



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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The year 2020 was challenging to everyone in many different ways. Even though MaiFS could not conduct any of the regularly scheduled in-person events the work never stopped and the staff as well as case workers kept attending to every call. One of the missions of MaiFS is to offer intervention and help to victims of domestic abuse. To raise awareness towards this we have conducted a Walkathon every year for more than a decade now. But we could not do it in 2020 with restrictions in place for in-person meetings well into 2021.

For the year 2021 we decided to go ahead with the Walkathon in a different form. With restrictions not yet fully lifted, it was not possible to plan an in-person event. So we decided to have a Walkathon where MaiFS supporters will be able to walk on their own, at a place of their own choice and then go ahead and report their miles walked via a specially designed form. We decided to make the Walkathon even more inclusive and fun by adding not just walks but other outdoor / physical activities like a swim, hike, bike ride, gardening and Yoga sessions.

The Walkathon was scheduled to run for the entire month of June 2021. As we started on June 1st the entries immediately started to arrive. It was good to see that our supporters took advantage of the flexibility of this new format of virtual / digital Walkathon and reported walks, hikes, bike rides, gardening activities, Yoga sessions and even dance sessions. Some of them even sent pictures from the time they were out on walks or hikes. The enthusiasm continued to grow as the weeks went by and every week we received more entries. It was remarkable that our supporters from out of Michigan regularly reported their walks and other activities. Some participants reported just once during the entire month of June while others reported them every week or even multiple times in a single week. We had some participants sharing with us how they enjoyed the walks on special occasions like a birthday in the family, an anniversary, with their pets, as a group with their friends and family or even when they went out of town for a short trip.

It was certainly very encouraging to receive support for this virtual Walkathon from various different cities within Michigan and many different states. Here is a snapshot of some of the statistics we collected throughout the month of June 2021. We hope next year we come back with our usual fun-filled weekend morning in Fall where we can conduct an in-person Walkathon. We sincerely thank each and every participant who contributed to this successful virtual Walkathon 2021!

Virtual Walkathon Dates: June 1st to June 30th 2021

Total entries received: 205

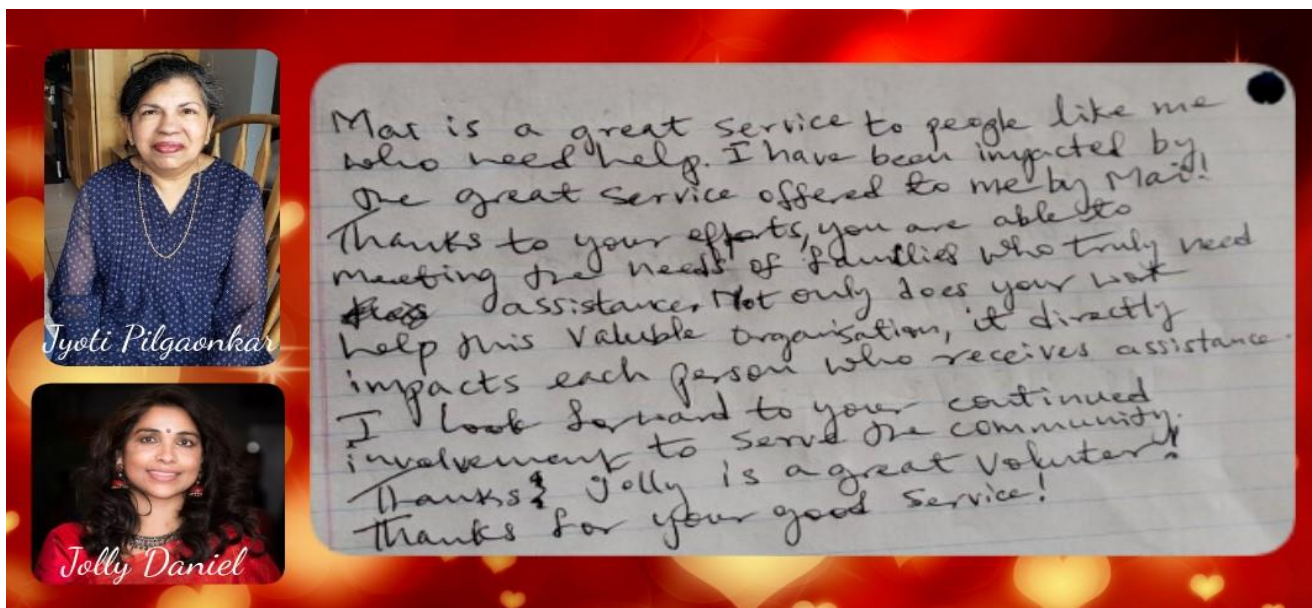
Total Miles walked / hiked / biked: 1435.5

Out of State participants from: Texas, Illinois, Colorado, Arizona, Florida, Pennsylvania and Ohio

[Click here for pictures](#)



Golden Club Member Jyoti Pilgaonkar's golden words!



