



**Mai Family Services**  
Support when you need it most

**WE SUPPORT...**

**BUILDING A STRONGER AND A HEALTHY COMMUNITY**

Free Helpline (888)664-8624

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## **FIVE FACTS ABOUT MaiFS**

- How to get help?: <https://maifs.org/contact-us/>
- How to volunteer?: <https://maifs.org/volunteer-opportunities/>
- How to donate?: <https://maifs.org/donate/>
- FAQ: <https://maifs.org/faq/>
- Sister Organizations in other States: <https://maifs.org/our-network/>

## **MaiFS ANNUAL FUNDRAISER ANNOUNCEMENT** **Important Announcement**

Owing to several factors under consideration post-COVID - MaiFS Annual Fundraiser - "Of Payals and Zardozi" is moved to a later date.

Please stay tuned for the new date. All those who have purchased tickets will be contacted directly.

Sorry for the inconvenience.



## 2022 - UPCOMING TRAININGS & EVENTS

Stay tuned for more details or email us at [info@maifamilyservices.com](mailto:info@maifamilyservices.com) to learn more.

- **Golden Club Volunteer Training** - Wednesday, July 20th
- **Yaadein 2.0 (for Seniors)** - Sunday, August 21st
- **Annual Walkathon** - Sunday, September 11th
- **Volunteer Training** - Saturday, September 24th
- **Annual Holiday Banquet** - Saturday, December 3rd

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## THE AMERICAN DREAM IS IT DEAD OR DYING?

All of us are immigrants, whether we are first, second or third generation. Somebody came over from another country. All our families came to this country because we wanted a different way of life. I have always felt that the measure of nation is reflected in how we take care of our children our poor disabled and the elderly. It's apparent that we're not doing that great.

The American Dream, I feel, is now fractured and possibly falling apart. Why is this then thing to discuss in our newsletter? Our community is blessed in some ways because most of us are educated and have good jobs. I feel we've as a community have become complacent and do not pay very close attention to politics the plight of the children, poor. disabled and elderly. A lot of people also tend to vote based on their pocketbook, not on the good of the community at large.

In the context of our recent Supreme Court Cases I think it behooves us to reassess where we stand as a community. Looking at partnering with other minority communities can be helpful in order to gain political clout. Another thought is that all of us as people from Southeast Asia or the Indian subcontinent should band together. I feel we are too divided by Language or ethnic differences.

The Second Amendment talks about the right to bear arms and maintain a militia to protect our country. There is nothing about everyone having a right to arm themselves to the teeth and shoot defenseless people and children. A friend told me that on a podcast they were listening to it was reported that guns is to America what pasta is to Italy and bread is to France. That's an interesting Yeah. Efficient. a scary analogy.

When we look at the whole issue of abortions, the entire argument is disingenuous. The issue is not one of being pro-life, pro- death pro-abortion or pro-choice. The real issue is the freedom of a woman to choose in consultation with her physician inappropriate medical procedure. At this point in our society, guns have more rights than women. I fear we are heading backwards in terms of women's rights. Don't forget that. as recently as the 1970s women were not allowed to have a credit card in their name or a mortgage in their name. If unmarried, they had to have a male relative cosign for them.

The Supreme Court also has Recently allowed a coach to pray on the football field obviously this is a Christian coach. I wonder what would happen if a Hindu, Muslim or Jewish person wanted to pray at their child's school?

I love my country but currently, I weep for our country. I'm writing this and asking all of you to be cognizant and be careful with the choices that you make at the ballot box and where you spend your money. It's fascinating to look at the political causes that companies and corporations' support.

Preeti Venkataraman, MD

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## ***MaiFS RECEIVES STATE RECOGNITION***

Initiated in 2019, the Indian American Legislative Day was created as a platform to honor and celebrate the Indian American elected officials and recognize the services and accomplishments of selected individuals and organizations in Michigan. This year four of our Indian American state legislators supported this event: Former House Democratic Leader Sam Singh, State Rep. Padma Kuppa (HD 41), serving her second term, and legislators Rep. Ranjeev Puri (HD 21) and Rep. Shri Thanedar (HD 3). The event was held on Tuesday, June 7th the Capitol Building in Lansing. The event highlighted the contributions of Indian Americans and the impact of the state government on our daily lives. Miindia.com presented an audio-visual of the economic, social, and cultural impact made by Indian Americans across all industries in Michigan.

Over 100 invitees representing several organizations amidst a landscape of art by local artists gathered on a beautiful Tuesday morning. The community came together this year to honor Indian Americans who have made significant contributions to health and human services during the pandemic: Dr. Bobby Mukkamala, Chair – American Medical Association; and Mai Family Services serving South Asians in Domestic Violence and Abuse.

Mai Family Services received a state recognition endorsed by State of Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer along with all elected legislators. The highlight was the presence of Shri. Amit Kumar - Consul General of India, Chicago. MaiFS received the honor for its outstanding efforts in supporting, and empowering several domestic violence, mental health, and substance abuse survivors during the pandemic with culturally appropriate counseling, programs, and resources.

The event focused on advocacy efforts on specific issues affecting the Indian American community who significantly contribute to the Michigan economy.

Mai Family Services thanks the Indian American Legislative Day organizers and stays committed to its services and programs - helping and supporting individuals and families in crisis.



