



Maitri

Date: 3/5/2024

Press Release: For Immediate Release

Maitri celebrates 33 years at its Annual 2024 Gala!

Empowering South Asian survivors of domestic violence to lead a fulfilling and dignified life!

Maitri ([www.maitri.org](http://www.maitri.org)) celebrated a successful gala on Saturday, March 2, 2024, in Palo Alto, California, bringing together luminaries, advocates, and philanthropists for an evening that resonated with the spirit of hope, empowerment, and transformation. Maitri showcased a breathtaking display of color, art, music, and dance, leaving attendees inspired and moved. The event brought together many of our long-time supporters as well as new community members, who are just learning about Maitri. The attendees were moved by Maitri's work and, even in these difficult times of global uncertainty, they have generously supported our mission and helped us raise more than \$600K.

The funds will be used to strengthen Maitri's comprehensive services and programs that enable survivors of domestic violence to choose a nonviolent future, get back on their feet, and live a fulfilling life without fear. In addition, Maitri continues to invest in awareness building and prevention by reaching out to the South Asian community.

The highlight of the evening was a mesmerizing performance by the Ishami Dance Company, whose beautifully choreographed dance conveyed a powerful message of resilience and unity. Through their graceful movements and captivating expressions, the dancers transported the audience on a journey of introspection and hope.

Adding to the allure of the gala was a splendid silent auction, featuring an array of exclusive items generously donated by supporters and partners. Guests had bid on each item, with proceeds going towards Maitri's vital initiatives.

The evening reached its pinnacle with a heartwarming talk by Nandita Das, renowned actress, director, and fierce advocate for human rights and social justice. Nandita shared her insights and experiences, urging guests to embrace their roles as agents of change in creating a more equitable and compassionate world.

Dr. Geetha Krishnamurthy, President of Maitri, expressed gratitude to all the gala attendees and invited them to join the movement to prevent domestic violence. *She said “In 2024, we renew our commitment to fostering a community that refuses to tolerate domestic violence. We aim to amplify our outreach and prevention efforts, collaborating with local schools, businesses, and community organizations to raise awareness and foster a culture of empathy. Education is a powerful tool, and we believe it is key to preventing future instances of abuse. Tonight I want to emphasize the word “together. Your presence underscores the importance of our work and that together we can end this violence.”*

As the night came to a close, attendees departed with renewed determination to champion the values of compassion, equality, and justice. The Maitri Gala 2024 left an indelible mark on hearts and minds, igniting a spark of optimism and solidarity that will continue to illuminate the path ahead in building a society where all relationships are based on dignity, equity, and compassion.

Maitri is a free, confidential, nonprofit organization based in the San Francisco Bay Area, that helps South Asian survivors facing domestic violence, emotional abuse, cultural alienation, and family conflict regardless of gender, age, faith, and immigration status. In these 33 years, the agency has responded to over 60,000 calls on its helpline, served almost 8,000 survivors, dispersed over a million dollars in empowerment grants and loans, run a 9-bedroom fully occupied Transitional House for over 25 years, developed full legal, outreach, and economic empowerment programs, and actively advocated for policy change for survivors of familial violence.

For more information about Maitri, visit [www.maitri.org](http://www.maitri.org). The Maitri toll-free helpline number: is 1-888-862-4874 (1 888 8 MAITRI). Visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/maitribayarea>.