

'Hugging Saint' and Hindu Spiritual Leader Amma Visits Reston, Virginia

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RESTON, Va. (WUSA) -- Her name is Amma and she's known throughout the world as the "Hugging Saint." She's a Hindu Spiritual Leader and humanitarian on tour in North America.

While in our area, she'll hug about 5,000 people. Altogether, she's given more than 31 million hugs.

"When she hugged me, it just filled me up. I just started crying. It was just so beautiful. It was pure love," said Marley Kavin, from Gaithersburg, Md.

Hundreds of people wait in line at a time. There's the sound of musicians playing and the smell of incense. Then, Amma reaches out her arms.

"It was like being in pure love," said David Newman.

"It felt like my relationship with Spirit," said Sharon Hillman.

For Amma, it's a mutual embrace.



"Their pain becomes my pain. And their happiness becomes my happiness," Amma said through an interpreter.

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Her hugs are free. But she hopes those that feel her embrace, become inspired to do something good for others.

Amma is involved with many charities that raise millions for medical care, disaster relief, and education. She will be giving out free hugs through the night at the Hyatt Regency in Reston, until 7 a.m. Friday.
