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MAI Family Services

NEWS & VIEWS

September 2010

THANK YOU!

In our last newsletter, shortly before our annual fundraiser event titled “Sureele Sapne” we requested your help in addressing the needs of our increasing caseload. “Sureele Sapne” was a success! More than 550 community members attended the fundraiser and we raised \$43,000 after accounting for event expenses. We are grateful to all the community members who came out to support us and our clients! We would also like to appreciate our live performers, Sanjeev Ramabhadran, Armeen Ramabhadran, Prasad Joshi, Sachin Ramabhadran and Rohan Prabhudesai. Learn more about their work at www.sureelesapne.com.

As you all know, the demand for our services increased tremendously from January to March. Our caseload has continued to increase since then. Please see our call report on page 2. Many of our clients, especially those facing domestic violence require counseling, housing, transportation, employment assistance, childcare and legal assistance for at least 6 months. We hope that the enthusiasm we witnessed at our last fundraiser will spread throughout the community, especially to all your friends and family so we can continue to serve our clients. If you would like to make an online donation, please visit www.maifs.org.

CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

Thanks to MAI Family Services for their assistance during my crisis time. Speaking to their caseworker gave me confidence, that someone is there to help me out. I really like to thank them for all their help & for providing me to speak to their lawyer when I needed legal advice.

- Rakshitha

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Community Voices (p. 2)

Call Report (p. 2)

Walk to Stop Domestic Violence (p. 3)

Press Release (p. 4)

UPCOMING WALK TO STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE !

We need volunteers! Please contact Mona Sashital at novimona@gmail.com if you are would like to get involved.

The August 22nd murder-suicide case in Orion Township highlights the need for domestic violence awareness and prevention. See press release below.

COMMUNITY VOICES

Community Voices is a new section of the newsletter devoted to sharing your views about our community and the issues MAI Family Services' clients face. Please send in your submissions to fatemab@maifamilyservices.com.

"The greatest discovery of my generation will be that a human being can alter his life by altering his attitude of mind"..William James

We just celebrated the 4th of July, a symbol of liberty and the freedom to think. If this freedom is meant to be applied

CALL REPORT

April 2010 to July 2010

- 32 new calls requesting assistance on our helpline
- 13 out of the 32 calls were domestic violence calls

equally towards men and women, why do we in the South Asian community still see women

getting tortured, beaten and even murdered?

What can we, as members of this community do to prevent these atrocities?

Organizations all over the world are trying to address the issue of Domestic Violence. Yet we continue to see the number of domestic violence cases rise. Why? Can we do something more to stop this disease called domestic violence?

I think, first we need to educate people around us about what domestic violence is, what causes it, and how we can stop it. We need to show our children that men and women should be treated as equals. A father -- by participating in the cooking, getting the groceries and doing chores around the house - could be a role model for his kids. Teachers can help us too. When



teachers reinforce the values of equal behavior and respecting everybody irrespective of gender, then, those lessons will have a permanent imprint on children from an early age.

I am told that some states have 'character building' programs in schools. The students discuss subjects like bullying, kindness, and positive thinking. If for example, the subject of honesty is chosen for that month, a newsletter will be sent to the parents of students. Students are then expected to have a discussion about honesty at home with their parents and continue that discussion back at school. So why not talk about Domestic Violence too?

I just hope members of our community recognize that domestic violence is not a family/personal problem. It is a community problem and that we must all work towards preventing it.

-Smita J, Concerned community member

We send out information about our monthly workshops, social events, and fundraisers as well as events hosted by partner organizations to our email listserv. If you would like to receive emails from MAI Family Services, email info@maifs.org. Please type "Add to listserv" in the subject line. If you would like to unsubscribe from our listserv, please send an email to info@maifs.org with "Unsubscribe" as the subject line.



