



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

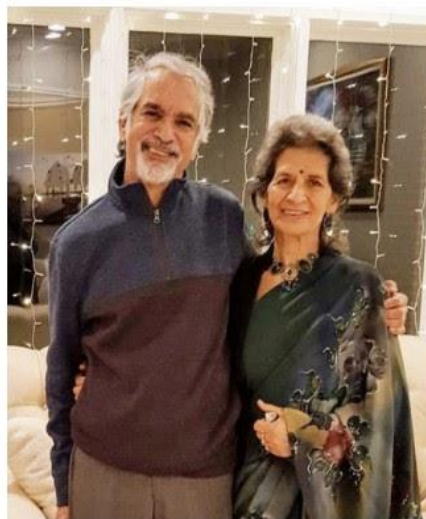
**WE SUPPORT...**

**BUILDING A STRONGER AND A HEALTHY COMMUNITY**

Free Helpline (888)664-8624

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### [We Love Our Volunteers!](#)



**Tilak & Shashi Sharma**

In the United States, April is National Volunteer Month - a month dedicated to recognizing the importance of volunteering and honoring the significant contributions volunteers make by generously donating their time and talents to worthy causes. Mai Family Services has always appreciated having a wonderful team of volunteers to help run various fundraising events and services offered. We think this is the perfect time of the year to start recognizing some of our volunteers who have made an impact over the years.

Today we introduce you to Mr Tilak and Mrs Shashi Sharma! Volunteers Shashi Sharma and Tilak Sharma have been involved with Mai Family Services for well over ten years. Over the years, this wonderful and warm-hearted couple has helped out with a diverse range of activities. Primarily, the duo has been contributing towards outreach and awareness activities including stage shows and acting parts in skits. They were instrumental in planning and manning booths for Mai Bazaar, a shop that sold new or gently used ethnic wear to raise funds for MaiFS.

They are a constant presence and support at our fundraisers and walkathons every year including virtual events during this pandemic. They are ever-ready with their karaoke setup in all our walkathons! Great music puts a pep in the step of all those who come to participate in the walkathons. Shashi-ji and Tilak-ji as we fondly call them, are always willing to help in whichever way they can. Many volunteers have fond memories of dinners and karaoke singing at their place. This dynamic couple sets love goals for every couple to aspire to.

Tilak-ji is an avid nature lover and the couple has travelled quite a lot. They have a wealth of experiences to share with us. They love spending time with their granddaughters. Both Tilak-ji and Shashi-ji are very sensitive individuals and participate in the volunteering activities with all their heart. Another not-so-well-known side of Tilak-ji's personality is his passion for writing. He writes poetry in Hindi as well as English. We are very happy to share his thoughts via one of the poems he has penned.

दोस्तो,

हमारी एक दोस्त का तलाक हुआ था बहुत वर्ष पहले। उसका बेटा चुप चुप रहता था। उसकी आँखों में एक कहानी थी जिसे मैं पढ़ने की कोशिश करता रहा। आज उसकी भावनाओं को अपने लफ़्ज़ों में अर्पित करता हूँ

"मेरा कसूर क्या है "

जब मैं था एक छोटा सा बच्चा  
न जाने कहाँ चला गया मेरा पिता  
प्यार करूँगा हमेशा कहा था उसने  
मजबूरी है बेटा यहाँ रह नहीं सकता

दिन बीते और बीत गए कई साल  
फिर कभी नहीं पूछा उसने मेरा हाल  
करता रहा मैं आये दिन इंतज़ार  
न उसने आंसू पोंछे, न ही किया प्यार

न कोई bedtime story सुनाई  
न ही मुझे बिस्तर पे चादर ओढ़ाई  
न कभी मेरे जन्म दिन पर आया  
खुदा जाने कैसे हो गई लम्बी जुदाई

न मुझे स्कूल में दाखिल करवाया  
न मेरे किसी फंक्शन पर आया  
उसे शायद पता नहीं मैं होशियार हूँ  
हमेशा अपनी कक्षा में प्रथम आया

कभी कभी जी में आता है बात करुं  
बताऊँ उसे कि मैं अभी भी ज़िंदा हूँ  
जल्दी ही मैं हो जाऊँगा 16 साल का  
मुझे भी कार चाहिए किस से कहूँ

वक्त कैसे इतनी तेजी से भाग गया  
देखते ही देखते कैसे मैं बड़ा हो गया  
दुनिया कहाँ से कहाँ आगे चली गई  
मैं तो बस भूतकाल में फंसा रह गया

शायद मैं कभी नहीं समझ पाऊँगा  
अपने मन को कैसे समझा पाऊँगा  
तलाक मेरे माता पिता का हुआ था  
कब तक खुद को दोषी ठहराऊँगा

कहाँ है वो और कैसा है उसका हाल  
कैसे पूछूँ अपनी माँ से यह सवाल  
शायद कभी वो लौट कर आ जाए  
अगर होगा उसे मेरा ज़रा भी ख्याल

ऐसा किसी के साथ न हो जो मेरे साथ हुआ है  
न खोये कोई पिता को जैसे मैंने खोया है  
मेरी तरफ से 'तिलक' एक सवाल है  
मेरे माँ बाप बता दें मेरा कसूर क्या है  
बस मेरा कसूर क्या है

तिलक शर्मा

The Mai Family Services Board and entire team of volunteers offers its sincere thanks to this loving couple. We hope to take this opportunity and introduce you to more of our volunteers in the coming months.

