



Shanthi Sandesh

Hindu Temple and Community Center Of Mid-Missouri
2006 Holly Avenue, Columbia, MO 65202-2043
<http://shanthimandir.missouri.org> (573) 814-1286

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JUNE 2016

Message from the Executive Board

Le'ts take a moment to congratulate all the Graduates and wish them all the best with their future plans as they prepare to embark on the next phase of their young lives!

HTCC recently celebrated 10th Anniversary with a Banquet on March 11, 2016 at Peachtree Banquet Center and a special devotional program on April 23, 2016 at the Mandir. The banquet was a big success, food catered by India Palace from St. Louis was delicious and entertainment was good as well. Even though the ticket price for the banquet was the same as last two years, the attendance was over 30% more than it was in 2015. The devotional program at the Mandir was a real treat as well. Pandit Sri Vedanta Sharma from St. Louis performed "Rukmini Krishna Kalyanam". We thank Meera

Chandrasekhar, chair of the 10th Anniversary Banquet Committee and Hema Srinivasan, the Chair of HTCC's Devotional Programs Committee and all the volunteers who worked very hard to bring such quality programs to our community. Other devotional events held at the Mandir since February, 2016 were Maha Shivratri on March 5th and Akhand Ramayan on April 9th & thru April 10th. Youth Programs committee organized & celebrated "HOLI with Colors" on April 10th during which all the participants young and old had a very colorful time. HTCC's Cultural Programs Committee hosted an evening of Indian Classical Music on May 7th and HTCC's Youth Committee in coordination with Bal Sabha organized the Bike Ride to and from Rocheport on May 15th which was followed by the Picnic at

MKT shelter off Stadium Blvd. Truly a good mix of devotional, service, cultural and Fun Programs!

If you haven't visited the Mandir recently we invite you to come on in, join in the fun and encourage you to help take the HTCC to the next level.

Hope you all are having a great spring and summer! Volunteers under Anantha and Gopal's leadership have really done a fantastic job planting new flowers at the Mandir. The flowers help us reduce Mandir expenses as we get to use them inside the Mandir at devotional programs. The flowers have bloomed now and they look beautiful.

Kusum Malhotra, Chandra Rawlani and Alagu Arunachalam are members of the newly formed HTCC's New Member Welcome

(Continued on Page 2)

An Era of New Thinking Shruti Gautam- 7th Grade Gentry Middle School

At school, kids are taught to plan their future and have a fixed career cluster to chase after. Adults have a tendency to inquire children, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Ishita Katyal, the youngest TedxYouth organizer in the Asia-Pacific region, believes that adults must stop asking this question. Instead, she articulates that adults should ask, "What do you want to do right now?" Her belief is that success springs from the act of aspiring joy in the present moment. This 10 year old's thoughts have been inspiring

people worldwide, including me.

We should have a preeminent ambition set to pursue, but the only way to achieve it is to do something today. We may delay it by saying, "This is too hard," or the common, "Maybe another day". Instead we should be saying, "I need to learn how to get out of this challenge," or, "How about we do this right now?" Our future doesn't depend solely on intelligence, but work ethic and the ability to find joy in our present. We should take this 5th grader's advice and start doing events not just for a

"resume", but also for enjoyment. All it takes is one idea to spark a child's future. The earlier this idea comes, the better.

So, the next time you're about to ask a child about what they'd like to do later in life, think over it and ask, "What do you want to do right now?" This choice will give children the chance to use their imagination in ways adults can't. The joy that is found in this moment will bring better results than a year's worth of studying. An era of new thinking has arrived, and it's filled with more possibilities than ever.

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A Double Treat of Classical Music from India

Hema Srinivasan

On May 7th, 2016, Raagas of Columbia along with HTCC Cultural Programs presented two Carnatic music concerts at Shanthi Mandir. We began the evening around 4:15 pm with Nurani Brothers Shiva and Hari accompanied by our own ShivaSankalp in violin. We began with 10-12 people and soon we had to find more and more seating and in thirty minutes, the hall was quite full. The audience was both supportive and appreciative. Shiva and Hari are teens from Chennai who have studied both classical music and devotional music in a traditional setting from an early age. Their maturity for such a young age was amazing. We enjoyed both their improvisations and the melodious thiurmurai and classical compositions.



