



Between Friends

Maitri Quarterly Newsletter

October- 2017

October is recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) nationwide since October 1987. The aim was to raise awareness and unite individuals and organizations working on domestic violence (DV) issues. While domestic violence is still very much a prominent negative issue, with awareness and activism, much progress has been made to support domestic violence survivors, hold abusers accountable, and create and update legislations to further those goals.



It is gratifying to see our community join us in raising awareness and provide support. This enables agencies such as Maitri to increase our efforts to empower those affected by domestic violence. Thanks to your support and our efforts, many of those served by us are living now in a safe environment, and many are making progress on the path to self-sufficiency. Today we are honored to share some of our client testimonies with you - testimonies that also show us the transformation of a survivor's pain into power and a violence-free life of dignity.

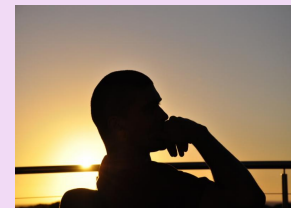


A Single mom of 1 with admirable career in Human Resources:

"He hit me when I was pregnant on Dec 31, 2011.He called me a psych so that he can keep me away from my baby.....All of a sudden, my life changed drastically. I had nowhere to go & had nothing in my hand. God stepped in and all kind of help came through Maitri. Today I owe my everything to Maitri. I got back everything I lost / more than what I lost. I got back custody of my baby, Green card and a good job to support myself and my kid. I' am totally indebted to the whole team who supported me from nowhere to here."

A single dad of 2 working in the IT industry:

"Everything I did was always controlled by her. I felt like a caged animal, instead of being treated like a person. It took me 12 years to muster up the strength to leave my ex-wife. I stayed for the kids and in the irony of it all; I left her for the kids!Maitri paid for hotel/motel nights for weeks when there was no one who can take me and my kids in to stay with them temporarily.Maitri paid for attorney to represent me in court and that too stretched Maitri's resources beyond what Maitri was designed to provide. Not a single day goes by where I forget where I am from and how far I have come."



Maitri DVAM Activities

Engaging youth in raising awareness

The Maitri Art Fest, Show Heart through Art is brought to life by youngsters sending out a message of peace, love, compassion and human dignity through their artwork and writings. A huge round of applause to all the participants whose creativity is captured and cherished in this [album](#).

Maitri with [Agents of Change](#) organized a teen forum on October 22nd. Teen community members shared their views on domestic violence, cultivating healthy relationships, and mental health well-being! Both panelists and attendees participated in a rich discussion on the topics important to the community. More [here](#).

Last Quarter @ a Glance

Community Outreach

Last quarter Maitri staff and volunteers actively participated in different outreach activities. We did 8 presentations for colleges students, community members, and mainstream DV organizations. Maitri representatives spoke about different aspects of our work and the DV dynamics in the South Asian community. We provided 7 resource booths at big community events frequented by South Asians.

A Gathering of Asian & Pacific Islander Voices!

In July we organized a community panel inviting panelists from different Asian communities. Esteemed panelists shared their knowledge and perceptions of cultural nuances, challenges, and unique characteristics of their own communities. They also discussed perceived gender roles and how that influence and impact familial violence. This panel was one of several efforts by Maitri towards enhancing cultural responsiveness, and part of a collaborative partnership with [My Sister's House](#), [CORA](#), and [YWCA-SV](#). We are grateful to [Blue Shield of California Foundation](#) for its support in making this possible. More [here](#).



Chai with Maitri

In September we hosted a Meet and Greet event to celebrate community and partnerships. Representatives from the Nepali and Pakistani communities were invited for a discussion over chai and samosas on how to extend our services to these communities and to further partnerships. As an initial effort and gesture, Maitri has translated its brochures into Hindi, Urdu, and Nepali. Our thanks to the [California Partnership](#) to end Domestic Violence for its support of our Cultural Responsiveness efforts. More [here](#).



Benefit Fashion Show

L.A. based clothing designer [fashionbyrohini](#) and jewelry designer [jewelsbyqueenie](#) presented an exclusive trunk show for the benefit of Maitri in September at Crowne Plaza Cabana. Many Maitri supporters attended the show and supported their favorite cause once again. Part of the proceeds from this trunk show was donated to Maitri to empower survivors of domestic violence. A heartfelt thank you to the designers and to our dear supporters who attended and made this a great benefit show!

DV Advocacy Training

An engaged & enthusiastic cohort of 9 trainees attended 40 hours of Domestic Violence Advocacy Training at Maitri, comprised of a wide array of interesting topics. This training is mandated by the State of California as part of requirements to become a DV Advocate. In addition to letting us engage our volunteers in working with our clients, this training also increases our community's capacity to address abuse in the long run. All the trainers brought rich experiences of working with survivors of domestic violence, abuse, trafficking and in allied areas, and guided participants through a thoughtfully created syllabus of presentations, activities and discussions. We are grateful to all the presenters and thankful to [CPEDV](#) for developing a standardized curriculum that formed the bedrock for this training.

Boutique Update

Maitri Boutique celebrated its 3rd birthday in Sept 2017! Since its inception, each day we have witnessed strong community support for the Boutique's growth. This quarter again we saw amazing response coming from the community as was evidenced by our successful Semi-Annual Sale in July-August. We also had two other successful Trunk shows, a Jewelry Show by Treasure Chest and another one partnering with Kosal Saree, showcasing exclusive Odisha Silk Sarees, Kurtis and Ghagra Cholis! A month long Dandiya Sale at our boutique that started in Sept also brought lots of eager customers to our doorstep.



To stay up-to-date with our sales and events, like and follow us on our boutique's [Facebook](#). To donate your South-Asian party wear email [here](#).

Announcements

Welcoming Hasan Naemeh

Hasan joined Maitri as a Summer Fellow in our legal Program. Hasan, a LL.M student at the Golden Gate University has extensive experience in Iran as a Law professor and attorney. He is helping Maitri immigration program with his research and administrative assistance. The Summer Fellowship at Maitri has been possible by a grant from the South Asian Bar Association (SABA) Foundation.

Welcoming Dania Khurshid

Dania joined us as Outreach Associate and will be working as part of our outreach team to drive our outreach efforts in the community. She is a recent graduate of UC San Diego's academic programs in Sociology and Bioethics. Her educational background has made her well versed in issues of social inequity, violence, and abuse faced by minority communities that are often overlooked.

Quarterly Program Statistics

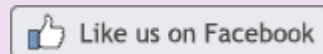
Helpline	Legal Advocacy	Transitional Housing
Total calls =91	New Clients served= 41	Women served= 12
Crisis Calls= 907	Total Clients= 96	Children served=7
	Advocacy sessions= 201	



Maitri

Maitri is a Bay Area based non-profit, dedicated primarily to helping South Asian families facing domestic violence, cultural alienation, and human trafficking.

Visit: Maitri [Website](#), Email: maitri@maitri.org, Helpline: (888) 862-4874 | Fax: 408-503-0887



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