

Between Friends

Maitri Quarterly Newsletter

April - 2020



Do your part in raising awareness!

This year the sentence handed down to the convicted rapist Harvey Weinstein sends an important message that there are serious consequences for committing rape and sexual assaults. Survivors alone cannot prevent rape, molestation, sexual violence and harassment that takes place within a relationship or is committed by a stranger. The judiciary system, service providers, and community members need to work in partnership to create a culture of consent, support survivors, and increase investments in prevention work. We must stop victim blaming and hold perpetrators accountable.

Last quarter at a glance

Client Holiday party

It was just a few months ago that we welcomed 2020 together with our clients and their children in January. It was a beautiful day filled with laughter and joy for all. We had a display of gifts for our clients and their children that they picked up of their choice. There were fun games, art activities, music, dance, and delicious food that everyone enjoyed. It was a day of celebration for our survivors with hopes for a safe future filled with peace and joy! We hope that the current crisis will tide over soon and we can continue to create such moments for survivors in the near future. A heartfelt appreciation to all volunteers and supporters who helped.

[More here!](#)

Boutique update

We would like to thank our community donors, customers, and volunteers for making our semi-annual sale at the boutique earlier this year, a huge success. In February, we also

had a boutique booth at our teen convention that received great response from our teen attendees.

Maitri Boutique is temporarily closed due to the shelter-in-place order. We are also putting an indefinite halt on accepting donations at our boutique. Please follow our boutique's **Facebook** page for all the boutique updates and news.

Community engagement for violence prevention



Maitri podcast launched

The Maitri podcast, *Between Friends - Conversations with Maitri* was launched in January, 2020. So far we have aired 10 shows through Radio Zindagi, 1170 AM, Sound Cloud, and Podcast. Our shows brought in field experts and community members (both adults and youth) to discuss various topics related to family / partner violence, and gender abuse. We are hopeful that our shows will motivate community members in raising awareness against domestic violence and gender abuse and help us in creating social norms that promote healthy relationships, respect and equity.

Find all the episodes on [Sound Cloud](#) and on podcasts. Search for '*Between Friends - Conversations with Maitri*'.



Maitri Teen convention

We co-organized a teen convention with a group of high school teens in February, 2020. The convention included a panel with teen speakers, an expert guest speaker, as well as informative skits on partner violence performed by high school theater students. Students from different high schools around the Bay Area attended the event. Seniors Srishti Singh, Shreya Satish and Rishika Singh opened the convention with a powerful speech about gender inequality. Yash Gajjar, an international teen speaker and author spoke about the harmful effects of toxic masculinity and high school teen, Isha Bhasin spoke on the importance of healthy communication. Following a powerful Q&A session with the teen panelists, the group heard a thought provoking talk from the Maitri president, Sonya Pelia. She talked about cultural challenges and nuances that instigate gender inequality and gender abuse and also the importance of prevention.

Watch the event video [HERE!](#)

Listen to the Silence conference

Maitri was invited to present at the Listen to the Silence conference organized by the Stanford Asian American Students' Association (AASA). Nandini Ray, Manager of our Outreach and Prevention program provided an educational session on addressing and identifying intimate partner violence. Students engaged in a powerful discussion with the presenter on identifying red signals of relationship abuse, importance of having a respectful and healthy relationship, and creating a culture where all relationships can thrive on equity, respect and dignity.

We continue to serve

While the Covid19 crisis continues to be a huge added worry for survivors and the whole community, we are rallying our strengths to ensure that services continue. To comply with and ensure health safety regulations and the shelter-in-place order, we have made necessary service modifications to be better equipped in assisting survivors of domestic violence. Our team is working remotely and our **live helpline** is open as usual from Mon to Fri (9 am to 3 pm) with voicemails checked at other times. We continue to reach out to our clients to offer them emotional, financial, and crisis intervention help as needed.

We continue to serve.

Don't Suffer Domestic Violence.
Call Maitri Helpline.
1-888-862-4874

Our live helpline is open Mon to Fri (9 am to 3 pm)
with voicemails checked outside of those hours.
For a full list of services, please visit www.maitri.org



We have created a [Covid-19 page](#) on our website with information and resources available for this crisis. Please also click [HERE](#) for learning more on Maitri's tips on safety planning and hours of help.

Do watch our PSA created with Diya TV.



1-888-862-4874

maitri@maitri.org

www.maitri.org/donate



DONATE

Maitri is on Amazon Smile

Shopping online? Please consider using the Amazon Smile program. This is an easy way to support Maitri while purchasing anything. Just visit [Amazon Smile](#) and search for "Maitri Charitable Trust" to select.

Welcoming new staff

Please join us in welcoming Ramadevi Bellamkonda. She joined Maitri in February 2020 as a Client Advocate. Rama has an Electronics and Communications Engineering background and has worked in that field for several years. Prior to joining the staff team, she volunteered at Maitri and worked on our outreach and client advocacy initiatives. She

is very passionate about tackling issues dealing with women's rights and the overall mission of the Maitri organization. She loves reading books, traveling, and spending quality time with family and friends.

Quarterly program statistics



Helpline

Crisis calls: 101
Total Calls: 918



Legal Advocacy

Total Clients: 91
Advocacy Sessions: 275



Transitional Housing

Women served: 11
Children served: 11

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