

Posted on **January 26, 2013** by **rogetsmith**



Dr. MARLENE MAHIPAT receives her award.

A HARDWORKING Trinidadian living in the United States (US) was honoured with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Content of Character Award on January 18. Dr. Marlene Mahipat, a chiropractor, who migrated to the US several years ago, was honoured with the award by the Baltimore County Content of Character Awards which was held at Mt. Calvary AME Church in Towson. She founded two non-profit organizations – Helping Orphans Prosper Everywhere (HOPE), which serves disadvantaged families, children; and People Letting Every Animal Survive Euthanization (PLEASE), which helps low-income people who might otherwise surrender their pets. Dr. Mahipat received the award in honour of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She was nominated for the award because the way she treats people and for embodying the spirit of Dr. King's 'I Have a Dream' speech. Dr. Mahipat, it was found, consistently puts the needs of people as well as animals, ahead of her own. She left Trinidad with US \$300, two suitcases and the phone number of a friend in 1990 and migrated to the US. She had many struggles, which included working three jobs and going to school full time. Throughout all of the struggles, she was always involved in charity work and always found a way to give, even when she had nothing for herself. Despite running her own successful practice as a doctor, she devotes much of her time and resources to helping others. She is a weekly volunteer delivery person for Meals on Wheels.

During the holidays she provides toys and meals for many needy families in the Baltimore area. At the beginning of each school year she provides backpacks filled with school supplies for needy children in urban areas, at homeless shelters, and many times right on the streets. Additionally, she brings healthy nutritional bagged meals bi-weekly to the homeless. P.L.E.A.S.E., the animal foundation focuses on helping healthy animals from being put to sleep. Dr. Mahipat also helps elderly, disabled and low income people with food and vet bills for their pets.

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