

MAI Family Services

News & Views

SEPTEMBER 2009

Suburban Shared Center
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Livonia, MI 48102

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Domestic Violence takes Center Stage

80% of the calls we receive on our free helpline are related to domestic violence. Yet, we still hear people within and outside of our community comment that domestic violence doesn't happen in South Asian/Indian/ Pakistani families. So we've dedicated this newsletter to addressing domestic violence. October is domestic violence month and MAI Family Services is hosting an event (see pg. 3) to raise awareness and funds

to help our clients. Learn more about our event coordinator, Mona Belsare, in the member spotlight below and read a poem by one of our volunteers.

Member Spotlight

Mona Belsare is coordinating MAI Family Services' first-ever walkathon on October 3. Thanks for all your hard work, Mona! You are an asset to our organization.

Q. What is your role in MAI Family Services?

A. I am a board member, the volunteer coordinator and a caseworker.

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

A. The satisfaction everyday I get from helping

someone in need is invaluable to me. I didn't realize what a vital role MAI Family Services plays in our community. For some of our clients, there was no other help. We were their family and continue to be a support system for so many clients.

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

A. MAI Family Services needs to be more visible in the community so that there is an awareness that we are here to help and

we can reach many more people.

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

A. MAI Family Services is here to promote happy, healthy families. We are NOT here to break up families. Also, our services are professional and most importantly confidential.



NOW, I love me too!!

Why I still love you, you wonder and you ask
 All I could say was 'I don't know' because I did not understand
 I still love you because my heart chose to love you
 And when it did it chose to love you for ever

I can't be with you because I finally see how it hurts me
 I don't know why you choose to hurt me
 I don't know how to help you, I tried
 Oh, I tried so hard and I tried so long

I finally accept that I can't help you
 You have to help you and I have to help me
 I finally choose to help and love me also
 I choose not to let anyone hurt me any more,

Because NOW, I love me too!

-Veera

Call Summary

Our total call volume is increasing each month. Between April and August 2009, our caseworkers have counseled 32 on-going clients and 48 new clients. Our new clients contacted MAI Family Services by calling our free helpline (888)664-8624. Caseworkers have spent nearly 170 hours counseling clients. Additionally, our volunteers have spent hours providing food, transportation, interpretation and other types of assistance to our clients.

If you know anyone who may need help, please encourage them to call our confidential helpline at (888)664-8624.

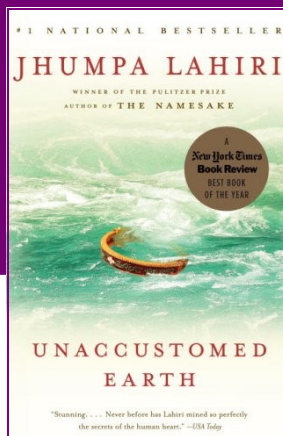
Book Review

MAI Family Services member, Suneeta Prakash, recently read "Unaccustomed Earth" by Jhumpa Lahiri. Let's hear more about the book from her.

Just like her other books, "Unaccustomed Earth" is a reflection on life with two separate cultures, and how people cope with one and the other. It made number one on the *New York Times Book Review* list of "10 Best Books of 2008."

This book is about Indians living in the U.S. and their stories. I heard Lahiri's interview on the National Public Radio and decided to read "Unaccustomed Earth." I had already read Lahiri's "Namesake" and saw the movie based off the book.

The stories are different and not run of the mill. They made me think about the various, preconceived ideas we have about "Indian people." The book might make you ponder about issues we come across in our everyday lives.





Walk to Stop domestic violence

October 3, 2009
Rochester Municipal Park
400 6th Street
Rochester, MI 48307
5K Walk

Sign-in: 8am-10am
Walk as you come!
Family fun: 10am-1pm
bounce, face painting,
raffles, mehndi and more

Registration:
\$10/person
(includes t-shirt & snack)
12 and under FREE
Students \$8
Register on Oct. 3 for \$15



Register on-line at www.maifs.dojiggy.com
Questions? Email MAIwalkathon@hotmail.com

MAI Family Services is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting South Asians in need. Visit our website: www.maifs.org to learn more.
MAI Family Services FREE Helpline: (888)664-8624

Past Events

4/11 - MAPI Auxiliary hosted Baishakhi Mela. MAI Family Services was one of the beneficiaries for this event.

4/19 - We co-hosted a workshop on challenges faced as seniors of Indian background with the Bharatiya Temple.

4/24-4/26 - Two board members attended the South Asian Summit Conference in D.C.

5/19 - We co-hosted and attended the 7th Annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration at the Capitol in Lansing.

8/12 - MAI Family Services' EC members attended the American Cancer Society Walk-athon kick-off breakfast meeting in Southfield.

8/15 - We were a beneficiary for FOMAPI's annual fundraiser.

8/16 - MAI Family Services hosted a free workshop on Life Bliss Meditation

8/29 - We sponsored, hosted an information booth and walked at the CRY (Child Rights & You) walk at Stony Creek Metropark.



Upcoming Events

9/12 - We will have an informational booth at AIWA's Women's Day from 9am-5pm. Stop by and learn more about MAI Family Services!

9/20 - University of Michigan's South Asian Awareness Network student organization will help with preparations for our "Walk to Stop Domestic Violence."

9/28 - Taylor University Students from Indiana will be visiting MAI Family Services to learn more about our organization, services and functioning.

We want your input

Suggestions? Comments? Concerns? Please do not hesitate to call or email MAI Family Services at (248)477-4985 or info@maifs.org.

We send out information about our monthly workshops, social events, fundraisers and 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.