
MAITRI

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021



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ABOUT MAITRI

MAITRI is a free, confidential nonprofit organization serving the South Asian community in Santa Clara and surrounding counties with a two-fold goal: lead families in our community to a violence-free and safe future, and on a broader scale, enact social change. Since our inception in 1991, we have impacted thousands of survivors through our programs: Helpline, Legal Advocacy, Mental Health Support and Peer Counseling, Anjali Transitional Housing, Economic Empowerment Program, and Outreach and Prevention.

Maitri's programs fill an important gap in the community for services that are culturally and linguistically tailored to mitigate barriers faced by South Asians experiencing domestic violence, human trafficking, family conflict, and cultural isolation. We believe that the best relationships are characterized by mutual respect, open communication and individual empowerment. To that end, all our activities are designed to help South Asian survivors make an informed choice.



Love Each Other and the Earth

OUR VISION & MISSION

VISION

A society where all relationships are built on dignity, equity, and compassion.

MISSION

Empower South Asian survivors of domestic violence to lead lives of dignity and self-sufficiency through holistic programs, and enable healthy relationships and gender equity through community education, engagement, and advocacy.



MESSAGE FROM MAITRI

Dear Friends,

“If anything, we will come out of this pandemic stronger, more determined to create a violence free community where all individuals thrive,” a Maitri supporter expressed this sentiment in a community forum we hosted this past year and it captures how we feel one and half year after a devastating natural calamity upended all plans for survivor wellness.

COVID -19 laid bare the inequities in the infrastructure the federal and state-based institutions offer the vulnerable population. For immigrant survivors of domestic violence, the challenges were far worse and we successfully navigated through those in the previous year. Our financial aid, crisis intervention, legal assistance, housing service all continued with added urgency. We also ramped up our policy advocacy, economic empowerment and personal wellness segments as well as foster new relationships within the South Asian community organizations. As we pivoted towards remote/online work, we successfully navigated the technological barriers faced by our survivors and were able to provide all the services that were critical to the population we served. Our Outreach & Prevention program continued the efforts with the community by offering podcasts, webinars for youth and other ongoing outreach efforts.

Moving towards another difficult year ahead, we are ready to provide survivors much needed support and determined to create a supportive community where violence is not tolerated.

Maitri receives enormous support from partners and sponsors throughout the year. Every gift, regardless of type, size, and value is greatly appreciated. It is impossible to list all the support we receive, but be assured that your financial gifts and donations of time and in-kind support do not go unrecognized.

On behalf of our clients and their families, a heartfelt thank you!

LANGUAGES WE SPEAK



BENGALI
ENGLISH
GUJARATI
HINDI
KANNADA
MALAYALAM
MARATHI
MARWARI
PUNJABI
SINDHI
TAMIL
TELUGU
URDU
& MORE

MAITRI PROGRAMS

Year after year, Maitri serves the South Asian community empowering survivors of domestic violence to lead their lives with dignity and independence. Through its various programs and services, Maitri continues to widen its reach to the community and extend its impact on the community through prevention, education, and advocacy to bring about a social transformation. Powered by the relentless work of the volunteers, staff, and the board, Maitri works to create a society free of violence, a society where there is equity and dignity for all.

Maitri receives grants and funding from the government, foundations, corporations, and the community. We are deeply thankful for all the funding we receive and we cannot do the work we do without the support from the community.



HELPLINE

Maitri’s Helpline is the first point of entry into Maitri’s services. It provides a platform for survivors of domestic violence to seek safety and rebuild their lives offering trauma informed crisis support, safety planning, and resources in a non-judgmental, confidential space that meets clients where they are at emotionally. Activities include the live crisis line from 9 am to 3 pm weekdays, crisis intervention, peer counseling, offering referrals and information, assessment of lethality and housing needs among others.

2548
total calls

450
crisis calls

13
online support
group sessions

87%
callers said they
got the help they
were looking for

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

The program’s objectives are to recruit, train and retain volunteers to support client advocacy, outreach, and other program activities that include coordinating with volunteering applicants, conducting interviews/screenings, maintaining current volunteer coordinates, managing volunteer communications, conducting volunteer trainings, updating process documentation for volunteer use, and conducting monthly volunteer meetings. The program also aims to refine volunteer engagement strategies to leverage skills and enhance volunteer satisfaction.

