

Suburban Shared Center
32401 W. 8 Mile Rd.
Livonia, MI 48152

Helpline: (888)664-8624
Phone: (248)477-4985
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Read about how to donate to MAI Family Services through United Way, our walkathon this past October, Shobhan Bantwal's *The Dowry Bride* and more in the issue.

MAI Family Services

NEWS & VIEWS

December 2010

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Dear MAI Family Services Supporters,

On behalf of the entire team of MAI Family Services, I like to wish all of you the very best that life has to offer for the coming New Year.

The year 2010 though challenging, has been a very successful one when measured for accomplishments, as a result of contributions by our dedicated team members, which comprises of professionally trained case workers, board members and volunteers.

From my personal perspective, the attribute to our success is that all calls received on MAI Family Services Help line were 100% attended & no one asking for assistance was disappointed!

During the year, we had two highly successful events:

- Annual Fund Raising Event in April where 550 plus people attended the musical program "Surelee Sapne" and we collected \$44K (net of expenses).
- "Walk to Stop domestic violence" where 200 plus people showed up despite inclement weather!

As part of our outreach efforts, we collaborated with Novi, Farmington Hills, and Canton Police Departments to help them understand our Mission and services. We will continue to closely work with them.

On an organizational front, we undertook "Strategic Planning" exercises to identify what we have to deliver in 2011 & beyond to meet the ever growing requirements of services by our community. MAI Family Services team has accepted this challenge & is determined to provide help & assistance to those who need it. This is not easy but I am confident that with your contribution and involvement, we will be successful in our mission & vision.

Many thanks to our readers who have contributed to MAI Family Services in 2010 to the best of their capability. We look forward to your continued support in 2011.

Sincerely,

Brij Mohta
Chairperson

SHOP TO SUPPORT MAI FAMILY SERVICES

Vidya Krishnan of Canton, MI started a jewelry line called "Kalli's Dreams," and this holiday season she would like to do something to help women who are less fortunate. She has decided that 5-10% of ALL sales (in person, at any show she takes part in or from her website) between November 1st - December 25th, will be donated to MAI Family Services. You can take satisfaction in knowing that your purchases will contribute to a worthy cause that is not in the media limelight like some other causes.

Please visit www.kallisjewelry.com for your holiday shopping needs. All purchases will come complimentary gift packed (if you choose to). You will also receive a special gift from Kalli's Dreams to thank you for your patronage. We encourage you to do your holiday shopping at Kalli's Dreams and pass on this information to all your family, friends and colleagues. **HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

THANK YOU!

"Walk to Stop Domestic Violence" was held on October 2nd at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness about domestic violence in our community and to make a statement that we will not accept it. Despite the cold, rainy weather, we had over 200 walkers and raised over \$20,000 to assist MAI Family Service clients. Thank

you for supporting MAI Family Services and our clients. Our keynote speaker, Shobhan Bantwal, kicked off the walk with an inspirational speech and generously donated profits from her book sales that day to MAI Family Services. We are looking forward to hosting the walkathon next year and we would like everyone to pray for good weather!



CALL REPORT

August 2010 to November 2010

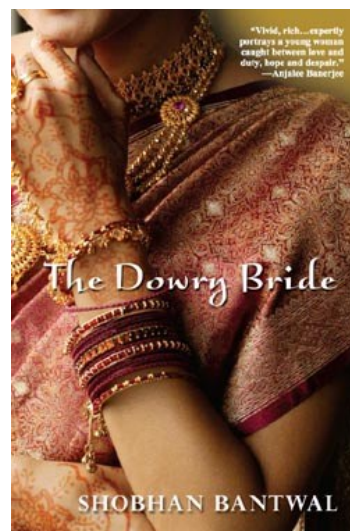
- 38 new calls requesting assistance on our helpline
- 10 of the 38 new calls were related to domestic violence

BOOK REVIEW OF *THE DOWRY BRIDE* BY SHOBHAN

"One sultry night, a young bride overhears an extraordinary conversation. The voices speak of a plot to murder a wife who has failed to produce a child and whose family has failed to produce the promised dowry..."