The second concert is of Ms. Srividhya Sairam who is an accomplished artist who have won several awards and prizes including the most recent first prize at the North America Sangeetha Sammelan at Philadelphia in October 2015. Her unique selections for the concert and the style of rendering thrilled some of the fans of famed GNB and MLV as Srividhya has captured the style of great legends like GNB and MLV. She attributes it all to her Guru Sreemati Prabhadevi in Chennai. Beginning with Begada varnam and continuing with a alapana in Pantuvarali Srividhya delighted us with compositions in several languages for over 2 hours. Here is a complete list of her recital

1. Varnam - Begada
2. Pahi Nikhila Janani - Nattai
3. Shivananda Kamavardhani - Pantuvarali
4. Ramanukku Mannan - Hindolam
5. Maragathavallim - Kamboji
6. Anupamagunambudhi - Atana
7. RTP- Shanmukhapriya
8. Jagadodharana - Kapi
9. Arumo Aaval - Mand
10. Kurai ondrum illai - Ragamalika
11. Thillana - Behag

After the concerts, every one lingered for a while talking to the artists and enjoying the snacks provided by Curries restaurant. We would also like to acknowledge the help of ICC. For a short taste of the concert of you can visit the YouTube at : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L7so0cBdRQ0>

Executive Board

Continued from page 1

Committee. This committee was formed to help families that are new to the mid-Missouri area get acclimatized. Kindly advise new families that you meet to get in touch with them.

We are pleased to inform you that HTCC has filed a petition with United States Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) to hire a full time Priest at the Mandir. We hope to welcome the Priest at the Mandir soon after the petition is approved.

See you at the Mandir!

Ravi Thawani
Kiratadas Kutikkad
AbiramiElangovan
Kusum Malhotra ☺



"Sunflower and Butterfly pop-ups" at Artsonia, an online Kid's art museum

Artsonia is an online Kid's art museum where Shreeyanka's art teacher, Ms. Tassi, uploads all the artwork for the children from Columbia Independent School. Each week the website selects 12 Art works (globally) as finalists. The general public is invited to vote the following week and the one drawing which gets the maximum number of votes, becomes the winner.

Shreeyanka's (Jia), a kindergartner at CIS "Sunflower and Butterfly pop-ups" was one of the selected entries and she got 1000 votes in her age group ☺

Bal Sandesh

Newsletter of Bal Sabha of Columbia, MO

June, 2016

Bal Sabha Officers

President
Prasad Calyam

Vice-President
Currently Vacant

Secretary
Puja Nistala

Treasurer
Muruganantham



EDITOR'S NOTE

Summer Break has arrived and school is finally over. It was another year of hard work and success with all the activities and events and Bal Sabha is extremely proud of you all. Just take a peek at the Kudos section and you will know what I am talking about. And hope you all get a well-deserved rest, relaxation and family time.

Several of our Middle Schoolers are heading out for the CPS Grand Teton Trip - adventures in Yellowstone and the Grand Teton Mountain in the month of June. Wish these brave folks lots of luck and may they get to see plenty of wild life, do plenty of hiking and trekking and have a great learning experience. Good Luck to Charu, Nirandra for the Grand Teton trip and to the Advanced Yellowstone trip participants Tia, Anya and Leela.

This issue contains several neat pieces of write-ups that includes a cute one on "My Grandma", one with suspense on the "Chess Competition experience", a young artist's drawing work on Arsonia, a write-up on Ugadi and a thoughtful piece on "An Era of New Thinking". **Happy summer 2016** and wishing you all best of luck with their camps, trips or other plans ☺

National Chess Championship - An Experience to Remember *Vignesh Kumar - 7th Grade, Gentry Middle School*

The pressure was unbearable. I never imagined something as fun as chess could be so nerve-racking. I was playing the last round of Chess Nationals. If I won, I would tie for 20th place and get a trophy. If I lost, I probably would have never forgiven myself for the rest of my life. Despite my situation, I felt bad for the person who sat in my chair next because I was sweating like crazy. Anyways, the clock was ticking down. Minute by minute. My opponent was annoyingly stubborn. Unfortunately, he was not going to hand the win to me. His moves puzzled me so much that I did not know if he was purposely doing them or if they were random. The difference did not matter. I was still losing. Although my opponent refused to give up, so would I. This was the battle of the minds. While many believe chess is a game of war, it is actually a game of minds. You are not checkmating (winning) the king. You are checkmating the mind. It may seem like I am exaggerating but the stress is real.

