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INCOMING PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Dear friends,

Hope 2024 is off to a wonderful start and new possibilities.

As I take the baton from the previous leadership, here are some focus areas this year:

Sustainability: In our quest for a better tomorrow, sustainability has become our guiding principle. We have a lot of work around awareness and program building that is geared toward providing trauma informed and survivor centric services. To do this, we need funds, the right set of tools and manpower to serve our survivors better.

Outreach & Empowerment: Through our impactful outreach programs targeting seniors, youth, and adults, we are igniting conversations that break down stigmas and offer vital support to those in need. It is truly inspiring to see how our united efforts as pioneers are making a difference in the lives of individuals facing challenges in the areas of domestic abuse, mental health, substance abuse, bullying, gender violence, and suicide prevention. Many local organizations have followed suit inspired by our work.

Youth Involvement: We firmly believe in the power of our youth, the voice of “our” tomorrow. By actively engaging young minds through mentorship programs, volunteering opportunities, and educational initiatives, we are nurturing a generation of compassionate leaders who will shape a more inclusive and empathetic society. If you see them at our events, say hello and encourage them!

Volunteer Engagement: Our backbone. None of these accomplishments would be possible without the unconditional giving nature of our dedicated volunteers who tirelessly lend their time and expertise. Their selfless commitment is truly awe-inspiring as they embody the true values of the agency.

Moreover, I extend heartfelt gratitude to our generous donors, our lifeline! Their unwavering support makes all this possible. Sincere appreciation!

Behind the scenes, our diligent staff and board members work tirelessly to steer the agency toward a violence free community. The visionary leadership ensures that every decision aligns with our bold mission – creating positive change in the lives of our survivors and our community– in a fair, non-judgmental, confidential, and transparent manner.

Together, we will continue to build a community that thrives on love, support, and above all – grace and resilience.

With boundless optimism,
Anu Gopalakrishnan
[Reach out to collaborate and connect.](#)

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Partner with us!

Domestic abuse is an alarming human rights violation that unfortunately affects millions of people around the world. It involves a harmful pattern of behavior where one partner seeks to control and intimidate the other through physical, emotional, financial, or sexual abuse. It is not only detrimental to the affected partner but also has a profound impact on any children involved.

If you or your children are experiencing any form of abuse from your intimate partner, please know that you are not alone. There is support available and justice can be pursued.



Collaboration



Education



Support



**Healthy
Community**



Mai Family Services
Support when you need it most
www.maifs.org

info@maifs.org
www.MAIFS.org

Currently looking for South Asian partners. Please call us to discuss partnership opportunities!

248 - 477 - 4985

BE INVOLVED. STAY ENGAGED.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| MARCH | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ MaiFS Women Empowerment Fundraiser (Online)▪ Social Work Month▪ Women's History Month |
| MAY | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Youth Engagement Event▪ Mental Health Awareness Month |
| JUNE | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Walkathon - Stay tuned! |
| AUGUST | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Aug 25th - MaiFS Golden Club Seniors Event▪ National Seniors Month |
| OCTOBER | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ DV Awareness Month▪ State-wide promotional workshops and campaigns |
| NOVEMBER | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Annual Holiday Fundraiser - Stay tuned! |

We would love to see you at all our events. Stay tuned for details.

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THE U-VISA?

The U nonimmigrant status (U visa) is set aside for victims of certain crimes who have suffered mental or physical abuse and is helpful to law enforcement or government officials in the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity.