## MaiFS Newsletter Survey!



Dear MaiFS Well-wishers & friends,

Thank you for taking your time to read our monthly newsletter. This is one of the ways to stay connected with you and inform you about the latest happening in MaiFS. We would like to hear your feedback as it will help us understand what we do well and where we may be able to improve. The survey should take no longer than 2 minutes to complete. Thank you in advance for your collaboration. We really appreciate your time!

Survey link [here!](#)

*In Partnership with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Service*



## STOP Grant Program Updates!

MaiFS's STOP Grant programs are running smoothly to provide needed services to the underserved Asian populations of Metro Detroit counties affected by domestic violence. As part of the program, MaiFS conducts classes in ESL, Computer Literacy and Job Skills Training. In the first half of the 5<sup>th</sup> year (October 2020 – March 31, 2021), MaiFS has enrolled 60 clients and has conducted a total of 127 classes in English as a Second Language (ESL) and Basic Computer Literacy classes.

The COVID pandemic has changed our classroom instruction from actual physical location classes to remote learning through the use of Zoom and breakout rooms! Nevertheless, learning continues uninterrupted for the clients.

The STOP Grant team is working hard to ensure renewal of the Grant when it ends in October 2021. We look forward to your support and encouragement in our continued quest to empower DV victims amongst the underserved Asian community of Metro Detroit.

## In Memoriam!



We are saddened to hear about the loss of one of our beloved community members **Shri. Madan Lal Kaura** (1941-2021) on April 4th, 2021. Madanji was the former board member/president and one of the founders of Mai Family Services. Shri. Madan Kaura was an active member of the Bharatiya Temple in Troy, Michigan, and served the Temple for over 4 decades.

Shri Madan Kaura's family has organized a fundraiser to benefit Mai Family Services, an organization and a cause that Madanji held very close to his heart. Mai Family Services is grateful to Mamta, Amisha, and Shivani for this generous gesture.

Prayers and strength to the near and dear ones.

Madanji will be truly missed by all the Mai Family Services board members, staff, and volunteers.

All donations will go toward housing and legal expenses of Domestic Violence survivors.

**Om Shanti!**

[DONATE](#)

[ADD MEMORY](#)

## Upcoming - Health Webinar Series!



Asian Center in conjunction with Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital is presenting a series of 6 seminars starting May 4th and ending May 26th. These lectures will be offered by well-known physicians from Henry Ford Hospital who are volunteering their time for this. The subjects are very relevant and useful for all.

Topics:

Cancer Screenings at Various Ages

Mental Health.

Arthritis & Osteoporosis

Incontinence .

High Blood Pressure & Atrial Fibrillation

COVID-19 Vaccine Info and Q&A

These seminars are **free** and will be held virtually online.

Please register at the site: <https://forms.gle/zWAXXvDEmRSfdGtf9> • You will get ONE Zoom link for all seminars • A reminder will be sent out 3 days before each seminar. You can sign up for all or any of the seminars you want to attend.



### [Mindfulness Webinar- Recording Available Here!](#)

A big THANK YOU to Mridu Pasrija for conducting a wonderful Mindfulness Webinar. Thank you to the webinar moderator Radhika Shukla. It was insightful and informative. Mridu talked about the benefits of the mindfulness and showed how to practice/exercise it in our daily lives.

We are certainly living in challenging times and we all can find some peace and clarity through mindfulness. Those who couldn't attend this webinar for various reasons, please [click here](#) to watch the recording.

### [Innovative Ways to Donate to MaiFS!](#)

Celebrate your loved ones, commemorate a milestone or honor a lost loved one by making a special gift in their names. Your contribution and support enables MaiFS to help and support its clients and their children who hope and dream of living violence free lives.

Donations can be made by **Zelle** at [admin@maifamilyservices.com](mailto:admin@maifamilyservices.com) or

By **check** to: MAI FAMILY SERVICES, 32401 W. Eight Mile Rd., Livonia, MI 48152

Please use the **QR code** below to scan with your smartphone and donate.



[Make A Donation](#)

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



**Our mailing address is:**

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

