



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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SAVE THE DATE



Mai Family Services presents

ILLUMINATE

Annual Holiday Banquet 2023

Saturday, December 2, 2023

6:00 PM

Farmington Manor

23666 Orchard Lake Rd, Farmington Hills, MI 48336

Tickets

\$75 (Individual)

\$650 (Table of 10)

<https://maifs.org/december-banquet-registration/>

Mai Family Services depends on your contributions to provide vital services to South Asian families in need. We sincerely appreciate your generosity. We hope you will choose Mai Family Services as one of your preferred charities for tax-deductible donations and encourage your friends to do the same.

Visit www.MAIFS.org to learn more.

Registration link: <https://maifs.org/december-banquet-registration/>

WHAT IS VAWA?



The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was a landmark piece of legislation signed into law in 1994 that for the first time created broad federal protections for women victims of violence and abuse. Since then, the VAWA has been reauthorized several times and has been expanded to include further protections and guarantees for victims. Here's what you need to know about the VAWA.

Funding for NGOs

The VAWA sets aside almost half a billion dollars each financial year for rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, and other organizations dedicated to supporting victims of violence and abuse across the country. The act also ensures that federal, state, and local governmental authorities can work efficiently alongside these organizations to better victim outcomes overall, rather than just in the legal system.

Protections for Noncitizens

As many noncitizen women are targeted in the workplace and at home specifically because of their immigrant status, the VAWA has special provisions in place to cater to the rights of immigrants. The VAWA created "U" and "T" visas for victims of domestic violence and other crimes to apply for citizenship without their abusive spouse or family member. U visas are for noncitizens who have suffered "substantial physical or mental abuse" in the form of domestic violence or other sexual crimes and are willing to help law enforcement bring those responsible to justice. T visas are for noncitizens who have suffered human trafficking specifically, and, like U visas, allow recipients to live and work in the United States.

Housing Protections

Victims of domestic violence and other forms of abuse are often unfairly discriminated against by landlords. To combat this, the VAWA has specific protections designed to keep victims in safe housing or even move if necessary. Under the VAWA, victims of domestic/dating abuse or violence: can't be evicted or denied admission to government subsidized housing because of abuse committed against them; can't be denied admission or removed from government subsidized housing because of things related to violence committed against them, including eviction records, criminal history, or bad credit history; and must be allowed to move with assistance of victims meet certain other conditions. These protections apply to victims that have housing under federal programs including Public Housing, Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities, and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS.

Protections for People of Color

Because of linguistic and cultural differences, people of color often experience gender-based violence in unique ways, and so it is necessary to have culturally specific strategies to address this abuse. The VAWA facilitates this by providing grant money to culturally specific community-based organizations. These organizations understand the complexities that go into people's experiences with violence and abuse, and provide alternatives to the "one-size-fits-all" approach that the United States judicial system often gives victims. Community-based organizations have services in languages specific to the communities they serve, and can often offer support in other areas of victims' lives, including with immigration, housing, and basic necessities.

As the VAWA is so relevant to organizations like MaiFS, it is important to stay informed about the

act and the ways it helps fight violence and abuse in communities across the country.

Reference:

<https://www.justice.gov/media/1275306/dl?inline=>

<https://www.vawamei.org/grant-program/culturally-specific-services-program/>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/09/13/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-celebrates-the-twenty-ninth-anniversary-of-the-violence-against-women-act/>

<https://www.thehotline.org/resources/violence-against-women-act-vawa/>

<https://www.hud.gov/vawa>

CSU GRANT UPDATE

Since its establishment in 1986, MaiFS has consistently been a pillar of support for survivors of domestic and family violence within the South Asian community. Over the years, we have diligently worked to provide vital assistance to those affected by domestic violence, with a steadfast commitment to intervention, prevention, and empowerment.

At MaiFS, we believe that empowering survivors is not just about addressing immediate crises but also about equipping them with the tools and resources to lead self-sufficient lives within the unique context of the South Asian community. As part of our ongoing dedication to this cause, we are thrilled to announce the continuation of our CSU (Culturally Specific Underserved) communities Grant from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Division of Victim Services (DVS) for the eighth consecutive year. This initiative aims to provide a lifeline to survivors of domestic violence from South Asian backgrounds residing in the Metro Detroit area. Through the CSU Grant program, participants will have access to a range of invaluable services that are designed to facilitate their journey towards empowerment.

The CSU Grant program includes complimentary advocacy and counseling services, ensuring that survivors have a safe space to share their experiences, seek guidance, and receive emotional support. Additionally, our life-skills sessions are tailored to empower survivors with essential life-management skills, fostering independence and resilience.

Furthermore, we understand that financial barriers can often impede survivors' progress towards self-sufficiency. Therefore, as part of the CSU Grant program, participants will also have the opportunity to access limited tuition assistance and other forms of financial aid. This support is intended to assist survivors as they take their first steps towards building a brighter future for themselves and their families.

For more detailed information about the CSU Grant program and how it can benefit survivors of domestic violence in the South Asian community in Metro Detroit, please reach out to Murali Nair at 248-795-4639. You can also find additional resources and updates on the CSU Grant program by visiting our website at www.maifs.org.

MaiFS remains dedicated to its mission of breaking the cycle of domestic violence and fostering women's empowerment within the South Asian community. We invite you to join us in this vital endeavor and support survivors on their journey to self-sufficiency and healing. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those affected by domestic violence.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT!!!

Mai Family Services is committed to providing transparent, confidential, and non-judgmental services to the South Asian Community. We take our responsibility seriously and hold ourselves, each other, and the organization to the highest ethical standards in following due process. Our communication with our supporters and the public is limited to the digital platform. If you or an individual you know has received a letter indicating it is from Mai Family Services, please discard and immediately contact us at info@maifamilyservices.com. We are grateful for your continued support, without which we would not be able to provide this essential service to our community.

Need more information about our service? Need to report any form of abuse? Call our FREE hotline (888) 664-8624. You can also visit us at

UPCOMING EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **Annual Walkathon to STOP the Violence** - *Sunday, June 11th*
- **Senior Day Celebration** - *Sunday, August 20th*
- **Holiday Banquet** - *Saturday, December 2nd*

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

- [Assistant Office Manager](#)
- [Case Worker](#)

How to apply:

"Please e-mail a cover letter detailing your relevant experience and resume to Jobs@maifamilyservices.com indicating the position you are applying for in the subject line."

Please provide three references.

We will be accepting applications and interviewing candidates on a rolling basis till the positions are filled.

WAYS TO DONATE

Thank you MaiFS well-wishers and donors for your monetary contribution and your continued support for the work that we do at Mai Family Services. The major portion of the funds collected from our donors is expended in providing direct services to our clients (housing, food, utilities and other necessities) and paying for the infrastructure that supports this work and building awareness through outreach.

Our sincere appeal to you to choose Mai Family Services as your preferred charity for the year 2023 AND beyond for donation.

There are **several ways** you can donate and make a difference in survivors' and their children's lives:

Zelle at admin@maifamilyservices.com

Venmo at [@maifsadmin](https://www.venmo.com/@maifsadmin)

Mail a **check** to **32401 W Eight Mile Rd, Livonia, MI 48152**

Scan the QR code to pay by **Credit Card**



Thank you for supporting Mai Family Services!



Our mailing address is:
MAI FAMILY SERVICES
32401 W. Eight Mile Rd
Livonia, MI 48152