Congress created the U nonimmigrant visa with the passage of the Victims



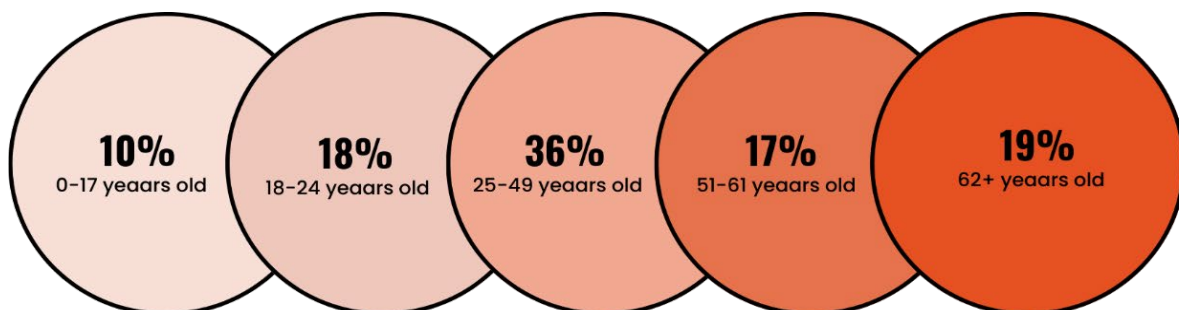
of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (including the Battered Immigrant Women's Protection Act) in October 2000. The legislation was intended to strengthen the ability of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking of

noncitizens and other crimes, while also protecting victims of crimes who have suffered substantial mental or physical abuse due to the crime and are willing to help law enforcement authorities in the investigation or prosecution of the criminal activity.

The legislation also helps law enforcement agencies to better serve victims of crimes.

SNIPPET FROM THE TOGETHER WE RISE REPORT FROM SOAR

Collectively, the South Asian Gender Based Violence organizations nationally serve survivors spanning various age brackets:



While this breakdown provides valuable insights, its interpretation remains open to multiple perspectives. The *Together We Rise* report by South Asian SOAR underscored that within the realm of marginalized and underserved South Asian survivors, two distinct groups stand out: youth and elders.

Hence, while these data aid in comprehending the demographics of those currently receiving assistance, it's important to note that they do not directly depict the prevalence of violence across age groups. Rather than serving as a definitive representation, this data prompts us to contemplate which survivors might be beyond our current reach and support and need our additional outreach, services, and advocacy.

Get involved. Stay engaged. Visit www.MAIFS.org

CSU GRANT UPDATE

Since 2017, the CSU-Grant program, funded by Michigan's Division of Victim Service (DVS), has supported Mai Family Services in delivering Empowerment programs for victims and survivors of domestic violence within the South Asian community.

This year, the programs extend their reach to participants from the Bangladeshi, Chinese, and Bhutanese communities, as well as current South Asian DV clients from Mai Family Services. The program encompasses DV advocacy/counseling, practical English language skills, basic computer literacy, and increased financial literacy. Additionally, participants have access to limited educational/tuition assistance to enhance their skills for improved job opportunities.

The CSU Grant program is delighted to welcome Tasneem Arastu as the Empowerment Counselor and Lei Wang and Rojina Timsina as Empowerment Advocates to this year's staff for conducting program sessions.

For further details about the program, please contact Murali Nair at 248-795-4639.

For more information, visit <https://maifs.org/csu-grant/>

DONATION APPEAL



Mai Family Services

Support when you need it most

Addressing the issue of South Asian trauma and domestic violence is crucial to bringing about meaningful change and supporting those who have experienced intergenerational abuse.

Domestic violence within South Asian communities often stems from deeply entrenched cultural norms, which can perpetuate cycles of abuse across generations. It is important to recognize that trauma resulting from such violence has a profound impact on individuals and their mental well-being.

Mai Family Services works towards breaking these cycles of abuse, promoting healing, and ultimately creating safer environments for individuals affected by trauma and domestic violence.

Could we count on your support? You can set up a monthly recurring payment or make a one-time donation to join the team making a difference. We thank you for your time and continuous goodwill.

Website:

<https://maifs.org/donate/>

Scan the QR Code



Accommodation - 25%
Medical - 15%
Legal - 40%
Daily Needs - 20%

Image credit: odb.org

PARTNER EVENT



**Adult
Panel Discussion**



**Youth
Panel Discussion**

Let us celebrate International Women Day with empowering conversation and fun activities:
Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality through Economic Empowerment

SAT
MAR 16
2024
10AM-3PM

Schoolcraft College | Vistatech Center

18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, MI 48152

\$30 early bird special and \$35 after Feb 28

RSVP: bit.ly/IWDMI2024SignUp

Contact: aiwamich@gmail.com



Scan QR
to RSVP

OUR PROUD SPONSOR:



This event is initiated by AIWA in collaboration with Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders community organizations.

Thank you for supporting Mai Family Services!



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

