The start of a new year is always the time to make the promise of change to ensure a better future for all. And a better future is a world where no one faces any discrimination due to their gender, race, ethnicity, religion, class or any other reasons; where everyone feels supported, heard and seen. Creating a better future with violence-free homes and communities is absolutely possible if we all commit to that goal. Let us begin this new year with a pledge to reflect upon our own actions, thoughts and discourses, such that we identify whether or not these normalize any inequality and/or abuse in human relationships. Let us pledge to establish and advance real equity in our homes, relationships, and communities.

Maitri is committed to build a society where all relationships are built on dignity, equity, and compassion. Read more about our efforts in our annual report for FY21 [here](#).

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**Important Announcement**

Dear Maitri Community,

Today, I am so pleased and honored to announce our new Board leadership: Geetha Krishnamurthy as the Board President and Narmrata Patnaik as the Board Vice President.

Maitri has always been blessed with stellar staff, volunteers, and board members who have stepped up to answer the needs of the organization so that we can continue our trajectory of empowering survivors of familial violence. Both Geetha and Namrata deeply embody this leadership, passion, and commitment to the cause, our work, and the clients.

Geetha is a long-time volunteer and board member for many years at Maitri. She built innovative programs, supported the Maitri staff, and brought her network to the cause.
Namrata has been on the board for a relatively short time but in that time, her passion, commitment, and efforts are clear to all of us.

I am excited to have Geetha lead the board and Namrata take on the leadership as the Vice President and I ask for your continuing support for our new Board Leadership and the organization. I am committed to supporting both our new board leaders in every way I can.

Upwards & Onwards,

Sonya Pelia
Former Maitri Board President
Current Maitri Board Member

Last Quarter's Updates

**Holiday Party**

Typically, the Holidays are a time when the women and children residing in our Transitional House miss their families and feel lonely. Each year, Maitri staff put up Christmas trees with gifts in each unit to brighten up this time of the year for them. This year, we also did an activity with the children where they created their own Christmas tree ornaments.

“Thank you so much for the Christmas gifts, that was so kind and helped make Christmas more pleasant for me and my daughter. I certainly didn’t expect so much and I really appreciate it”.

– A Maitri Client
Raising Awareness In The Community

**Mayor@Noon Show**

Maitri was invited by Mayor Lisa M. Gillmor, City of Santa Clara at her show to talk about the uptick in domestic violence during the COVID pandemic. Zakia Afrin, Director, Survivor Advocacy represented Maitri. She talked about our client advocacy and prevention work. Thank you Mayor Gillmor for raising awareness with Maitri.

**Community Panel**

We organized a community panel to discuss how patriarchy shows up in our daily lives and perpetuates familial violence, and what we can do about it. Our esteemed panelists were Ahsan Qazi, founder of One Voice-Pakistan and World Affairs in Sociological Perspective, Bob Dhillon, Board President of the San Jose Sikh Gurdwara, Dr. Mythri Jegathesan, Associate Professor, Anthropology, Santa Clara University and Naushaba Rashid, a Financial Advisor and founder of Bioskope Films. Maitri Board President, Sonya Pelia moderated this powerful discussion. A good number of community members attended the event and took part in a robust Q & A session. Watch the video!

**Purple Thursday Campaign**

Maitri staff and volunteers took part in Purple Thursday Campaign to commemorate domestic violence awareness month (DVAM). This photo campaign, showed our support for those who have experienced domestic violence and let them know that they are not alone.

**Maitri, Between Friends**

Maitri published 4 podcast episodes in the last quarter: Safe dating relationship, Marital Rape Law in California, Gender stereotypes hurt boys too and Forced marriage, a hidden crime. Find all our episodes on SoundCloud, and other podcast apps.

**Youth Engagement**

**Maitri Art Fest**

Maitri Art & Poetry Fest encouraged youth in envisioning the value of peace, love and compassion in human relationships. A big shout out to all participants and their families. Enjoy the colorful and heart touching album.

**Youth Panel**

Maitri and Vivensity co-organized a panel to empower students and families in
preventing bullying. Teen students, Malavika Eby, Jai Relan and Shradha Shendge joined the panel with Gayathri Narayanan, a mindfulness practitioner and Genavae Pierre Dixon, Mental Health and Wellness Specialist. Panelists shared excellent tips and resources. Preeti Shrikhande, Founder & CEO, Vivensity moderated the discussion. Video.

**Policy Advocacy**

We strive to change complex structural and systemic barriers that disproportionately impact marginalized and underserved communities. And in that effort we advocate for better policies to support survivors. Sharing our policy advocacy efforts [here](#).

**Maitri Immigration Program – 10 years**

"Immigration reform cannot solely focus on self-petitioning options for victims and survivors, addressing..."
Wisdom Of Our Elders

Roquiah Sakhawat Hossain (1880-1932)

A Bengali writer, thinker, educationist, social activist, advocate of women's rights, and widely regarded as the pioneer of women's education in the Indian subcontinent, currently Bangladesh.

Heartfelt Gratitude

Thank You Allies & Funders

We start 2022 with immense gratitude to our allies and institutional funders (list here) for their partnership and support. We are also deeply appreciative of the inspired efforts our volunteers and staff have put forth to help the cause.

Benefit Show

We ended 2021 with a successful benefit event. A long time Maitri supporter and high end jewelry designer, Sirjana Singh presented a jewelry show with her unique collections and donated part of the proceeds to Maitri. Thank you for supporting our
Announcements

Maitri Gala Postponed

The in-person Maitri Gala that was scheduled for March 26, 2022 has been postponed for now due to the spike in COVID cases. Please stay tuned for further plans and updates.

We’re Hiring

**Donor Development Manager**: Join our team to develop and manage a strong community giving program, identify corporate partners and CSRs for sponsorship, and further the fundraising strategies to support the financial sustainability of the organization. [Apply here!](#)

**Outreach & Prevention Associate**: Join our team to support and expand Maitri’s Outreach & Prevention Program, create online campaigns, manage the technological aspects of program activities, and assist in all community engagement and prevention activities. [Apply here!](#)

Quarterly Program Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Helpline</th>
<th>Legal Advocacy</th>
<th>Transitional Housing</th>
<th>Economic Empowerment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crisis Calls:</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>Total Clients: 85</td>
<td>Total served: 11</td>
<td>Total Clients served: 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Calls:</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>Legal Sessions: 250</td>
<td>Total Bed nights: 954</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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