1196 
Total Hours

43 
Total Volunteers

LEGAL ADVOCACY

Maitri’s Legal Advocacy Program provides free, confidential and holistic services for South Asian survivors of domestic violence. Activities include Restraining Order preparation, Pro Bono Attorney meeting facilitation, preparation of paperwork, loans for attorney fees, immigration assistance, and language access assistance through in-house and/or external translators/interpreters. Maitri engages in Policy Advocacy to bring about structural and procedural changes within the systems through policy advocacy to serve the needs of survivors better and collaborates with national, state wide and local agencies in this effort.



282
total clients

1182
legal advocacy sessions

15
clients represented with U, VAWA relief, conditional green card waiver, work authorization, citizenship and other domestic violence victims relief

75
pro bono assistance with family law issues including restraining orders, child custody, default divorce, child support and others

66
language assistance clients

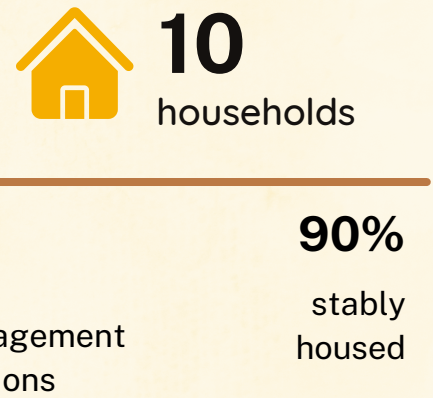
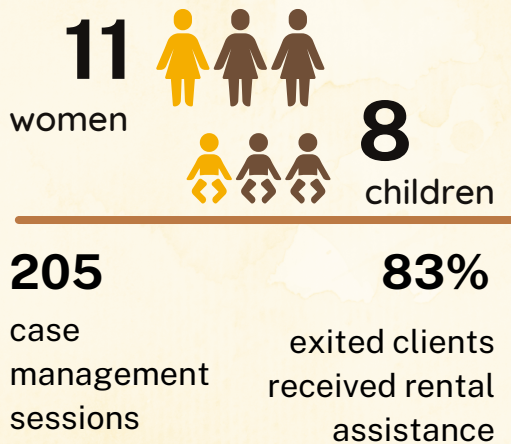
22
transnational abandonment advocacy clients

HOUSING STABILIZATION

Maitri's Housing Stabilization program has two broad functions.

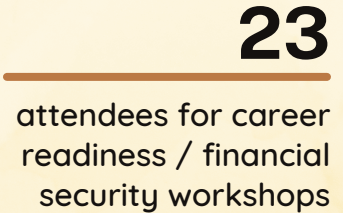
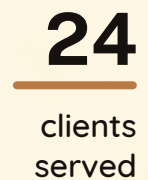
We provide a stable and safe haven for survivors for a period of 9 months at the **Anjali Transition House**, while they transition to an empowered and independent life.

We also assist survivors find affordable long-term housing and provide short-term rental assistance that includes help with accessing the county's rental assistance programs.



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

The Economic Empowerment Program (EEP) at Maitri aims to connect the dots between poverty, isolation, violence, and helplessness for immigrant survivors of DV and provides them with a path to self-sufficiency. Going beyond resume building and interview coaching, the EEP is customized to meet client needs based often on marginalized circumstances including educational, financial, language, and immigration status.



- 2** live webinars
- # Immigrant Stories
 - # Returning to the Workforce After A Break

OUTREACH & PREVENTION

The Outreach & Prevention program connects with the community to increase access for domestic violence survivors to Maitri services, engages volunteers, donors, and other constituencies, conducts campaigns to influence social attitudes around gender abuse, engages with youth to educate and work upstream on prevention, and engages men to encourage dialogue around these issues. Using in-person and online mediums effectively in engaging and educating South Asian communities, Prevention activities include tabling, cultural responsive trainings, presentations, panels, culturally specific messaging, radio shows & podcasts, and the use of social media for online campaigns/ educational posts.

