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Housing Needs for South Asian Survivors

Written by Anu Gopalakrishnan



Domestic violence survivors face numerous challenges when rebuilding their lives but securing safe and stable housing is often the most critical. According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness among women and children. The National Low-Income Housing Coalition reports that over 50% of homeless women cite domestic violence as the immediate reason for their housing insecurity. These statistics underscore the urgent need for accessible housing solutions for survivors, who often leave abusive situations with limited financial resources due to economic manipulation by their abusers.

While housing insecurity affects survivors across all demographics, South Asian communities face unique challenges that compound this issue. Cultural stigma often prevents survivors from seeking help, as domestic violence is frequently considered a private family matter in many South Asian cultures. Immigration status can complicate access to public housing assistance or employment opportunities, particularly for those with dependent visa statuses. Language barriers may hinder

survivors' ability to navigate housing applications or communicate with landlords, while the involvement of extended family can necessitate finding accommodations for multiple family members.

To address the housing needs of domestic violence survivors, particularly within South Asian communities, a multi-faceted approach is required. Key strategies include:

- Increasing affordable housing options
- Providing culturally sensitive support services
- Offering financial literacy and job training programs
- Expanding legal advocacy for immigration-related issues
- Raising awareness to reduce stigma within communities

By prioritizing safe and stable housing for survivors, we can provide a crucial stepping stone towards breaking the cycle of abuse and empowering individuals to rebuild their lives.

If you have ideas and strategies that will help support our mission, feel free to reach out to info@maifs.org

ICNA Partnership



Mai Family Services is excited to announce a partnership with ICNA Relief to provide the MaiFS-CSU Grant's Empowerment Program for ICNA clients in the Metro Detroit area.

ICNA Relief is a nationwide Muslim Family Services organization dedicated to supporting victims and survivors facing challenges, helping them lead dignified lives and advocating for their basic human needs.

Through this partnership, the CSU Grant will offer ICNA client's trauma-informed domestic violence advocacy and life skills training, including practical English communication, basic computer skills, and financial literacy. Additionally, participants will have access to need-based tuition assistance to enhance their employability skills.

Uniting Against Domestic Violence: 2024 Superhero Walkathon



Walk like a Superhero - Walkathon 2024



On a sunny Saturday morning September 14th, hundreds gathered at the Lakeshore Park in Novi for the annual walkathon to end domestic violence. Now in its 15th year, this event continues to be a powerful demonstration of community solidarity and commitment to positive change.

Volunteers, youth artists, and community members of all ages came together with a shared purpose: to raise awareness about domestic violence and provide crucial information to break the cycle of abuse. The atmosphere buzzed with determination as participants prepared for the walk.

The day began with a warm welcome, thanks to Cups n' Chai of Plymouth, who generously sponsored morning chai for all attendees. MaiFS president Anu Gopalakrishnan opened the event with a stirring speech, emphasizing the importance of community vigilance and available support services. Past President and Patron Mrs. Rani Bahadur strongly emphasized the need for Mai Family Services and shared a personal story that made her be a part of this ever-growing crusade for support. Throughout the day, survivor stories served as poignant reminders of the challenges faced by those affected by abuse, while also highlighting their strength and resilience.

Young leaders took center stage, presenting their musical skills. These talented youth artists provided a soundtrack of harmony and reflection along the walking path.

Novi PD officers showed their support, stressing the importance of reporting incidents and praising the organization's collaborative approach.

The event's success was made possible by the dedication of both seasoned and new volunteers, whose passion was evident in every aspect of the walkathon.

As participants completed the walk, there was a palpable sense of unity and accomplishment. This annual event serves as a powerful reminder that together, we can make a difference in combating domestic violence.

The event was wonderfully coordinated by MaiFS board members Vatsala Upadhyay and Lalita Kambhampati. Board member Dhanya Menon's ice breaker brought the attendees on their feet. Highschooler Anya Tyagi professionally managed the event flow through her emceeing. Troy senior Rishi Rao made the event fun with his scavenger hunt theme.

The event would not have been possible without the amazing camaraderie and volunteerism by Kalyani Chaganti, Rupal Baxi, Preeti Gupta Tyagi, Ashish Tyagi, Smita Khosla, Bhuvan Khosla, Bhavana Kamath, Abha Pundhir, Murali Nair, Shipra Bansal, Komal Trivedi, Rishik Trivedi, Anamika Singhal, Anjali Sharma, Sonia Batra, Indhu Monali, Shaila Gaddam, Usha Mittal, Mona Sashital, and Usha Ram. Thanks to several friends of the volunteers who helped make the walkathon successful. Highschoolers Neya Sathish, Nandika Sathish, and Niyati Gaddam provided wonderful support along with Dr. Usha Modi who was the on-call physician. Huge thanks to Kusum Rashid and Comerica Bank for their sponsorship.

