallas



Mayor Tom Leppert and Mrs. Laura Leppert attended an exclusive dinner in celebration of Diwali organized by **Indian American Friendship Council (IAFC, Texas chapter)** on November 17th, 2008 at 6.00PM in the Flag room at Dallas City Hall. "Spirit of Giving" was the theme of the celebration dinner hosted by Prasad Thotakura, Renee Dutia, Rao Kalvala, Piyush Patel, Tara reddy, Taiyab Kundawala & the other Board members. This celebration was well attended by several Dallas City Council members & prominent leaders of the Indian community. MC for the event was performed by Mrs. Purnima Kumar.

Brainchild of the initiative, Renee Dutia IAFC Board member & Prasad Thotakura IAFC- Texas State Coordinator, stated " Up to now, our charitable efforts are focused on our country of origin. however, now that Dallas is home to so many Asian Indians, why not get involved in the local charitable projects ? That is why I am so pleased that we have expanded our collaboration with the city from 2008 book festival to more projects this year.

Diwali is the perfect moment for us to double our commitment in making a difference. We are pleased to announce that we are focusing on one of Mrs Laura Leppert's key projects, the Children's Literacy & Book Festival which helps promote reading for under privileged children.

IAFC organization has made a pledge to donate 1000 books to the 2009 festival. Renee & Krish Dutia family foundation pledged another 1000 books .Other donors came forward to give their support, including Mr Tapan Guha,Vice President Hewlett Packard, made a commitment of a color printer, Jain Society President, Mrs. Meera Jain pledged \$250.00. Limitless office supply will make a generous donation. Other commitments are pouring in.

Mayor Tom Leppert expressed, great delight that the Indian community is taking such an active role in

this very international City of Dallas. He praised and thanked the community for their generosity and emphasized that not only are they playing a vital part in the charitable efforts of the metroplex but also leading in the economic development of the region. This includes their contribution in the field of technology, international trade and healthcare. Furthermore Mayor Leppert is looking forward to working with IAFC and the steering committee on possible trade mission to India. Delicious Indian Cuisine banquet was provided by Our Place and the Event management was flawlessly coordinated by Minal Jhaveri, DJ Jhaveri, Geeta Kalvala, Lily Wu, and Katherine Dress. Rao Kalvala thanked Mayor Leppert , Mrs. Leppert, and the attendees of the event.