If you were able to come to our walkathon this year, you had the privilege of hearing Shobhan Bantwal speak. She is the author of three books and is her fourth is expected in 2011.

Her first book, *The Dowry Bride*, is a must-read. She is able to combine Bollywood-type drama with real women's issues. The book opens with Megha, a young bride, overhearing her mother-in-law and husband plotting to kill her. She decides that the only way to save her life is to run and keep running. She ends up at her husband's cousin's (Kiran) place where she is hiding from her family. She knows that if the police find her, they will take her back to her in-law's home. Kiran becomes her protector and a forbidden attraction brings more danger to Megha. Mrs. Bantwal is able to bring out the long-standing dowry problem into light as well as the obligations and tradition a young bride should follow.





You're Invited

to MAI Family Services' Holiday Dinner & Dance

on

Saturday December 11th at 6:30 pm

at the

Monsignor Alex J. Brunett Activity Center

17500 Farmington Road

Livonia, MI 48152



Program

Live entertainment

Cash Bar

Raffles

Dance Floor

****This is a family-friendly event***

Cost: \$25/person; \$10/students & kids 5-12; kids under 5 FREE

Please contact Mona Sashital at (248)767-4542 or visit www.maifs.org to purchase tickets.

Please make checks payable to MAI Family Services
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MAI Family Services Free Helpline
888-664-8624



DONATE TO MAI FAMILY SERVICES THROUGH UNITED WAY

Did you know that you can donate to MAI Family Services through United Way?

Please check at your workplace and make your donations during the open enrollment period.

Please note that our name will not show up under the open donors but there will be a link to 'search for another charitable organization'. You can search for "Michigan Asian Indian Family Services" and you should find us.

Alternately, you can also search through our Tax Id #: 38-2659685.

If you have any questions, please call us at 248-477-4985 and we can assist you.



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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. 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.

MAI Family Services was awarded the "Community Service Excellence Award" by MAPI at the their Annual Banquet which was held on Saturday, November 20, 2010.



IF ONLY I KNEW

A poem by Shobhan Bantwal

(keynote speaker at Walk to Stop Domestic Violence 2010)

If I only knew then, the lessons learned over a lifetime,
I would've put a piece of my heart in everything I did.
Every wrinkle and gray hair would have a story of its own.
My past wouldn't trouble me as much when I'm alone.

If I'd had the vision to know that a child grows faster than a weed,
that she leaves the nest quicker than a flash of lightning,
I would've given every word, step, and teardrop more care.
Surely then I would've had sweeter moments to share.

If I'd suspected that a mother's touch is as fleeting
and fragile as a butterfly kissing a blossom,
I would've made a print of my mother's work-worn finger,
stored the image inside me, let its warmth linger.

If I'd guessed my father would donate his eyes upon death,
that his harsh discipline was rooted in compassion,
I would've etched on my brain his many acts of kindness,
and used them to banish my frequent bouts of blindness.

If I could've predicted that my sister wouldn't see sixty,
and she'd live out her last years in agony,
I would've given her one more hug, one more smile.
There would've been memories of her to last a while.

If I'd recognized that friends are gifts that come in many shapes,
that each is just as dear, I would've sent them more greetings,
broken more bread with them, held their hands in times of pain.
But many are yet alive; I can embrace them, rejoice in my gain.

If I could foretell that a good marriage is hard to come by,
more precious than gems, I would've been kinder to my spouse.
I would've loved him with more passion, given him all that was mine.
But he is beside me today; I can still do all that, make up for lost time.

If I only knew then that I have so much to be grateful for,
that God has been generous with his blessings,
I would've run and danced and sung to celebrate my fate.
But I'm alive today; I must do that and more, before it's too late.