As I do in every one of my competitions, I question why I came in first place. Was it worth it? I was about to find out. I was not going down without a fight so with little hope, I played a couple of moves

while knowing the end result. Suddenly, my opponent screwed up! My hope sparked. I finally saw an opportunity to finish him. Before I could execute my plan, my opponent resigned (quit) after realizing his mistake. I was speechless. I dashed out the playing hall and into our "home base." I couldn't believe it! In addition, my friends and my Dad also won the majority of their rounds. Although the trophy was satisfying, that was not what I was most proud of. Instead, I was more proud of the fact that I was part of the first ever full chess team to go nationals in Colombia. I look forward to repeating this stressful experience again in years to come.

Box: The 3-day Junior High National competition in Indianapolis, IN was open to students from Kindergarten to 9th grade from across the nation. It drew 1145 scholastic chess players and 182 teams playing various graded skill groups for national championship titles. Vignesh was joined in the K-8 Under 1000 competition by fellow Gentry students Vishnu Arun, Shruti Gautam, and Shenice Watkins. The foursome was the first full Columbia Public School team to ever compete in a national chess competition, and they finished 16th among K-8 Under 1000 teams ☺

Durga Puja *Aneesh Calyam - 1st Grade Mill Creek Elementary School*



The Goddess, Durga is the protector of the good in the world and her job is to protect others by defeating bad demons. She rides on a tiger and sometimes on a lion when she travels to protect us. She has 9 forms and in some forms she rides a cow. The Goddess, Durga sits on a lotus and she carries many weapons. She has many weapons like a khadgam (sword), villu banam (bow & arrow), chakram (disc) and gadha (mace). She is the wife of Shiva and mother of Ganesh. Ganesh's job is to take away obstacles like sickness and makes

everything easy for success.

In the Durga Puja we pray to other gods and goddesses but the main focus is on Durga. We offer prayers using flowers and fruits to please Durga. The flowers are used to decorate the gods and we give fruits to feed all the gods. The priest who is a Guru, chants mantras which are magical. He sprinkles holy water on our heads to clean our thoughts and make us pure to pray. When the goddess is being decorated, they have volunteers to hold a curtain. When the curtain drops, we see the beautiful goddess Durga! People sing and dance for a show to impress the gods and make them happy. After the puja, we eat 'Prasad' which is food that we offered to the gods. Then we play with our friends until it's time for us to go back home ☺

Khadgam (sword), Villu Banam (bow & arrow), Chakram (disc) and Gadha (mace). She is the wife of Shiva and mother of Ganesh. Ganesh's job is to take away obstacles like sickness and makes

My Grandma

Sai Hasini Yarasi - 3rd Grade, Mill Creek Elementary

"Mom please can I have that toy please, please, please?"

"No, of course not Hasi." My mom replied.

"She can have it." Said my grandma.

"Fine", said my mom. I was really happy.

"Hanu, Hanu come over here! Do you want that toy? "I ask.

"Of course I do Hasi." Hanu answers. **Our grandma buys everything for us.**

"Come on, let's go play Hanu." After we were done playing we taught our grandma how to play the games that we downloaded on her phone. She didn't learn them all.

"Hanu, Hasi no more asking your grandma to buy you things," my mom said. But we still asked and she still buys. **Our grandma never listens to our mom. We never listen to our mom.**

"Hanu, let's only ask grandma to buy us things when mom isn't here, "I said." Sure, "said Hanu. **Hanu and I are always happy when we are with our grandma**☺

Bal Sabha Kudos

1. Science Olympiad 2016

Many of your youth made it to the Science Olympiad teams in their respective schools and went on to participate at the Regionals and then at the State level

Gentry Middle: Anusha Gupta (8th), Nirandra Sivakumar (6th), Vishnu Arun and Vignesh Kumar (7th). Vignesh Kumar finished 1st in Write it Do it.

