



Between Friends

Maitri Quarterly Newsletter

January, 2023

“Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love.” – Lao Tzu



As we reflect on the year 2022, we realized that though community wellbeing was impacted directly or indirectly by the pandemic, global insurgencies and economic turmoil, our supporters stood steadfast to show their solidarity and kindness to survivors of domestic violence. We were also awed by the strength that our clients demonstrated; many of whom had lost their financial security and faced racial and systemic injustice, and yet continued their battles in reclaiming their safety, solace and justice. And Maitri was able to support them in their journey thanks to your partnership.

With your kindness, each of you helped us continue this lifesaving work for our community. We are deeply grateful for the outpouring of support we received from our partners, allies, donors, [institutional funders](#) and volunteers.

We share below a few highlights of our work from 2022 and the last quarter.

You helped us help survivors in 2022

Helpline Calls: 1,878

Legal Advocacy Sessions: 899

Court Accompaniments: 33

Free Attorney Consultations: 112

Bed-nights at Anjali Transitional House: 3,052

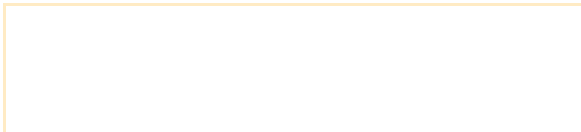
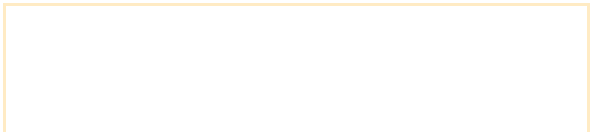
Economic Empowerment Sessions: 243

<h3>Impact from your help</h3> <p>90% of clients surveyed said that they received the help they sought in the helpline.</p> <p>93% reported increased awareness of legal rights.</p> <p>75% reported being very satisfied with the legal assistance.</p> <p>100% EEP workshop participants rated the sessions good/ excellent.</p>	<h3>Annual Report (2021 -2022)</h3> <p>For most of last year, we not only worked hard on providing critical services but also encouraged survivors and advocates to explore their creativity, and promoted mental wellness. We also lent our voices to important policy making spaces, uplifting the need for funding, for removing barriers to interventions, and advocating for the urgency of prevention strategies. Please read last fiscal year's full Annual Report here.</p>
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LAST QUARTER AT A GLANCE

DVAM Activities

We commemorated Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) in October with multiple events and awareness campaigns. Maitri staff presented at the DVAM event organized by the [Office of Racial Equity, San Jose](#), highlighting unique issues that impact South Asian survivors. We also presented at the [Indiaspora's](#) 10th Anniversary Forum and at the Milpitas adult education center discussing the negative impact of domestic violence and community's role in prevention. Team Maitri showed up at the Santa Clara County [Domestic Violence Awareness walk](#) and at the Fremont City Hall [Candlelight Vigil](#) to amplify survivors' voices. We also engaged our community with two awareness campaigns. Please see the campaign photos here: [#Purple Thursday Campaign](#) and [Maitri Art and Poetry Fest](#).





Fremont Candlelight Vigil



County DV Awareness Walk

Policy Advocacy



A landmark Indian court ruling in 2022 says that rape includes marital rape and extends abortion rights to 24 weeks, significantly broadening the definition of Marital rape in India. We invited renowned lawyer and Human Rights advocate Mihir Desai to a meeting to discuss how the ruling may affect rights of women in India and help move progress on other areas. Watch the discussion video [here](#).

POLICY ADVOCACY @ MAITRI OCT 2022

CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yH52aiggR>

A Conversation with

Mihir Desai

On Marital rape, Abortion rights and Domestic Violence Law (498A) in India
October 20, 2022

CITY PROCLAMATIONS



Maitri representatives successfully reached out to several cities in the Bay Area to proclaim October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

PUBLIC COMMENTS



Maitri staff and volunteers attended City Council meetings and spoke to bring attention to the needs of survivors:
Language Access
Culturally responsive services
Criminal Justice Reform
Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Community Outreach

Last quarter our outreach activities saw a big upsurge as the community eased up to in-person engagements. In person community events created more opportunity for Maitri to raise awareness about prevalence of domestic violence. Maitri representatives provided booths and presentations at various social and corporate events. A broad list of events includes Diwali Mela, corporate event at the Google headquarters and many more.

Along with all these community activities we also provided a training at the San Jose Police Department. The training was about how patrol officers can provide culturally responsive services while responding to immigrant survivors. Please [email](#) us for outreach opportunities.

