



Between Friends

Maitri Quarterly Newsletter

July, 2022



“Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

– Desmond Tutu

While we continue to face a lot of uncertainty and anxiety due to the pandemic, several other happenings around us are adding stress and making our lives daunting. In the past 6 months we have witnessed multiple occurrences of gun violence, hate crimes, and incidents of violence against women and marginalized communities; and most recently the Supreme Court's decision on abortion rights has added an extra layer of fear and helplessness. If we look deeper and analyze, we will find that all these problems are deeply rooted in oppressive patriarchy and racial injustice. Yes, we are frustrated and sad at this moment. However, at Maitri we believe that with a strong community connection and collective force, we can end all forms of injustice and inequalities. So please do your part to help address and eliminate the violence and abuse that surrounds us. We are positive and confident that with human empathy, allyship and love we can create a society where each of us can live with dignity, equity, and respect.

**Please read Maitri's stand on Supreme Court's decision on abortion rights [here](#).

Thanking our funders

A big shout out to our institutional funders that partner with us in this work. We are hopeful with their continuous support we can provide safety and stability to more survivors and engage more community members in prevention work. [Funders list](#).

LAST QUARTER AT A GLANCE

Maitri Gala - a resounding success!



We hosted our annual virtual gala in May, 2022! Thanks to the support of this wonderful community, we were able to get very close to our goal of raising \$500k. Mesmerizing music, heart touching speeches, energetic bidding at the silent auction, and generous donations from our donors made our gala a huge success! Our heartfelt gratitude to all our supporters for showing up and contributing to honor our cause.

SURVIVORS IN THE CENTER

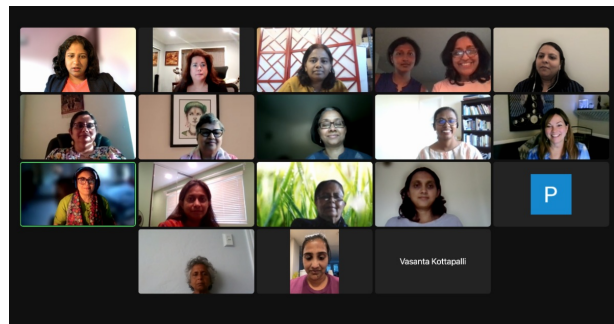
Report on transnational abandonment

In April we commemorated National Crime Victims' Rights week presenting our findings on Transnational Abandonment of South Asian individuals. Representatives from our sister agencies also attended the event and shared their experiences of working in transnational abandonment cases as well. Watch this video to listen to our presentation.



Discussion on marital rape laws

In June we organized an interactive discussion session with specific emphasis on the marital rape laws in California and brainstorming strategies for community engagement in preventing domestic violence. Our guest speaker Diane Gout, Director of Impact Strategies at CPEDV, spoke about the inherent challenges in proving a case of spousal rape in the court of law and touched upon how failing to identify red flags in a toxic relationship normalizes relationship abuse. She expressed the importance of collaboration of domestic violence agencies and sexual assault agencies in providing right help to survivors.



Policy Advocacy



In June Maitri staff joined [NNEDV](#) and [CPEDV](#) member coalitions to meet with Members of Congress, legislators and policymakers to help advance the collective agenda of domestic violence leadership, asking for program funding and amplifying survivors' needs! To see some of the priorities during this year's [#AdvocacyDays](#), click [here](#).

Gun violence awareness campaign



Domestic violence and guns are a lethal combination. The presence of a firearm in a home with domestic violence can transform abuse into homicide in a fraction of a second. In demanding stricter laws and better policies to prevent gun violence we commemorated National Gun Violence Awareness Day with a social media campaign.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Maitri Podcast

Maitri podcast helps community members in identifying societal and cultural flaws that make relationship abuse possible. Our guests share knowledge and resources to help community members in ending relationship abuse. In that effort we published 4 podcast episodes in the last quarter: 1. [Advocates give hope to survivors!](#) 2. [Safety tips to avoid online abuse!](#) 3. [Child marriage is a curse!](#) and 4. [Spotlight on mental health](#). Find all other episodes on [SoundCloud](#), [YouTube](#) and wherever you get your podcast. Please share our podcast widely.