CIS: Bhavya Thulasikumar, a 7th Grader at CIS won 4th place in the Regionals. She also received certificate of excellence at the State competition.

2. MCTM Math State 2016

Anusha Gupta made it to the State Math competition. Way to go!

Sriya Pokala and Kartikeye Gupta, 5th Graders at MillCreek qualified and participated at the State Math competition. Congrats!

3. Spelling Bee 2016

Kartikeye placed 2nd place in the MillCreek School Spelling Bee.

Aparna Sivaraman placed 2nd in the Gentry School Spelling Bee.

Tia Rawat won the Gentry School Spelling Bee and came 6th in the Regional Spelling Bee

Pranay won his school bee and was the runner up in the Regional Spelling Bee

4. National Junior Society

Bhavya received an award from National Junior Society.

5. Chess National competition 2016

Gentry Middle School students Vignesh, Vishnu Arun, Shruti Gautam were members of the first full Columbia Public School team to ever compete in a National Chess competition 2016 (Junior High) in Indianapolis, IN. They finished 16th among K-8 from among 1000 teams. Vignesh Kumar made it to the top 20 in the individual competition and received a trophy

6. Gymnastics 2016

Tia Rawat made it to the Missouri State Gymnastics competition and went on to compete in the Regionals in Minnesota, MN in the Excel Gold Division.

7. Cultural

Many of the Bal Sabha kids performed in the Sargam, Saraswati Puja, Ugadi and Temple Devotional Event. Their performances were amazing and the costumes so pretty. You all make these cultural events so special!

8. Bike Ride 2016

Our youngest participant "Hanshika" deserves a special mention. At 6 years of age and on her tiny 12 inches bike, she pedaled her way from Scott Blvd to Rocheport. Way to go!!!

9. Music

Tia scored a "I" Superior Rating in the Piano and Flute Solo and the Ensemble performance at Central Methodist University (CMU) Music Fest in March 2016

Continued on Page 7

Bal Sandesh needs you!

We welcome submissions of all types (reports, poetry, short stories, artwork, puzzles, jokes etc.). Work can be submitted to the Editors or the Parent Advisor. We prefer electronic version of the submission (e-mail or diskette). Artwork can be submitted on paper. Older kids interested in volunteering to serve on the editorial team should contact the Editorial Staff or the Parent Advisor.

PHOTO GALLERY



HTCC Quarterly Fiscal Report

For the period January 1, 2016 - March 31, 2016

Prepared by Abirami Elangovan Treasurer, June 22nd, 2016



Tenth Anniversary Accounts

Revenue	
Bingo	\$702.00
Devotional Program	\$806.00
Dinner Tickets	\$6,910.00
Samarpanam ADs	\$8,524.00
Silent Auction	\$295.00
Total Revenue	\$17,237.00
Expenses	
Banquet Hall	\$2,450.00
Children's Program	\$275.00
Devotional Program	\$511.00
Entertainment	\$485.00
Food	\$3,150.35
Hall Decoration	\$52.18
Miscellaneous	\$14.67
Printing	\$2,497.12
Total Expenses	\$9,435.32
Net Income	\$7,801.68

Quarterly Revenues

Interest Income		
Interest income	\$159.65	\$159.65
Membership:		
Annual Family Membership	\$700.00	\$730.00
Annual Individual Membership	\$30.00	
Donations:		
Check Donations	\$527.94	\$1,283.14
Hundi Donations/Prayer Services	\$138.20	
Capital Campaign	\$617.00	
Facility Use		
	\$150.00	\$150.00
Fund Raiser:		
Mandir Cookbook/ Towels Sales	\$361.70	\$361.70
Other Revenues:		
Dividend	\$35.18	\$14,571.18
Tenth Anniversary Celebrations (As of 03/31/2016)	\$14,536.00	
Total Quarterly Revenues		\$17,255.67

Quarterly Expenses

Administrative	\$269.46	
Bank Charges	\$23.30	
Maintenance and Supplies	\$100.01	
Printing/Mailing	\$365.36	
Tenth Anniversary Celebrations (As of 03/31/2016)	\$8,749.32	
Special Events	\$3,160.09	
Upgrades & Repairs	\$375.00	
Utilities	\$1,833.27	
Total Quarterly Expenses		\$14,875.81
Net Income for the Quarter		\$2,379.86

Thank You!