17 presentations & trainings

15 podcast episodes

5 youth panels / presentations

15 "Engaging Men & Boys" facebook campaign posts

71 youth art & poetry fest submissions

395 instagram followers

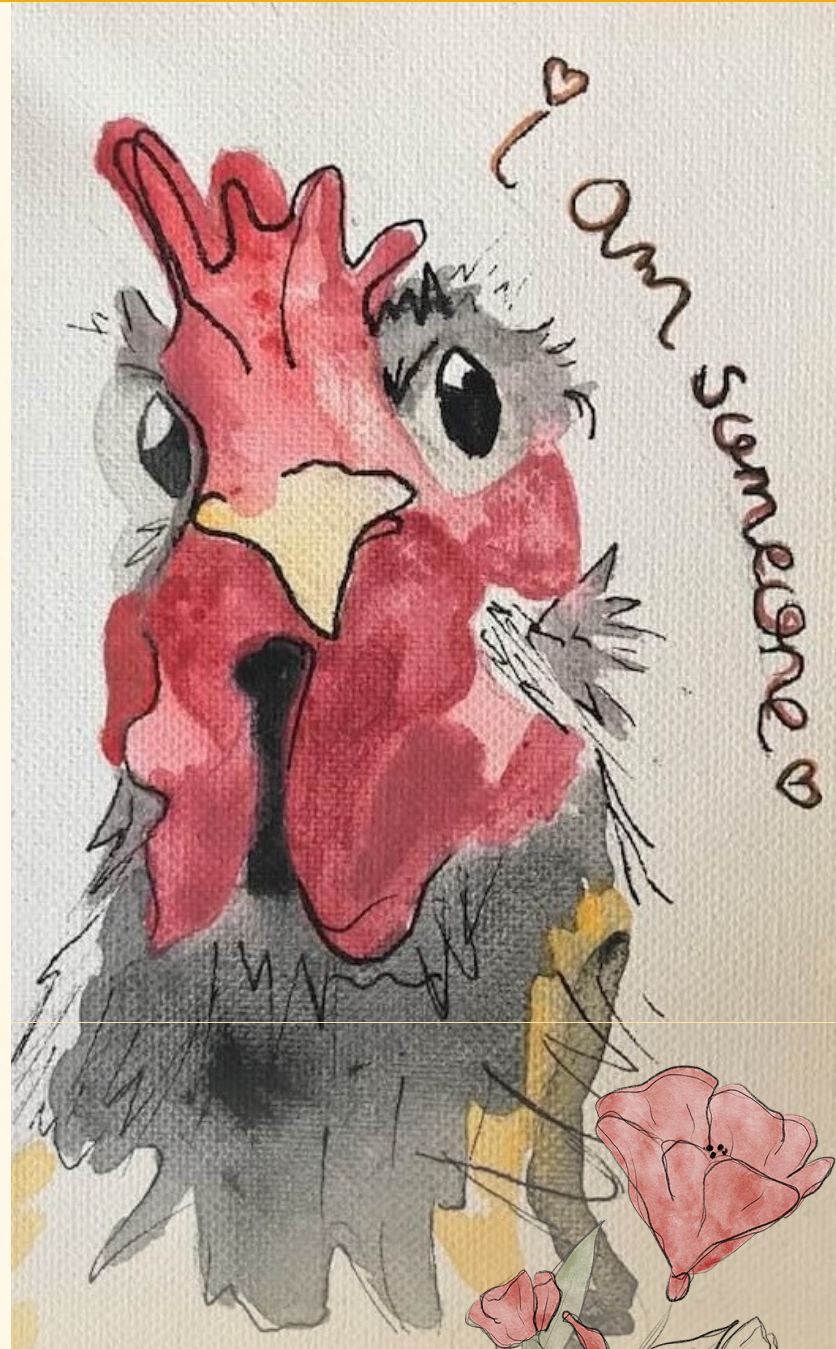
4339 facebook followers



SURVIVOR SPEAKS

I AM A BIRD

You throw me out, you let me down
 You drown my dreams
 You cage my wings who loves to fly
 I tolerate it all, I sense the duality in you
 I die a thousand deaths
 If I say something
 You tell me be silent, compromise
 What do you want, my community?
 You want me to change
 You don't want to change yourself
 But I have had enough, I am not going to
 stop now
 I will not bow before anybody anymore
 Not competing with you, I will create my
 own identity
 With doubts and fear, I am walking
 towards honor and freedom
 Breaking this cage, I am going to live my
 own life
 I am setting out to change this community
 with compassion and peace
 I am a bird, this Open sky is my home
 I am a Bird, who is eager to fly
 Who is eager for Change



SURVIVOR SPEAKS

There was something strange about that night.

That strange night felt near till yesterday.

And now it's close to me.

That strange night forgot to put me to sleep in its arms.

I was breathing, out of habit.

I waited frightfully for hours and moments to pass.

The silence of that night had started to speak whispers of his betrayal, deceit...

When was hope going to stop searching for its pieces in that house?

Why do you feel lost in your own house?

How were you going to fill the empty places in your heart?

The silence demanded.

All of a sudden something happened on that strange night...

My inner force was picking up.

A will power was generating in my mind.

My soul was on fire.

My heart was hatching.

My shell was shedding.

My cocoon was breaking.

My cast was cracking.

A seed inside me was sprouting.

My wings were opening up.

The silence of that night spoke, "You are changing. You are ready."

That strange night was becoming colorful and alive.

I started singing my name.

I took my mirror.

It was the only piece in that house that knew me.

I packed my needs in a bundle.

I had made a decision....