Book reading with Chitra

We had a book reading event with Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, one of the Maitri founders and an award winning author. The event was open for community members. Chitra read a passage from her latest book, *The Last Queen*, and signed the purchased books. Maitri supporters attended this cozy evening to show their solidarity to Maitri and to donate for the cause.



Community booths

In May, Maitri was invited by a Punjabi women group to celebrate Sanj Maavan Dhiyan Di. This event raised awareness about women's rights and domestic violence concerns while fostering female solidarity. Maitri was also invited by Gunn High School at their Wellness event. Our booth was visited by many students and they showed interest in offering their support to Maitri's prevention campaigns.



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Support from UCSB - Dhadkan

A huge round of applause to [UCSB Dhadkan](#) for organizing a Maitri benefit. On April 9th, multiple college teams with their own style and stories took part in Santa Barbara's premier Bollywood & Bhangra competition. They raised and donated \$10,000 to Maitri to empower South Asian survivors of domestic violence



and towards Maitri's prevention work.

Collaboration with Taaza



A group of students from the University of Pittsburgh, [Taaza](#) has helped us in different prevention awareness campaigns. Last quarter they joined Maitri in creating an awareness video in preventing toxic dating relationships. Watch this short yet powerful video.

WISDOM OF OUR ELDERS



Kumari Jayawardena -1931

“Women are the victims of war... as widows they've faced the trauma of being single parents and livelihoods of families are affected. A lot of gender-related problems come up in terms of health, education, domestic violence, etc.”



Kumari Jayawardena is a leading feminist activist and academic in Sri Lanka. Her work is part of the canon of Third-world feminism which conceptualizes feminist philosophies as indigenous and unique to non-Western societies and nations rather than offshoots of Western feminism.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Maitri at Sevathon

Walk, run or do yoga supporting Maitri at Sevathon on August 28 @ 7:30 am at Vasona Park, Los Gatos. Register for Maitri [here](#) and show your stand against domestic violence. Join this family friendly, fun event to celebrate a great cause!

We are hiring

DONOR DEVELOPMENT MANAGER will develop and manage a strong community giving program, identify corporate partners and CSRs for sponsorship, and further the fundraising strategies to support the financial sustainability of the organization. [Learn more.](#)

LEGAL ADVOCATE will be responsible for providing culturally responsive legal advocacy services to survivors of gender based violence. [Learn more.](#)

DIGITAL MEDIA ASSOCIATE will build and expand Maitri's online presence through social media campaigns and online outreach activities. [Learn more.](#)

Welcoming new staff

We are pleased to welcome Madura Maruthamuthu, who joined Maitri as a part time helpline advocate. Prior to Maitri, Madura worked as an engineer for several years. More recently she worked as a part-time lecturer in biomedical engineering in SJSU. Madura joined Maitri with an urge to work for a social cause. She is a state mandated 40 hour trained domestic violence advocate and passionate about supporting survivors to help them not only survive but thrive in their lives.

QUARTERLY UPDATE ON PROGRAM STATS

Total Survivors Served : 259
Total Helpline Calls : 433
Total Transitional Housing Bed-nights: 737
Total Legal Advocacy Sessions: 265
Total Economic Empowerment Program Sessions: 90

Easy way to support Maitri

You shop, Amazon gives: Make a difference when shopping on Amazon! Select 'Maitri Charitable Trust' as your favorite charity on Amazon Smile. For your every purchase, Amazon donates a percentage of it to Maitri.

You shop, Shastha Foods gives: Make a difference when shopping on [Shastha online](#). Add products in your cart and select Maitri from the list of charities from the drop down menu. 3% of your order value will be donated by Shastha Foods to Maitri with no cost added to you.



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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