



Between Friends

Maitri Quarterly Newsletter

April, 2019



PREVENTION IS POSSIBLE!

**TOGETHER, WE CAN END
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Artwork from the MAITRI Art Fest

In our work we have recognized that it is the community that can help end domestic violence, not just any organization and/or system alone. The movement to end domestic violence cannot be fought solely by women and survivors, and real progress cannot happen unless all community members take this issue seriously and take action. In particular, we need to invite men to the table to redefine manhood and address issues of toxic masculinity that serves to hurt women and girls. The percentage of men who abuse is always less than the percentage of men who do not abuse, but the silence of the latter encourages abusers to go on with the abuse.

Calling on all community members, adults and young adults, to join hands with Maitri to help end domestic violence from our community. Be part of an ongoing commitment to create a change in cultural norms and social attitudes to aid prevention of abuse.

[Volunteer](#) | [Donate](#)

Maitri Applauds the Re-Authorization of VAWA in the House

Maitri applauds the Violence Against Women Re-authorization Act (VAWA) in the House. Along with agencies all over the US, we are proud to be involved in critical advocacy for the authorization bill that includes modest enhancements and critical updates to ensure safety and well-being of survivors of domestic violence. According to a 2017 Survey, DV service providers in California provided immigration related services to 25% callers on any given day. With a significant number of immigrant survivors seeking out help, organizations must be prepared and build capacity on that front. At Maitri, we have always provided basic immigration services with the help of community organizations and private attorneys. To keep up with the growing demands for services, we took the next step and became a Department of Justice recognized organization in 2011, authorized to provide immigration services both basic and advanced within our agency resources. Today, Maitri immigration program represents its most vulnerable clients with applications stemming from domestic violence related immigration benefits. This critical program is funded by VAWA under its Culturally Specific Services Program (CSSP) scheme. We look forward to VAWA's swift passage in the Senate.

Quarterly News & Update

Capacity Building & Networking

Power of Network

In February, Maitri staff members attended the Power of Networks Convening organized by [Blue Shield of California Foundation](#). At this gathering, along with Maitri, all five networks that are funded by Blue Shield came together to deepen and rekindle the connections, celebrate collective leadership, and reflect our journeys and what we've learned. In past years several grants from Blue Shield Foundation helped us in doing our work better.

#ShiftingTheLens

Maitri staff attended #ShiftingTheLens Conference organized by [CPEDV](#) in March! This thought-provoking, educational, and inspirational conference focused on, cultural responsiveness, equity, partnership, and prevention work engaging those who caused harm. It was a great learning and networking experience for us. Tony Porter, CEO of [CALL TO MEN](#) had a courageous conversation with Ray Rice about accountability after causing harm. This conference sparks a new perspective in domestic violence prevention work.



Maitri Raising Awareness

Community Panel



To commemorate Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, Maitri co-organized a panel discussion with De Anza College students in February. To learn more about youth perspectives on gender violence and relationship abuse, we invited two student panelists, Sugeet Singh Chahal and Ana- Gertrudes Gonzalvez. The other two panelists were Dr. Tasneem Ismailji and Dr. Mukta Sharangpani, both with extensive experience working with survivors of gender violence and

abuse. Panelists focused on how toxic masculinity, objectification of women in pop culture and biased social norms can influence partner relationships. A rich discussion between event attendees and panelists showed how gender inequality, misogyny and patriarchal expectations normalize abuse in relationships. At the end of the panel discussion ideas and tools were shared to create a culture of respect, equity and value for all. MORE [HERE](#).

Art for Social Change

In March, Maitri & EnActe in collaboration with Amber India presented a wonderful evening with Nandita Das to advocate art for social change! An intellectually stimulating conversation with Nandita took place on art, gender equity, cinema, and using art in bringing social change. Event attendees asked great questions and uplifted the energy of the evening. A heartfelt appreciation goes to all who made this evening successful.

[PHOTOS](#).



Outreach Booths

Last month we showcased our resource booths at two significant community events, the Asha SF Holi and at the Muslim Community Association's Women's Conference. Event attendees visited our booth and engaged in conversation with our volunteers. We always need community support in building awareness.

[Email](#) us if you have an opportunity for a Maitri booth or can host a talk.



Cultural Responsiveness Training



Training for Sheriff's Office

Maitri staff presented at the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office, West Valley Patrol Division. We shared our experience of working with immigrant domestic violence survivors, especially South Asian survivors. We talked about unique challenges immigrant domestic violence survivors face and the importance of checking service providers' own biases. Our trainings help law enforcement officers to be more responsive to the needs of the increasingly diverse populations. It is encouraging to see officers engaged in learning to improve culturally responsive services to immigrant victims.

Training for the Hume Center

Maitri staff presented at the Hume Center that provides culturally sensitive behavioral health services to various communities. Maitri was invited to share an overview of diverse South Asian culture and domestic violence dynamic that are unique in South Asian communities.

For Maitri trainings contact [HERE](#)

Quarterly Statistics



Helpline

Total Calls = 743
Crisis Calls = 81



Legal Advocacy

Clients Assisted = 94
Advocacy Sessions = 265



Transitional Housing

Women served = 10
Children served = 8

Boutique Update

We had an amazing response at our Semi-

Annual sale at the Maitri Boutique. Community members loved our gorgeous collections that were up for sale at affordable prices. Nothing can be more satisfying than making our customers happy. Also, we did 2 pop-up shops at Shutterfly, Redwood City, in January and both of which were huge success!

To stay up-to-date with sales and events, please like us on [Facebook](#). Would you like to donate your South-Asian party wear items? Please email [HERE](#) for more information.



Announcements



Award and Recognition

Maitri Board President, Sonya Pelia received the Game Changer Award at the 3rd Annual Women Empowerment North America Red Gala Night 2019. Sonya got this award for being a game changer advocating for a great cause to support other women.

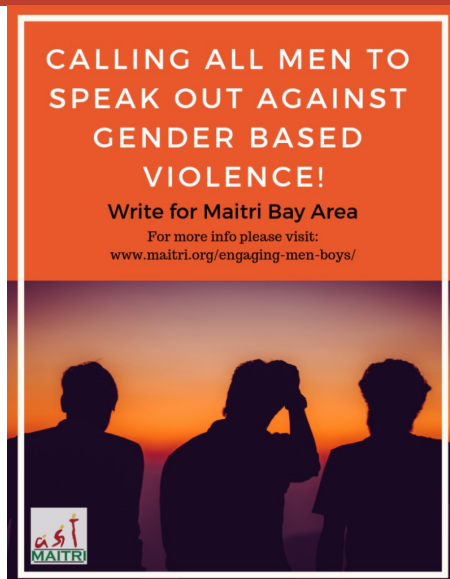


Social Media Expansion

We are NOW on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) along with our [Facebook](#). Let's be social together.

Follow us @MAITRIBAYAREA. Your comments, suggestions and appreciation will help us work better.

Call to Action



Calling Men and Boys to challenge



April is Sexual Assault Awareness

misogyny, toxic masculinity and patriarchy. We need your support to prevent violence against women and gender abuse. Please write for Maitri social media campaign, Engaging Men and Boys. Read all submissions [HERE](#)

Month! Raise awareness and support survivors. During #SAAM, let's work together to create a culture of consent, support survivors, and increase investments in prevention work.

For guidelines, please contact [HERE](#).

Visit :[MAITRI](#) | Call: 1 (888-8MAITRI | maitri@maitri.org

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