Maitri in Media: [Mera Sangeet](#) | [ABC 7 News](#) | [KTVU](#) | [Shuno with Jaago](#) | [Shift Focus](#)

Narratives

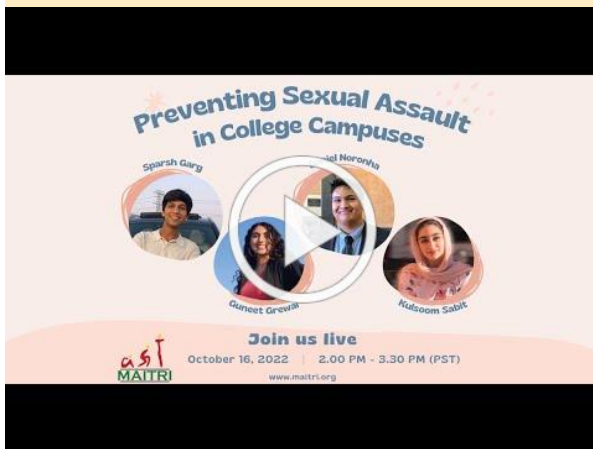


Maitri session at SJPD



Maitri booth at the Google headquarter

Youth Engagement



Maitri Youth Panel

A group of students from Santa Clara University joined Maitri in raising awareness against sexual assault in college campuses. Student panelists shared their views on how misogyny creates rape culture in school campuses and community's role in prevention. Event feedback tells us that attendees loved this powerful discussion. Please click on the picture to watch the panel video.

Youth Session



A South Asian student group from UCLA invited Maitri to conduct an educational session on the issue of partner violence prevention. We discussed red signals in partner relationships, digital abuse to control partners and students' role in establishing a culture of healthy partner relationships. It was a great interactive session exchanging prevention ideas.

Youth Podcast

South Asian youth are breaking the stigma associated with mental health. Students from UC Davis joined us to discuss generational and cultural gaps that impact emotional well-being of community youth. Listen to the episode [here](#). To listen to other episodes from the last quarter, [click here](#).



WISDOM OF OUR ELDERS

"Fear is just a line in your head. You can choose what side of the line you want to be on...you can't let fear control you."

Sabeen Mahmud
June 1974 -April 2015



Sabeen Mahmud (June 1974 – April 2015) was a progressive Pakistani human rights activist and social worker. Mahmud wanted to challenge injustice and discrimination, and to encourage critical thinking. She was fatally shot by gunmen on her way home after hosting a seminar.

QUARTERLY UPDATE ON PROGRAM STATS

Total Survivors Served: 174

Total Helpline Calls: 444

Total Transitional Housing Bed-nights: 768

Total Legal Advocacy Sessions: 183

Total Economic Empowerment Program Sessions: 69

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Maitri Gala 2023 - Registration Open

Maitri Gala
2023

Where
the Mind
is
Without
Fear

An Evening of Dance, Music, & More!
Sat, 11 Mar 2023, 5:30 PM
Crown Plaza Hotel, Palo Alto, CA



Maitri invites you to attend our annual fundraising event, the Maitri Gala on March 11, 2023. Your presence and support will empower survivors in building a future filled with honor and dignity. Join us for an evening filled with cocktails, dinner, music, dance, & exciting silent auction. Please [Register here](#). Find more information about the event [here](#).

Outstanding Advocate 2022

Shabana Ansari, Maitri Legal Advocacy Coordinator was awarded the 2022 Outstanding Advocate at the 29th Annual Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Conference on Oct 19. It is a well-deserved honor for Shabana's work and dedication toward this cause!



Scan. Donate. Done.



<https://paybee.io/@maitri>

Buy Shastha Foods' batter & Help Maitri Clients

Buy Shastha Foods' Dosa & Idli batter. Scan the QR code on the 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!

Thank you [Shastha Foods](#) for your generosity.

Welcoming New Staff

Archana Iyer: Archana joined us as the new Helpline Advocate (part-time). Archana brings over 12 years of corporate experience from varied positions that allowed her to hone her communication, organization and people skills.

Eboni Collins: Eboni joined us as the Digital Media Associate (part time) She has experience with digital media marketing coming from an extensive marketing internship with Meta. She's currently completing her degree in Communications and Professional Writing. Eboni is excited to expand Maitri's online presence.

Urja Patel: Urja joined us as a Legal Advocate (part time). She has a degree in Psychology with a Minor in Women and Gender studies. She has varied experience as Research Coordinator, Registered Behavioral Technician, and hotel management business.



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