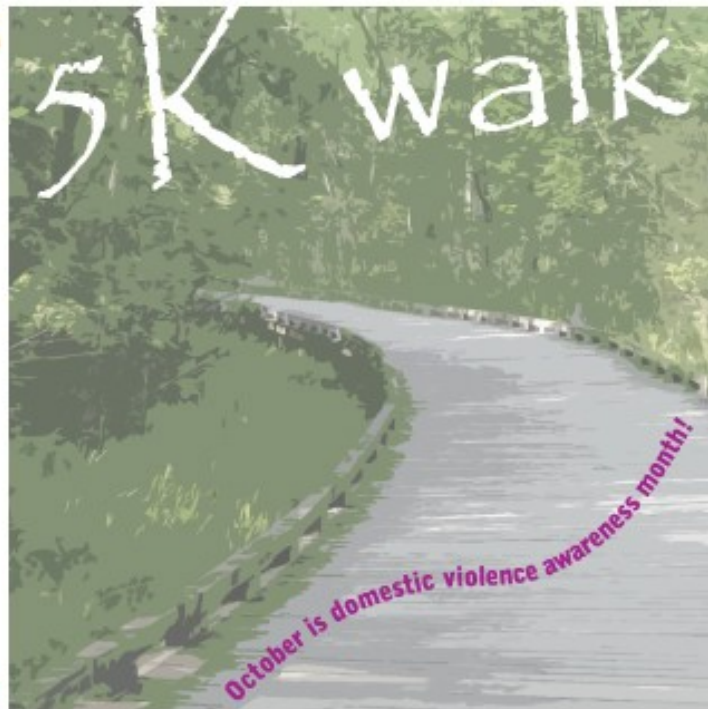
Walk to Stop domestic violence

Date: Saturday, October 2, 2010

Time: Register from 8-9AM; Kick-off led by author and motivational speaker, Shobhan Bantwal at 9AM

Location: Farmington Heritage Park, 24725 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48336

Registration fee (includes free t-shirt & snack): \$15/person; \$10/student; children under 12 free; register on October 2 for \$20. Visit www.maifs.org to register.



To become a sponsor or for questions, email walk@maifamilyservices.com or call Mona Sashital at 248-767-4542.

All proceeds from the event will be used to provide direct services to our clients. Donations are 100% tax-deductible.

MAI Family Services is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to supporting South Asians in need. Visit www.maifs.org to learn more.

MAI Family Services FREE Helpline: (888)664-8624

Contact: Anjali Guntur
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 September 1st, 2010

URGENT CALL FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

August 22nd murder-suicide case in Orion Township illustrates the need for awareness and prevention, especially among Michigan's South Asians.

A neighbor found 56-year old Rosemary Rangi, Orion Area Chamber of Commerce director and mother of three, lying burned, stabbed and bleeding outside of her Orion Township home. She identified her husband, 65-year old Daljit Rangi as her attacker. Daljit Rangi was found dead in the garage from smoke inhalation and burns, and his death was ruled a suicide by the Oakland County Medical Examiner's Office. Rosemary Rangi is expected to recover. Many South Asians (Asian Indians, Pakistanis, and Bangladeshis) in Michigan may describe this occurrence and past ones as shocking or rare. MAI Family Services' counselors and members are appalled yet well aware of the frequency of such horrible crimes. Eighty percent of calls received by MAI Family Services, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping South Asian families, concern domestic violence. Domestic violence and the harm it incurs to individuals, families and societies are realities faced by the South Asian community. It is about time Michiganders raise a strong, loud voice against domestic violence in every community. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Help MAI Family Services to prevent family violence and to build healthy relationships. Walk with us at our second annual Walk to Stop Domestic Violence at Heritage Park (Farmington Hills) on Saturday, October 2, 2010.

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To register, make a pledge or sponsor Walk to Stop Domestic Violence, visit www.maifs.org or email Mona Sashital at novimona@gmail.com. Contact MAI Family Services on our Free Helpline 888/664-8624 or at 248/477-4985.