a decision

THE PEOPLE

BOARD

Sonya Pelia
Board President/Chair

Geetha Krishnamurthy
Vice President

Abha Singhvi
General Secretary

Ranjita Morton
Treasurer

Kusum Pandey

Madhu Khanna

Marian Sofaer

Meghna Hindia

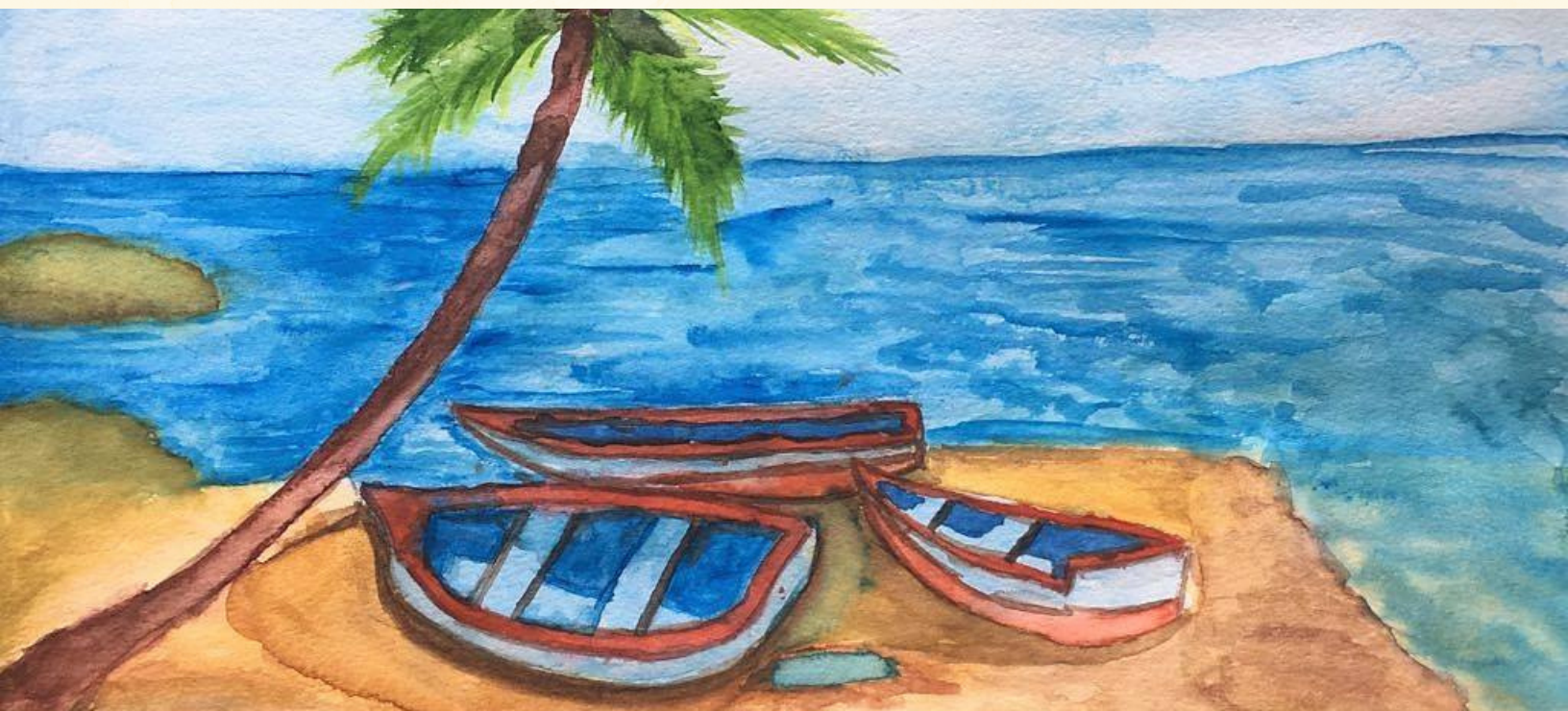
Namrata Patnaik

Noreen Raza

Poonam Goel

Sameer Ladiwala

Tarun Gupta



THE PEOPLE

STAFF

Rama Dharmarajan
Executive Director

Zakia Afrin
Manager, Client Advocacy Programs

Vishalakshi Vallurnatt
Manager, Development & Volunteer Engagement

Nandini Ray
Manager, Outreach & Prevention

Jaya Suresh
Manager, Transitional Housing & EEP

Mariam Ali
MFT Intern Counselor

Padma Bandhakavi
Bookkeeper

Ramadevi Bellamkonda
Client Advocate

Shabana Ansari
Legal Advocate

Shailaja Mahavadi
Helpline Advocate

Sneha Ambekar
Housing Coordinator

Tejeswi Dodda
Housing & Empowerment Advocate



MAITRI GRANTS

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF OUR PROGRAMS THAT WERE FUNDED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Adobe Employment Community Fund | Office On Violence Against Women, U.S. |
| Amazon Smile | Department of Justice |
| Asian Pacific Fund | Palo Alto Foundation Medical Group |
| Blue Shield of California Foundation | Community Healthcare Fund |
| California Office of Emergency Services (XC) | The Peggy & Jack Baskin Foundation |
| City of Cupertino General Fund | Pinpoint Foundation |
| City of Mountain View | Sand Hill Angels Charitable Foundation |
| County of Santa Clara (Office of Gender Based Violence Prevention; Office of Supportive Housing; Office of Women’s Policy; Social Services Agency) | Silicon Valley Community Foundation |
| Destination: Home | Sobrato Family Foundation |
| El Camino Healthcare District | Sunlight Giving |
| Hurlbut-Johnson Fund | The Bellwether Foundation II |
| | The Women’s Foundation of California |
| | van Löben Sels/RembeRock Foundation |
| | YWCA of the Mid-Peninsula Fund |



AWARDS & RECOGNITION

#

City of Newark adopted a proclamation, advocated by Maitri, officially declaring October Domestic Violence Awareness Month