**Jyoti's_golden_words.
mp3**

Volunteer Spotlight - Rupal Baxi!



When you ask someone how did they come to be a volunteer with MaiFS, the answers are varied. This time I got lucky to speak with a longtime dedicated volunteer and her volunteering spirit preceded her time with MaiFS.

Meet Rupal Baxi, a very calm, easy to speak to and genuine lady. Rupal was very involved with volunteering at a young age while being a student back in India as she was associated with NSS (National Service Scheme, a public service program conducted by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Government of India). She was a part of a group that ran literacy programs for villages adopted by this nationwide service organization. Her involvement in giving back to the society thus started years before coming to USA.

After arriving in US she always had the desire to continue some form of volunteering. One time while attending the India Day function she came across the MaiFS booth and after talking to the representatives and understanding the mission of MaiFS she felt like she had found her calling. Over the next few years as Rupal got busy with raising young kids and working and yet kept up her social involvements, she saw, heard & read about a few instances where even highly educated and working women faced some domestic abuse issues. This made her resolve to actively participate in the work being carried out by MaiFS even stronger.

Rupal was very involved over the years with arranging annual Walkathons, planning and executing skits and other programs showcasing MaiFS's work, representing MaiFS at various events and local radio shows. She continues to advocate for the MaiFS cause. On a professional level after a successful career of more than a decade in hospitality and management, she shifted gears and brought her skills over to IT. Rupal enjoys a good balance of work & family life and puts a great emphasis on being involved with MaiFS.

Rupal says she has found enriching experiences and lifelong friends at MaiFS. We are glad to have Rupal on our volunteer team and look forward to any more fruitful years.

In Partnership with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Service



STOP Grant Program Updates!

Over the last five years, our Michigan Department of Health and Human Service's (MDHHS) funded STOP-Grant program has allowed us to provide vulnerable members of the underserved South Asian communities with programs to empower them, and help them overcome their vulnerabilities. We remain confident that the program's successes over all these years will result in a further renewal of the STOP Grant for several more years.

Anticipating the renewal of the STOP grant, we have embarked on an expanded outreach program in order to promote the STOP program and to bring in more South Asian communities in the program's fold. This month we have promoted the STOP grant through radio interviews, directed emails to South Asian organizations, and through other social media. Please continue to help us spread the word about Mai Family Services, and the wonderful services available to all South Asians through the STOP-Grant Program.

If you or someone else you know, is interested in providing instruction in ESL, Basic Computer Literacy, or Financial Literacy in our STOP-Grant programs, please look up current opportunities and job requirements at <https://maifs.org/job-opportunities/>

SABA Cares!

Join @South Asian Bar Association (SABA) of North America for the 2021 [#SABACares](#) Challenge to help support Mai Family Services that are providing critical and life-saving resources for survivors of domestic violence in the South Asian community.

Visit www.maifs.org/SABACARES for more information.

#@MAIFamilyMI



Star-spangled Generosity! A Gift of Freedom!



Star-spangled Generosity! A Gift of Freedom!

What does freedom mean to you?

Freedom generally means the power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint. Unfortunately, the survivors of Domestic Violence have zero freedom in their lives. Their lives are controlled by the abusers. They too, can dream the life of freedom if they get help and support.

As we are getting ready to celebrate our freedom, let's all honor the survivors of Domestic Violence by opening our hearts & hands to find their freedom.

Did you know?

Some of you may not be aware that your Donation can become Tax deductible even if you do not Itemize.

To make it deductible, without itemizing, one has to be 70 years of age or older and have an IRA account. Then they just go to their IRA account and send a check to Qualified Charity from that account. This donation amount can even be part of their RMD. In fact, up to \$100,000 can be donated like this every year.

One thing to be aware of at tax time is the 1099 form reports the donation check as Normal distribution and you in turn declare that this check(s) is sent to charity, then your taxable distribution income is reduced by the check(s) amount.

This is how it becomes Tax deductible without Itemizing. If one is itemizing anyway, then it does not matter.

DONATE



Donations can be made by **Zelle** at 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.

Thank you for supporting Mai Family Services!



Our mailing address is:

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