Donor Acknowledgement February– May 2016

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations made during the above period. If we have inadvertently made an error in not including your name, please let us know.



Upto \$50

Bhaskaran, Rajagopalan and Vasanthi
Cutkosky, Dale and Hema Srinivasan
Mohan, Rajiv and Sunilima Sinha
Mookan, Muruganantham and Menaka

\$151 - \$499

Krishna, Gopal and Santosh
Shukla, Shivendra and Asha

\$51 - \$100

Adhikary, Biplob
Puri, Ravi and Mona

\$500 -\$999

Balakrishnan, Elangovan and Abirami
Rawlani, Ramesh and Chandra
Loyalka, Sudharshan and Nirja
Gopalakrishna, Vellore and Anantha

\$101- \$150

Basu, Asit and Sandra
Khurana, Inder and Jasmit
Malhotra, Anil and Kusum
Sharma, Krishna and Sandhya

\$2500 and up

Gopalakrishna, Srinath and Uma



Parents interested in teaching their kids Hindi please contact
Sumit Gupta (573)823-7398

History of Ugadi

Bhavya Thulsikumar - 7th Grade, CIS

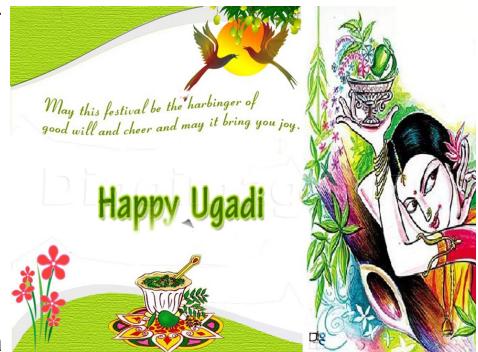
The name "Ugadi" came from joining two separate words, "Ug" and "Adi". "Ug" means Year and "Adi" means Beginning. Hence, "Ugadi" means "Beginning of a Year". It has been written in Hindu scriptures that Lord Brahma created the universe on this day. The first day of spring also occurs on this day. This yearly calendar is based on moon's rotation around earth. Calendar from one Ugadi day to next Ugadi day is divided into twelve months with 28 days in a month.

The moon's self-rotation around its own axis defines each month and it is based on moon's appearance of 14 days of increasing in size followed by 14 days of decrease in size. Ugadi is celebrated by people in several states in India, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kerala and Assam. Other states follow the Solar cycle. For several thousands of years, people have been following and celebrating Ugadi. On this day, it is customary to wash your hair with oil and water. New clothes are worn, homes are cleaned and their entrances are decorated with Mango leaves.

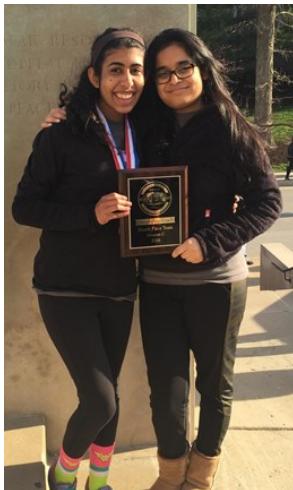
A special mixture of ingredients with different tastes is eaten on this day. In telugu, it is called Ugadi 'Pachchadi'. The Pachchadi is created by mixing fresh portions of vepa flowers, raw mango, jaggery, and fresh ripened tamarind. It gives a mix of bitter, sweet and sour tastes. That symbolizes that during a year it is normal to

have a mix of experiences- some sweet, some bitter and other sour, and we should face all of them with courage and a balanced way. The annual horoscope was also spoken and listened to on this day. Horoscope predicts a mix of situations, within a range of happy to sad. As a part of Spring season, Ugadi festival also shows the start of all kinds of fruits and flowers. Mangoes, Jack fruit and Guava are my favorites.

