

IDDC Health Clinic Draws Large Crowd



By JAWAHAR MALHOTRA

HOUSTON : Last year, with great determination from its President Dr. Rakesh Mangal, the India Doctor's Charity Clinic (IDDC) held its first free clinic with nearly a dozen volunteers at the Indian Independence Day program at the George Brown Convention Center and almost 350 people came to have a comprehensive screening of their vital signs while Dr. Nik Nikam gave a discourses on health matters and took questions on personal issues from the audience.

This year, the IDDC has outdone itself, much to its own delight as well as that of the ICC which organized this year's India Fest (see story on page 1). Nearly 800 people came to the Health Clinic to have a screening performed for diabetes, cholesterol, thyroid, anemia, prostate cancer, colon cancer, vision, osteoporosis, urinalysis and dental exams. For some, it came as a rude surprise to find out that their levels were outside acceptable ranges, such as cholesterol, diabetes and hypertension, and they were advised to seek further medical attention immediately. And compared to last year, over 42 medical students, residents, nurses and doctors volunteered to help at the Health Clinic.

Participants at the health fair were able to take part in a drawing



Top: The volunteers at the IDDC Helath Clinic at India Fest. Bottom, from left: Hemant Patel, Dr. Rakesh Mangal, President, IDCC, Chaya Arora and her husband Sanjiv Arora the Indian Consul General, Seema Mangal, Keshu Patel, ICC President, and Nirmala Patel at the Health Clinic.

for 2 free round trip airline tickets to anywhere in the US, courtesy of Continental Airlines and ABC Travel. And while they waited in one of several lines, they were offered free Indian Chai and a free massage by a licensed therapist. This

“The GOAL of this health screen is to take the free medical care out of the clinic and bring it to the South Asian community,” said Dr. Mangal. “In this way, we will endeavor to help to maintain and improve the health of our community.”

The IDC Charity Clinic, a 501C3 non-profit organization in existence since 1999, has been providing completely “free” medical care to Houstonians (all

ethnicities) who cannot afford it. The clinic is located at 6550 Maple Ridge, suite 229, in Houston and is open on Saturday mornings.

