

OUR MISSION:
To provide culturally appropriate support services
and to raise awareness of the issue of domestic
violence in the South Asian Community.

VIEW OUR
WEBSITE
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Newsletter Issue No:2

March 2017

~Message from our President ~ -

Greetings! Arizona South Asians For Safe Families (ASAFSF) has completed twelve years of service in the Valley. We wish to thank all our friends who have sustained ASAFSF with support and encouragement over the years.

Arizona South Asians For Safe families continues to provide support services to victims of domestic and sexual violence, primarily in the South Asian community in Arizona. Domestic violence victims from other Asian communities who call for help also receive assistance and are provided with appropriate culture-specific referrals. No victim seeking help is turned away. 2016 has been a year of growth and increasing community partnerships, both within the South Asian/Asian community and mainstream community. Arizona South Asians For Safe Families presented an all-day Cultural Accessibility / Competency training to Valley-wide domestic violence service providers and to members of the South Asian community. The main trainer from out-of-state was specialized in the subject of Cultural Accessibility as being "a fundamental concept linked to inclusion, representation and promotion of citizenship".

In keeping with our mission and vision "to provide culturally appropriate support services" ASAFSF has provided 335 services to South Asian victims of domestic violence from January to November of 2016. Testimonials can be seen on the newly re-designed website of Arizona South Asians For safe Families at www.asafsf.org, launched in October 2016. ASAFSF members attended the 2016 Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence conference, Re-framing the Movement. They presented a workshop Moving the Movement into the South Asian Community, a new approach in Victim Services that is being increasingly advocated by experts.

ASAFSF is now partnering with ASU AmeriCorps program and interns from ASU School of Social Work are being placed for culture-specific experience at ASAFSF.

Lubna Tabassum, the STOP Violence Against Women funded Project Director continues to enable us to expand our services, form meaningful partnership with related service agencies and increase our community outreach program. ASAFSF's three new Advisory Board members are the invaluable Nanda Datta, Outreach table Coordinator, Romi Baksi, Media Relations Coordinator, and Sarbari Chowdhury, Volunteer Coordinator. ASAFSF's volunteer pool continues to grow and our volunteers remain a sustaining force and pride. ASAFSF honored the volunteers at a volunteer dinner on 20th October, 2016. We wish to thank the many agencies and foundations who have supported us. Our thanks to the Arizona APA Women's Giving Circle and Arizona Women's Partnership, Inc for their generous financial support. Our sincerest thanks to all volunteers and friends in the community. We look forward to continued partnership in the years ahead and wish you a wonderful 2017.

-Bharati Sen

A Word from our dedicated volunteers and friends –

“We support ASAFSF because of the tireless efforts of the volunteers and employee and their perseverance in serving clients and help build a stronger and safer community. ~Naini & Sumana Mandala

I am well aware of the many and varied domestic violence issues facing South Asians and Asians; so prevalent that the film "A girl in the river" won an academy award this year. I trust your (ASAFSF's) judgement and know that anything ASAFSF members are involved in, and have organized since their inception is for a good and noteworthy cause and is run efficiently and competently. I continue to applaud your and ASAFSF for your efforts.” – Darryl Szarka

“I volunteer because I want to give back to the community that has given me so much. As a woman from South Asia, I consider it my privilege to be able help my sisters from the region who are going through turbulent times in a country far away from their home.” – Sarbari Chowdhury

“We all need each other’s support at one time or another; I simply try to offer in whatever capacity I can. Besides, what better cause than empowering women!” – Leena Raval

ASAFSF does great work in the South Asian community and provides tireless advocacy. It is amazing how much this agency is able to do for it's clients and the community with so little. I can only imagine the impact this organization could have if it had more funding. I would strongly urge you to consider donating to ASAFSF or volunteer your time. The passion of the individuals who run this organization is clear in everything they do and I am glad to be a part of such a great agency." - Intern

Client Testimonial

"I really appreciate all of the help that ASAFSF has provided me. ASAFSF supported me and found resources for me and I am so grateful for that."

Drop of Fact!

Direct Client served: **297**
Order of protection obtained :**6**
Transitioning housing: **480**

Exited out from the program successfully (became self-sufficient and safe) **15 (6 clients & 9 children/dependent)**

Reach us on :
<http://asafsf.org/>

Facebook : Arizona South Asians For Safe Families-ASAFSF

Twitter: asfasf@gmail.com

Upcoming community events to watch for:

- *Advocacy day at the capitol by ACESDV, Monday, February 27, from 8:30 am -2:30 pm at the State Capitol, Phoenix*
- *India Festival 2017: Saturday, March 25, from 11:30 am -6:30 pm, at the Indo-American Community Center in Phoenix*
- *Take Back the Night: Friday April 7, from 5-9 pm, at The Civic Space Park in Phoenix.*
- *The winged hope: hope run April 15th freestone park in Gilbert: 1 mile run*

Here is what ASAFSF volunteers have been up to!



Vanessa, (AmeriCorps Intern) pictured left, and Kalpana, (ASAFSF Secretary) pictured middle, with Representative Jay Lawrence on Advocacy Day at the Arizona State Capitol. Monday, February 27, 2017.



Lubna Tabassum (ASAFSF Project Director)-MAG International Leader Visitors day, Thursday, March 23, 2017



Medhat Farooque, ASAFSF Executive Board member, moderating the panel discussion on "International Perspectives on Ending Gender Violence" featuring International visitors from Central and South Asia organized by Global Ties Arizona. Event held in Scottsdale on Thursday, March 23, 2017

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Our FaceBook Page :

'Arizona South Asians For Safe Families-ASAFSF '

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