To conclude, I would like to say that this year I celebrated Ugadi at the Memorial Union, University of Missouri on April 3rd this year. I enjoyed the traditional dances and singing during the celebration. And the best part of the celebration is the extra ordinary FOOD!!



Bal Sabha Kudos Contd...



Nila Palaniappan, Juniot at Hickman High School competed in the Science Olympiad State event, on April 9th 2016, in Fulton Missouri, at Westminster College. She placed first in Geological Mapping and 7th in Protein Modeling. Overall, the Hickman team ended in 4th place and went home with a plaque. Nila looks forward to competing again next year.

This year, Nila also participated in the Columbia Girls Lacrosse team. This is her third year playing lacrosse, and her primary position is in midfield. The Girls lacrosse team is a combination of girls from all the high schools in Columbia. Nila loves the game very much and can not wait for next season to start. If any girls are interested in playing lacrosse, please contact her at nila.palaniappan@gmail.com ☺



Community Calendar (June 20th, 2016 – August 30th, 2016)

Unless otherwise indicated, all events are at Shanthi Mandir, 2006 Holly Avenue, Columbia, MO 65202.

July 21st **Guru Purnima Special Bhajans**
Time: 7:00 p.m.– 8:30 p.m.
Contact: Vellore Gopalaratnam: (573)446-0663

August 27th **Krishna Jayanthi**
Time: TBD
Contact :Hema Srinivasan : (573)289-8797

August 28th **Ganesh Idol Making**
Time: TBD
Contact: TBD

**More details will be posted on the Shanthi Mandir website (<http://shanthimandir.missouri.org>) a week before the scheduled event)

SUMMER WORKSHOPS

Parents, please consider leading a workshop for the kids that fits with your interest areas. If you are willing and able, please send a note to - pcalyam@gmail.com by July 8th., 2016

Shanthi Mandir

Hindu Temple and Community Center of Mid-Missouri (HTCC)

2006 Holly Avenue, Columbia, MO 65202-2043

HTCC is registered as a Nonprofit Corporation in MO

HTCC is tax-exempt under IRS Section 501 (c) 3

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 286
Columbia
MO 65201

Current Programs at the Mandir (June 20, 2016)

Devotional Programs

Open prayer time/Aarti	Tuesday	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Geeta Study Circle	Tuesday	7:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Sai Bhajan	Thursday	7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Venkateshwara Suprabhatam/Vishnu Sahasranaamam	Saturday	9:00 - 10:00 a.m.
Open prayer time/Aarti	Saturday	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Kirtan (Monthly event)	Sunday	10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



Educational/Youth Programs

Tamil Classes	1 st /3 rd	Sunday	3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Bal Puja	3 rd	Sunday	2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Bal Sabha	4 th	Sunday	3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

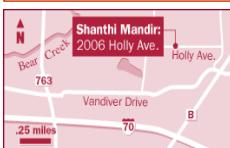
Service Programs

Volunteering at Central Missouri Food Bank	1 st	Tuesday	5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Narayan Seva (Sai Group - St. Francis Home Lunch)	2 nd	Sunday	11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Non-Perishable Food Collection (Ongoing continuously)			
Soup and Sandwich Service	4 th	Sunday	5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Fitness and Cultural Art Programs

Tabla classes (instructor fee required)	Sunday	Flexible for now
Carnatic vocal music classes (instructor fee required)	Sunday	1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Yoga classes (instructor fees required)	Saturday	Flexible for now

Shanthi Sandesh is a quarterly publication of the Hindu Temple and Community Center of Mid-Missouri (HTCC). It is published on behalf of HTCC by its Publications Committee. Editor: Tarang Parashar <tarangparashar@gmail.com>.



Directions: Take Exit 127 on Interstate 70, Head north on Rangeline Street, Right at first traffic light on Vandiver Drive, Left on Parker Street, Right on Holly Avenue, Shanthi Mandir sign will be visible on the right after 5-6 homes. (Note: Holly Avenue is immediately before the Sunrise Optimist building).

Please visit our web site and send us your e-mail address if you would like to be included on the **Friends of the Mandir** distribution list to receive timely program notices.

Web Hosting
donated by:
Socket
www.socket.net
1-800-SOCKET-3