

Suburban Shared Center  
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# MAI Family Services

## NEWS & VIEWS

April 2010

## PLEASE HELP

Sure, there are other ways to ask for a donation. But we've stated it as simply as we can: Please Help. The demand for our services has increased tremendously in the past three months. We are handling many new domestic violence cases that may require counseling, housing, transportation, employment assistance, childcare and legal assistance for at least 6 months. We desperately need your financial contributions to continue to serve our clients.

Please plan on attending our annual fundraiser, a musical performance titled "Sureele Sapne" on April 24, 2010 (see pg. 3).

Become a diamond, platinum, gold or silver sponsor by contacting one of our members listed on the flier. Encourage your friends and family to attend too. If you cannot attend the fundraiser, but would like to donate, please send a check to our address.

If you would like to help, but cannot make a financial contribution, please consider becoming a volunteer. Download our volunteer form and instructions from [www.maifs.org](http://www.maifs.org).

### NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED!

Please check out our newly designed website at [www.maifs.org](http://www.maifs.org). Make an online donation on our site and purchase tickets for our upcoming fundraiser "Sureele Sapne."

Many, many, many thanks to Anupama Gopalakrishnan for creating the site!

## CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

*"I would like to thank your honorable organization- 'MAI Family Services' for providing my son and I the utmost best care and attention we were given in such a short period of time! The Case Worker handled everything! She was so caring, professional and just a beautiful person! I am extremely grateful to all involved at MAI Family Services. I could not have done it without your help. Your kindness, guidance, support, assistance, and generosity is truly appreciated and we are very thankful, and grateful to you and all involved!*

*Also, my sincere thanks to all members at MAI Family Services and it was such a great pleasure meeting you all and at any time you all need me I will be there!*

*Thank you kindly with all my heart! May God Bless Your Organization!"*

- Sangeeta



**Mona Sashital,**  
member since 2007

## MEMBER EXPERIENCE & VISION

Mona Sashital is one of our most active members. She always volunteers her time and skills wholeheartedly. Thank you for your hard work, Mona!

**Q. What is your role in MAI Family Services?**

A. I joined MAI Family Services in 2007. From April 2008 to December, 2009, I served as a secretary for the Organization. Since then I am working as Volunteer Coordinator responsible for keeping the volunteers updated with the volunteering opportunities.

**Q. How have you benefited from your involvement with MAI Family Services?**

A. MAI Family Services has given me the opportunity to serve and give back to the

community. It gives me great satisfaction to help the organization by using my skills in the event-management, fundraising, marketing, web-site maintenance, outreach and training effort.

**Q. How does MAI Family Services need to improve to better serve its clients?**

A. Since its start in 1986, MAI Family Services has come a long way. It has always been a volunteer-run organization that depended entirely on the services, skills and time donated by dedicated and committed professionally trained caseworkers. We have recognized that for smooth running of the organization, we need additional funds and people of versatile skill-sets to achieve these goals.

**Q. What is the most important thing that you think community members should know about MAI Family Services?**

A. MAI Family Services holds a unique role in our community. There are several social, cultural, religious and political organizations that cater to the community needs but MAI Family Services is the only organization that offers support to the local South Asian community members in crisis. MAI Family Services is working hard to raise the awareness that Domestic Violence happens in our community. We want the community members to recognize the role of MAI Family Services and help us in our effort.

## OUTREACH LUNCH...INTERESTED?

MAI Family Services has hosted three outreach lunches with individuals representing nearly 10 local community organizations and places of worship. The goal of our outreach lunches is to spread the word about our work and solicit your assistance in energizing our local South Asian community to become aware of and address family problems including domestic violence. If you are interested in representing an organization that you lead or are a member of please call us at 248-477-4985 for information about the next outreach lunch!

### CALL REPORT

January 2010 to March 2010

- 32 new calls requesting assistance on our helpline
- 14 of the 32 new calls related to domestic violence



**MAI FAMILY SERVICES** presents:

An evening of  
**classic and contemporary Hindi film music** with

# Sureele Sapne

(www.sureelesapne.com)

**Vocals: Sanjeev and Armeen Ramabhadran**

**Tabla/Percussion: Prasad Joshi**

**Drums: Sachin Ramabhadran**

**Keyboard: Rohan Prabhudesai**

## **The Millennium Centre**

15600 J.L. Hudson Drive, Southfield, MI 48075

**Saturday April 24, 2010**

**Social Hour at 6:00 PM**

*(Light refreshments will be served)*

**Program begins at 7:15 PM**

**Tickets: \$100, \$50, \$35,  
\$25, and \$10 for Students**

Visit **www.maifs.org** to  
purchase tickets online or

**contact:**

**Ram Date 248.348.7675**

**Sarla Desai 248.987.4752**

**Mona Sashital 248.305.8718**

**Dipti Sharangpani 734.254.1989**

MAI Family Services is a non-profit 501 (C) (3)  
tax-exempt organization that serves as a  
support system for South Asians in Michigan.  
Our free helpline number is 888-664-8624



# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WORKSHOPS

MAI Family Services is facilitating workshops in the community to increase awareness and knowledge about domestic violence among South Asians. We have already hosted or scheduled workshops for the Regional Midwest Asian Pacific American Medical Students' Association, the United Asian American Organization at the University of Michigan, Gurdwara Sahib-Hidden Falls, and the Jain Temple. Thank you to all the community members who have helped us schedule and host workshops!

We are also currently engaged in training the trainers. Trainers are

MAI Family Services' volunteers that will be facilitating workshops in the community on our behalf. Our board members have also been trained.

The Domestic Violence Workshop is an interactive discussion with a video



component. We delve into the causes and symptoms of domestic violence as well as the barriers to seeking help. If you or an organization/group that you are involved with would like to learn more about our training workshops please contact our Vice-Chairperson and Training Committee Chair, Mona Belsare at [monabelsare@hotmail.com](mailto:monabelsare@hotmail.com). Workshops can be adapted to your specific audience and time requirements.



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### Help when you need it most.

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](mailto: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](mailto:info@maifs.org) with

## VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

The first volunteer orientation of 2010 was held on Sunday, Feb 7th at our Livonia office. It was well attended by several of our existing as well as new volunteers and our board members. There was a lot of enthusiasm in the room and the passion and interest shown by the attendees in MAI Family Services and its cause was evident. All the volunteers introduced themselves. The existing volunteers talked about their experience in volunteering for us and the new volunteers talked about their eagerness to get involved. Mona Sashital, the volunteer coordinator gave an overview of the organization, our mission and vision and structure and talked in detail about volunteering opportunities. Mona Belsare, our vice-chairperson and caseworker, talked about the caseworkers' role and how the cases are handled. All the attendees enjoyed a delicious lunch which was prepared by one of our clients.

Contact Mona Sashital at [novimona@gmail.com](mailto:novimona@gmail.com) to become a volunteer.