



# Between Friends

Maitri Quarterly Newsletter

January - 2021

## Starting with hope and determination

As we closed out on what has been one of the most challenging years in recent history, all of us at Maitri welcome 2021 with a renewed vow to support our clients in their needs and in their healing. Though the pandemic continues to impact us all, we have grown in strength and resilience and in our learnings. We extend our deepest gratitude to our volunteers, supporters, donors, [funders](#)



and our committed staff in helping us meet all of the unprecedented demands of the past year. Thanks to all of the support, we were able to continue providing critical support and services to those impacted by domestic violence. We wish everyone safety, good health, and peace this new year as we navigate together our way out of this current crisis and work to end domestic violence.

## Last quarter at a glance

### Powerful youth engagements

Let's do it!



We are proud to publish a PSA where community teens are inviting everyone to join them in addressing and eliminating harmful community issues like gender-based violence, abuse, bullying, gender inequality, and victim-blaming. Watch this powerful video.

### **Show heart through art**

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Maitri Art & Poetry Fest engaged young minds in upholding the value of love, compassion, and peace in human relationships. 71 Youngsters took part in creating a diverse and rich collection of art work and poetry. Enjoy the awesome [album](#).



### **Leaders of today & tomorrow**

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Maitri co-organized a teen forum with [AOC](#), a grass-root student organization in raising awareness around mental health stigma. While talking about mental health is typically ignored in South Asian communities, teen students had an open discussion on how mental health wellbeing matters to individuals and communities. Watch the discussion.

## Survivors in the center

### Movie screening and panel

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Maitri presented an online screening of the award-winning documentary, [Untying the](#)

[Knot](#). The documentary is about 4 women who faced abusive relationships and harmful patriarchal values within marriage and family yet didn't stop to dream for a better future. The screening was followed by a panel discussion with the director [Zana Shammi](#) and survivor [Rumana Monzur](#), moderated by our board president, Sonya Pelia. The panel discussion was well attended and well received by our community members.

## Prevention talks

In the last quarter Maitri Board President, Sonya Pelia and Manager of our Client advocacy program, Zakia Afrin, attended multiple panel discussions and conferences to talk about the unique challenges that immigrant domestic violence survivors face and the importance of providing culturally responsive services. Maitri representatives shared their knowledge and experience in the advocacy field at the Santa Clara County Annual [Domestic Violence Conference](#), [CPEDV](#) conference, [CRDVN](#) conference and in the [Cloud Play House Panel](#).

## Policy advocacy efforts

### Advocacy in city councils

As part of our DVAM advocacy, we had reached out to The City of Newark asking for a resolution and we are happy to announce that the City of Newark adopted a proclamation on October 22, 2020, officially declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The proclamations was read out to us over a live City Council Zoom meeting. It was a proud moment for us.

Maitri Staff Shabana Ansari delivered public comments at the Mountain View city council on October 13, commemorating Domestic Violence Awareness Month and calling for community members and council members to get involved in addressing this invisible pandemic.



## Advocacy for prevention



The need for a comprehensive plan to address domestic violence in our communities is urgent. Maitri continues to advocate at the federal and state levels for funding and systemic change to prevent domestic violence and sexual assault, prevent homelessness for victims and survivors, and for immigration reform and reproductive rights. We call on policy makers to consider various measures to help make this happen: [More here.](#)

**Shop at AmazonSmile, Support Maitri!**

## Announcements

Please join us in welcoming our new staff members.

**Emma Qian** joined Maitri as a Bookkeeper. She moved to accounting field after her graduation as she enjoys working with numbers & problem solving. She has several years of experience working in accounting positions in various industries. Emma enjoys travelling, spending time in nature and doing crafts. She also engages in volunteering to help community.

**Tanuja Hegde** joined Maitri as our Finance Manager. Prior to that she worked in accounting and finance related positions in the construction industry and in banking. She has a Master's degree in Business Administration, specializing in Finance. She is inspired by Maitri's mission and she looks forward to contribute meaningfully towards fulfilling Maitri's vision. In her free time, she likes to travel, play games and spend time with friends and family.

## Quarterly Program Statistics



### Helpline

Crisis Calls: 69  
Total Calls: 1250



### Legal Advocacy

Clients Served: 92  
Advocacy Sessions: 272



### Transitional Housing

Women Served: 6  
Children Served: 2

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*This project was supported by Grant No. 2017-UW-AX-0007 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women*