Thanks to the amazing young performers who kept the instrumental music lingering in the air – Rachna Rao, Pranav Mahesh, Aditya Ponsiva Aravind, Varsha Ponsiva Aravind, Shivatmika Karthikeyan, and Dheeran Karthikeyan.

Kurrys also showed their support by offering discounted refreshments, demonstrating their commitment to the cause. Adding a touch of creativity and engagement, Mehndi artists Kajal Garg, Jyoti Misra, and Ruchita Patel offered their skills, making the event fun and interactive for participants of all ages.

To learn more and get involved in future events, visit www.maifs.org. Let's continue to say NO to abuse and violence, one step at a time.

Monthly Statistics



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

Our world in September

TOTAL NUMBER OF CLIENTS SERVED: **53**



39

Current active survivors

14

Referrals and Resources

3

Partners!

MaiFS Free Helpline: 888-664-8624

Office Hours

(Mon-Fri: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM)

Alliant Survivor Interview Recruitment



ALLIANT
INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE STUDY

Qualifications :

- ✓ **18+** years old
 - ✓ Self-identify as a **South Asian Woman** (from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal)
 - ✓ Have experienced physical, emotional, or sexual abuse
 - ✓ **Sought help** (e.g., friends/family, professional)
 - ✓ **English proficiency preferred**
- Participation in this research study will require
- ✓ Engaging in approximately **60–90 minutes interview**
 - ✓ Not *currently* experiencing any DV or IPV

**Enter a chance to win a
\$50 Amazon gift card**

Interested?

Contact Davvy:

Email: dkaur1@alliant.edu

Call or text: 619-800-4058



MDHHS - Division of Victim Services Survey

(Note: For specific organizations support survivors of trafficking and labor abuse)

Survey Link: https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5hUevUa3yajMFhQ

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services - Division of Victim Services has embarked on a multi-year project to support strategies to improve outcomes for child and youth survivors of human trafficking between the ages of 13 and 24. We invite you to be a part of this first systematic, large-scale effort to understand human trafficking in Michigan.

We are reaching out to you because you are uniquely positioned to provide insight into the services and support currently available to survivors in Michigan. We'd like to ask you to take part in a survey about your work, the services your organization provides, and your experiences while providing services to child and youth survivors of labor and sex trafficking. Your feedback, along with insights from survivors, will improve our collective response to survivors' needs.

The online survey should take 20-30 minutes to complete. Your progress will be saved so you can return to the survey at a later time if needed. However, you must use the same computer/device in order to pick up where you left off. We request that you complete it within 2 weeks of receiving this email.

We are asking you to forward this email to any organization or individuals working in this space, as we hope to get a broad reach throughout the state of Michigan.

Thank you for all you do to support survivors!

Survey Link: https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5hUevUa3yajMFhQ

MaiFS Annual Fundraiser

Mark Your Calendar!

- **Day/Date:** Saturday, November 23
- **Location:** Radisson, Southfield
- **Details:** Our annual holiday fundraiser is an elegant evening featuring dinner, entertainment, and an auction. All proceeds support Mai Family Services' programs and services. Dress in your finest attire and join us for a night of celebration and giving.



MaiFS Monthly Recurring Program



DONATION APPEAL

Dear Supporters,

Today, we're excited to launch our monthly recurring donation program. Your regular support, even in small amounts, can make a big difference.

Think of it this way: For less than the cost of a weekly lunch, you can fuel our mission year-round. A \$10 monthly donation adds up to \$120 annually - that's enough to provide basic services to our survivors.

By becoming a monthly donor, you're not just giving - you're joining a community of dedicated change-makers. Your steady support allows us to plan ahead and tackle long-term projects with confidence.

Ready to make a lasting impact?

Visit [Monthly Recurring Program](#) to set up your monthly gift today.

Thank you for your continued support.

MaiFS Fundraising Team



Your consistent support can make a lasting difference. By becoming a monthly donor to Mai Family Services, you help ensure we can provide ongoing, culturally sensitive support to families in need- the number which is growing every month.

For as little as the cost of a cup of coffee per month, you can:

- Sustain vital programs
- Empower families to break cycles of violence
- Support community education and outreach

Every month, your generosity creates ripples of positive change. Join our circle of committed supporters today!

Set up your monthly donation now and be a continuous force for good in our community.

[Become Monthly Hero](#)

Thank you for supporting Mai Family Services!



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