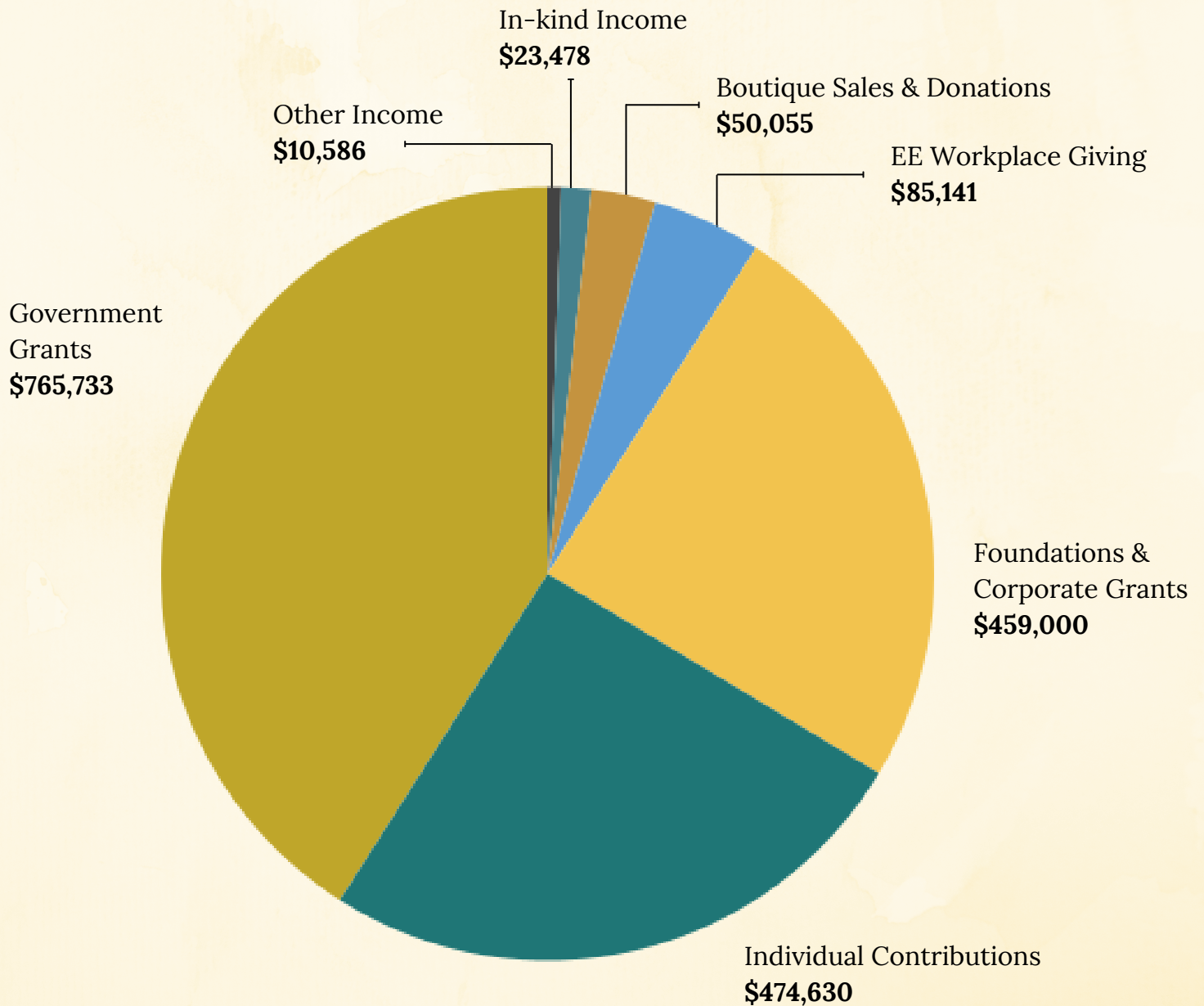
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Councilwoman Sylvia Arenas showcased a Maitri Youth Awareness Campaign video during the City Council meeting to commemorate #TDVAM

