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Young Samaritan



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15-Year Old Student Makes And Donates More Than 5000 PPEs

By A Staff Writer

It really affected Sujan Munver, a high school freshman, when he heard about friends, acquaintances, patients and teachers passing away due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He wanted to help and found the best way to do it in his situation was to use the talents he has.

"As a member of the robotics team at my school, I knew how to use a 3D printer and researched ways that I could help the community," Sujan told News India Times in a personal statement describing his initiative.

The student from Dwight-Englewood School in Englewood Cliffs, NJ, led a group of students from the robotics team and 3D printed face shields to donate to various organizations including the town's mayor and first responders. The group is called DE3D (pronounced 'deed' with DE short for "Dynamic Equanimity" and 3D for their face masks making technique.)

"I learned that face shields were in limited supply, were only single use, and were not as comfortable as one would think," Sujan went on to explain. "I contacted one of my robotics coaches and was surprised when my school loaned me their high-quality 3D printer and donated raw materials."

But it was not all that easy. "I investigated various reusable, cleanable face shields that could be manufactured at home. I took the best components of different models that I found on the internet and designed a face shield that would meet the needs of medical providers, while also using the least amount of plastic to be environmentally friendly," Sujan said.



High school student Sujan Munver, freshman at Dwight Englewood School in Englewood Cliffs, N.J., right, with the Mayor of Englewood Cliffs Mario Kranjac. Sujan and his team manufactured 5,000 plastic shields for distribution to frontline workers.

Once he had figured all that out, Sujan first reached out to the town mayor, Mario Kranjac who immediately requested 75 face shields for the police department and first responders. He then received communication from the

Physician Services Division and Urology department at Hackensack Meridian Health, NJ to produce face shields for all of their staff to support the in-office procedures they perform.

"My younger sister, Radha, optimized a design for ear savers that help relieve pressure on the ears from wearing masks for extended periods of time," Sujan said.

"At this point, we have collectively produced more than 5,000 face shields and ear savers and donated them to local hospitals, first responders, private physicians and dentists in the area. Additionally, we have sent PPE to other areas of the country, including the Navajo Nation in Arizona and Gouverneur Health in New York. Our work has been so well received that our school requested us to 3D print face shields for students and faculty for re-opening."

It takes around two hours to produce, assemble, and clean each face shield, Sujan describes in his description of the initiative. The process involves 3D printing the head-band or visor component, using a CO2 laser to precisely cut the clear shield plastic, and assembling the full shield with elastic headbands. Sujan runs the printer 24/7 to maximize production.

Following on the footsteps of his grandparents who founded and actively participated in several philanthropic organizations throughout their lives, Sujan has involved himself in various charitable organizations.

"The greatest satisfaction is in doing my little part in this global effort to protect physicians, nurses, and all medical/administrative staff as they have continued to provide patient care. Health is our most valuable asset, and members of our medical community are the true heroes during this unprecedented time," said Sujan in the statement.