



Between Friends

Maitri Quarterly Newsletter

April, 2023



2023



Commemorating Sexual Assault Awareness Month Child Abuse Prevention Month

The month of April calls attention for community engagement to prevent sexual assault and child abuse. These crimes are pervasive, life threatening and heinous. Nationwide, 1 in 5 women and 1 in 38 men have experienced rape in her or his lifetime (nnedv.org). About 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 13 boys in the United States experience child sexual abuse, and in 91% of child sexual abuse cases the perpetrator is someone known and trusted by the child or child's family members (cdc.gov). While these numbers are shocking, they are likely not capturing the true impact of the problem as most of the time these crimes are not reported. Vulnerable victims are violated in schools, workplaces, and inside homes. While sexual abuse is not an isolated incident in intimate partner relationships, it is hard to prove in court no matter how traumatizing the experience is. Lack of understanding or not recognizing marital rape as a form of abuse discourages victims to report sexual abuse in such situations.

Join Maitri in creating safe and nurturing environments where inter-personal violence and abuse will not be tolerated. Educate yourself about healthy and unhealthy relationships, reproductive autonomy and importance of consent in intimate relationships. Know about the community resources that can help survivors of familial violence, sexual violence and child abuse. Provide non-judgmental support to heal those who are harmed and volunteer for a cause to protect the most vulnerable section of our community.

[DONATE
HERE](#)

[VOLUNTEER](#)

Maitri Turned 32

In February this year Maitri turned 32. Maitri board, staff and volunteers celebrated this joyous occasion with food, laughter and camaraderie. Together, we remembered our significant milestones and took a pledge to be committed toward the cause!



Maitri Gala Update

Support from the event attendees, solidarity for the cause, great performance by Vidya Vox, DJ dance party, exclusive silent auction, delicious food from Amber, and a flow of generous donations made our gala a huge success on Mar 11, 2023. Our heartfelt



gratitude to our supporters, donors and sponsors who helped us exceeding our fundraising goal of \$600K. The funds will be used for strengthening our comprehensive programs! [Gala Photo Album.](#)

[Gala Media Coverages: Diya TV | Indica News | India Currents | India West | SJMN.](#)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Film Screening & Discussion

In January, Maitri hosted the screening of “Unborn”, a movie that addresses sex selective abortion within an Indian family in the Bay area. After the screening, Sonya Pelia, a Maitri board member joined Rashmi Rustagi, the veteran screenwriter and actor to discuss the issue of female feticide faced by Indian immigrant women in the US, patriarchal culture jeopardizing physical and mental health wellbeing of South Asian



women, and ways to get involved in raising community awareness about this issue. Please watch this insightful discussion!



Parents' Focus Group

To commemorate Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month Maitri had a focus group discussion with Maitri supporters in February, 2023. Purpose of this discussion was to find out: Do parents feel comfortable discussing healthy and unhealthy partner relationships with their teen? How to diminish generational cultural gap so that we can help our children in having safe relationships?

Women's History Month

We celebrated Women's History Month in March with two online campaigns. One campaigns focused on upholding activism and achievements of South Asian women in the gender justice movement and another campaign engaged our community members in giving a shout out to amazing women from our everyday lives. Please see the campaign albums below.



SA women in the Gender Justice Movement



Honoring Amazing Women 2023

Outreach Booths

Maitri volunteers provided information booths at different community events to gain organizational visibility. We feel honored when visitors come to our booths and thank us for our community services. It is important we attend community events so people who need our help can find us.

If you are organizing any event please



[contact us](#) for booth or presentation opportunities. With your support we can help someone to break the cycle of abuse.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Presentations for Students

Last quarter, Maitri staff conducted an educational session on culturally responsive advocacy and services for the Stanford Alternative Spring Break (ASB) class. It is always great to see when student communities come forward to learn about social issues and they brainstorm in finding solutions.

Maitri staff also provided another session at the Milpitas High school addressing the issue of relationship abuse and violence. Students learned how to identify red flags in dating relationships and how they can create a culture of healthy partner relationships. A large group of students took part in the discussion to understand relationship abuse in the digital era and they showed their commitment in joining prevention work.



The Stanford ASB class



Milpitas High school

Youth Podcast

Maitri podcast invited a student group from UCLA to discuss: What does a healthy relationship look like for Gen Z? What do they expect from their partners and community? Listen to this interesting

conversation [here](#).

Between Friends
Host: Sammi Roy | Season 4
MAITRI

Generation Z Discussing Healthy Partner Relationships



Nishant
Jain



Shivani
Kapur



Chaitanya
Bashyam



Pavana
Atawale

WISDOM OF OUR ELDERS

*“I ask my sisters to
not lose hope in the
face of injustice, as
we will get justice
one day for sure.”*

- Mukhtar Mai



Mukhtaran Bibi, now known as Mukhtār Mā’ī, is a Pakistani human rights activist from the village of Meerwala, Pakistan. Mukhtar Mai was gang raped in 2002 on the orders of a village council but became a symbol of hope for oppressed women. More [here](#).

AWARDS & RECOGNITION



The Board of Supervisors, County of Santa Clara honored Maitri with a plaque of commendation for serving the most vulnerable members of our



A round of applause for the City of Milpitas! On March 7, 2023 The City Council of Milpitas proclaimed March

community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic with empathy, competency and accessibility. We are thankful for this honor! Please check out the awards and recognition Maitri has received so far [here](#).

as Women's History Month and recognized the contribution of the [CEDAW Task Force](#) members with certificates of appreciation. Zakia Afrin, Director, Survivor Advocacy at Maitri received an honor at the City Council Meeting. More [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Maitri Commemorating National Crime Victims' Rights Week

JOIN US ONLINE
Tuesday, April 25, 12-1pm (PST)



We Share

Our findings on marital rape and consent
in intimate relationships

Live on Facebook
@MaitriBayArea

Join Us

Please join us on the [Maitri Bay Area Facebook](#) Page, we will do a live streaming of the event.

Maitri is Hiring!

Prevention Program Associate (Full-Time): Maitri is seeking a passionate and committed individual to support and expand Maitri's Outreach & Prevention Program. Responsibilities include coordination and implementation of Outreach and Prevention Program activities aiming to raise awareness of healthy relationships and gender equity. To learn more & apply, please [click here](#).

QUARTERLY UPDATE ON PROGRAM STATS

Total Survivors Served:244

Total Helpline Calls:451

Total Transitional Housing Bed-nights:692

Total Legal Advocacy Sessions:173

Total Economic Empowerment Program Sessions:49

THANK YOU!



Maitri Gala Sponsors

A big Shout Out to our Gala sponsors for supporting the Maitri Gala 2023.

Diamond Sponsor - Saba Decor

Gold Sponsor - Viva Bakshi Real Estate

Silver Sponsor - SG Inc CPA



Salaam Food Pantry: We are very grateful to Salam Food Pantry! Thank you for providing warm and delicious meals for our wellness gatherings at our Anjali Transitional House. The food reminded many of our survivors of home and warmth bringing smiles on their faces.



PubMatic Donation: We are grateful to PubMatic for donating women products and toiletries for the women we serve. This kind of community support gives us strength to continue our journey in ending domestic violence.

Shastha Foods Campaign

We are thankful to Shastha Foods for running a donation campaign for Maitri. Buy Shastha Foods' Dosa & Idli batter, scan the QR code on the container lid and donate to Maitri. Help Maitri clients to live a life with dignity. Every dollar from this campaign will go towards building their future without fear!





VISIT OUR WEBSITE

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER



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