



**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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### Tribute to Mrs. Nalinee Mehendale!

The Board and Staff at Mai Family Services mourns the passing of Nalinee Mehendale, a friend and supporter of the organization. Though born and raised in a different era, when women were constricted by roles that were defined by cultural norms – she was a woman of our times. She believed in women’s rights and championed women’s causes. The page from her diary, given below, captures beautifully and evocatively the work that we do at MaiFS. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family. May she rest in peace. 🙏

#### The Mehendales

A quote from her  
Diary.

- Silence -

Too many women  
In too many countries  
speak the same language  
of SILENCE.

- Anasuya Sengupta,

addon quote from Aai

We seek only to give  
words to those, who can not  
speak (too many in too many  
countries)

#### The Mehendales

Dear Nona,

With a sad,  
heavy heart to let you  
know. My mother in law, Nalinee  
everyone called her Aai, passed  
away at the age of 96, peacefully  
at home on Oct 12th.

She always believed in  
lots of things, being a teacher,  
and women's rights advocate  
left positive values on many  
lives.

So in her memory  
sending you a check for  
MAIF. She always appreciated  
my interest in this group, and  
encouraged me.

So I am sending it  
to you at MAIFS address.

Thanks,  
- Anusya

## MaiFS Invites Nominations for the Board of Directors!

On behalf of Executive Committee, we invite nominations from all of you to fill vacant positions on the board. We have capacity to add up to 7 new board members. Our basic criteria is that board members should have volunteering experience, preferably with MaiFS or some other community organization in a significant role. He/she should be able to devote about 5-10 hours per month on activities related to MaiFS. In addition, they should be able to help bring in donations through their network and contacts.

We would like to have board members that hold or have held professional positions in medicine, legal, accounting, social work, marketing, or IT field, however this is not a requirement. We welcome board members irrespective of their age, gender, race and ethnicity (understanding of South Asian culture is required).

Please reach out to us at [info@maifamilyservices.com](mailto:info@maifamilyservices.com), if you are interested or know any name(s) that you would like to nominate.

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## MaiFS in the Spotlight!

Fox News of Detroit acknowledged October as the Domestic Violence Awareness Month during the busy news cycle. Mr. Roop Raj of Fox News interviewed Swatee Kulkarni, President of the Board of MaiFS. She shared that MaiFS is serving a growing number of DV victims who are facing a multitude of challenges during the COVID pandemic. Services provided by MaiFS have grown in response to these needs and MaiFS is supporting these families by providing laptops for children, cash assistance for everything from rent to grocery. MaiFS is able to continue the work because of support from donors and grants.

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## Outreach at Village Oaks Elementary School, Novi!

At the request of Dr. Alexander Ofili, Principal Village Oaks Elementary School Novi, *Board Members* Shanti Menon, Dr. Preeti Venkataraman and MaiFS *Program Manager* Yogita Chhettri did a presentation for the staff of the school on October 8, 2020. Titled ***Understanding South Asian Families in Michigan*** the presentation was originally scheduled for the Spring but was postponed because of the pandemic. The slide show was followed by a Q & A session that covered topics ranging from South Asian religious holidays and their celebration, cultural customs, and the impact of the pandemic on South Asia and particularly on the lives of the children's extended family members. This is the second time that MaiFS is doing a presentation at Village Oaks. The first time was in 2018.

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



## **STOP Grant Empowerment Program Update!**

The STOP Grant is very pleased to start Year-5 of the MDHHS Grant to Empower Women in the our local South Asian Communities. The grant was renewed following a grueling Contract renewal process. At the end of Year-5, a new grant application process will begin and we're hopeful that the Grant will continue.

We are diligently working to put into action, the suggestions made by MDHHS during the Contract review process. We are taking additional steps to ensure that the Grant Contract parameters are enforced more stringently. While the COVID pandemic has made it difficult to provide classroom instruction at our various contracted centers, we continue to provide online student instruction through Zoom and WeChat in ESL and Computer Skills. While the STOP Grant staff continues to administer and run the program working remotely, plans are to slowly start the process of resuming some work-related activity in the office. Towards that, we are ensuring that all necessary safety precautions are made available to the staff to work in the office.

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## **Thank You For Attending Our Virtual Yoga Session!**

Our heartfelt thanks to all the attendees for attending our virtual yoga session, showing your solidarity with the survivors, and standing up against the Domestic Violence. We are grateful for your continued contribution, help and support to MaiFS. Because of your generosity, our survivors are able to dream & hope again and laugh & live again.

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## **Donate!**

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**

***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