MAITRI FINANCIALS

UNAUDITED

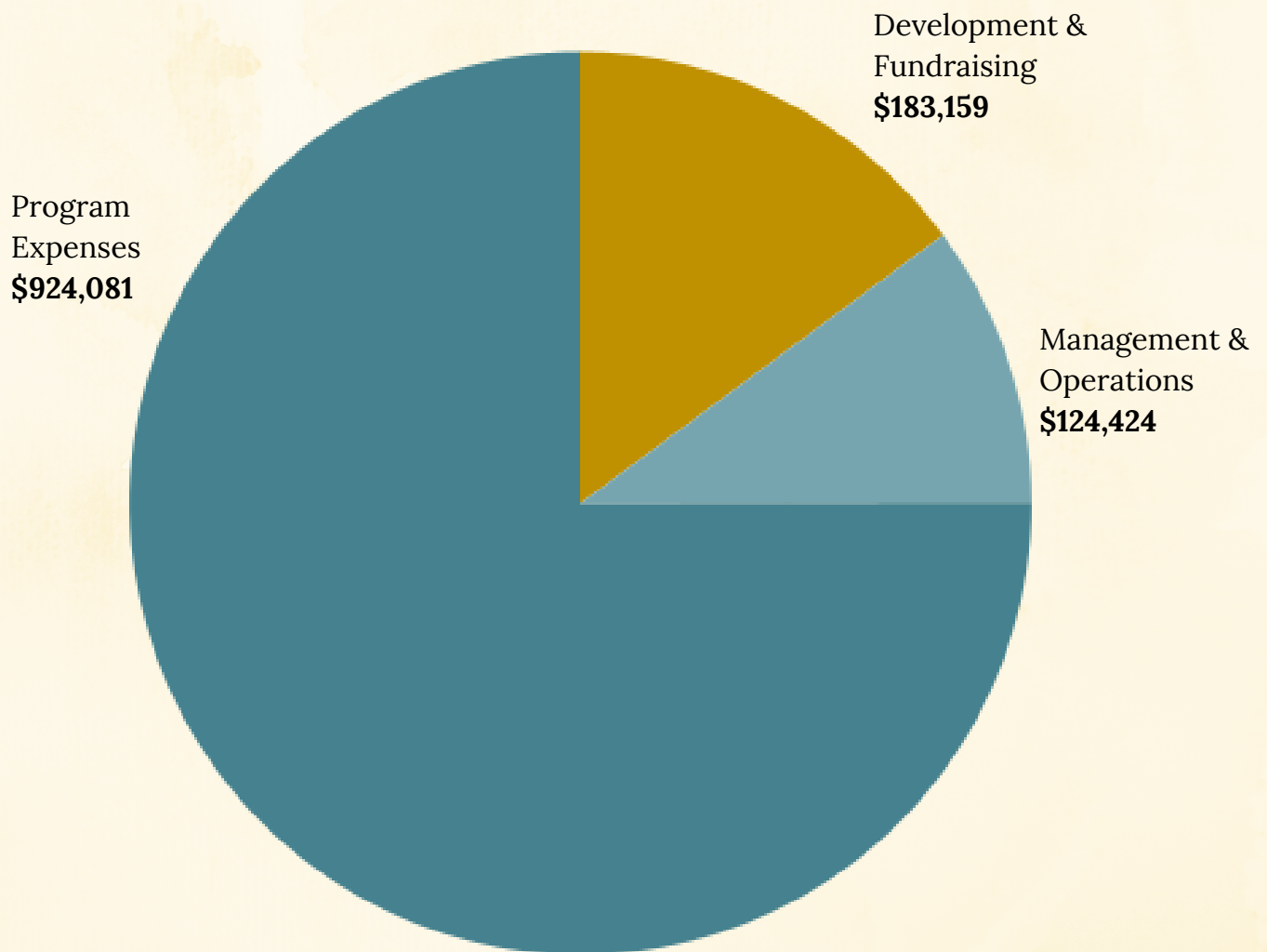
INCOME: \$1,868,623



MAITRI FINANCIALS

UNAUDITED


EXPENSES: \$1,231,664



TAX STATUS

This organization is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

It is eligible to receive contributions deductible as charitable donations for federal income tax purposes.



MAITRI

TOLL FREE HELPLINE

1-888-862-4874

www.maitri.org

(408) 436-8393



All artwork used in this report is from Maitri Art Fests

REPORT DESIGNED BY
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