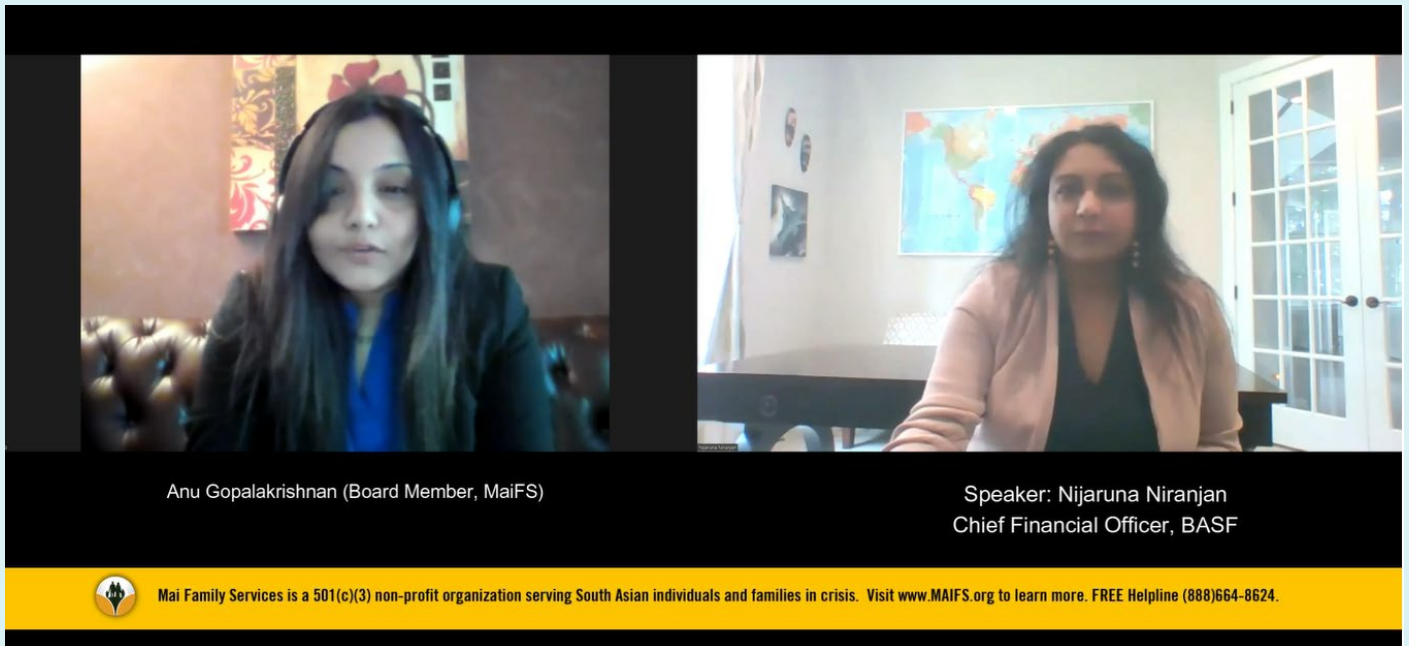
## FINANCIAL WEBINAR HOSTED BY MaiFS

The webinar "Shoestrings for a secure future" held on Sunday, June 26, offered an insightful exploration of the various financial management tips and tricks one could use during a crisis. Our speaker Nijaruna Niranjan, a highly accomplished corporate professional and CFO of BASF, has grown start-ups and led large multinationals to profitability and economic stability. Moderated by MaiFS board member Anu Gopalakrishnan, the webinar offered valuable nuggets on financial discipline, understanding of financial wellbeing, identifying specific key ratios and guardrails to manage cost and savings, and core drivers to survive crisis (including recession). The discussion also delved into maintaining clarity of vision for the future regarding retirement. The discussion touched upon areas of abuse where financial awareness, discipline, and security are critical to overcoming fear and conflict when making decisions for one's wellbeing.

The webinar comes in the wake of Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer signing the House Bill 5190, a bipartisan bill updating Michigan's high school curriculum to include a financial literacy course for the first time in state history. The bill will prepare young Michiganders for the future and empower them to take control of their finances.


Mai Family Services is exceptionally grateful to Niranjana Niranjan for her valuable time and commitment to Mai Family Services. Thank you to all those who participated.

Watch out for more webinars in this series.



Anu Gopalakrishnan (Board Member, MaiFS)

Speaker: Nijaruna Niranjan  
Chief Financial Officer, BASF

 Mai Family Services is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving South Asian individuals and families in crisis. Visit [www.MAIFS.org](http://www.MAIFS.org) to learn more. FREE Helpline (888)664-8624.

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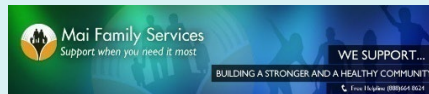
## STOP GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE

MaiFS' STOP Grant Program which greatly benefits South Asian DV victims through Advocacy and life-skills sessions has been operating smoothly. The program helps South Asian DV victims and survivors in Metro Detroit area lead empowered, productive, and fulfilling lives away from the threat of domestic violence for themselves and their families.

The Program, currently in its 6<sup>th</sup> year of operations is funded through a Grant from the State of Michigan's Division of Victim Services. The Grant is up for renewal for a 7<sup>th</sup> year, and the staff is hard at work in the Grant renewal process. We are optimistic that our efforts to empower South Asian DV victims will continue another year through a successful renewal!

Additional information on the STOP Grant Empowerment Program is available at [maifs.org/stop-grant](http://maifs.org/stop-grant), or please call Murali Nair @ 248-795-4639.

**Thank you for supporting Mai Family Services!**



**Our mailing address is:**

MAI FAMILY SERVICES  
32401 W. Eight Mile Rd.  
Livonia, MI 48152



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