

INDIA New England

DINNER BENEFITS SENIOR LUNCH OFFERING

India New England Staff

NEEDHAM, Mass. - A hundred diners raised an estimated \$8,500 to subsidize a lunch program for senior citizens whose socializing is mostly limited to the home. Minuteman Senior Services and the volunteer group Seva hosted a charity dinner on Dec. 12 at Masala Art restaurant. The idea to hold the fund-raiser originated with Subhash Kakkar, who lives in Winchester, Mass., and owns North Shore Steel Co. His wife, Rita, is a case manager in the nutrition department at Minuteman Senior Services, which provides programs in 16 towns for seniors and caregivers. When Kakkar learned of Seva and its limited bankroll, he jumped into action by organizing the fund-raiser. "They shouldn't be sitting home alone," he said, of the elders who attend the lunch program. Both Kakkar and Masala Art owner Vinod Kapoor donated an amount of money to Seva that matched what was raised through ticket sales for the event. Minuteman Senior Services organizes Indian meals every third Friday of the month in various towns. The program features talks on topics important to seniors, such as yoga and meditation. A small group of Indian-Americans founded Seva five years ago to help Indian seniors. Kakkar said that as long as the need for senior meals persists, Seva will continue to raise money toward that end.