



The Sahara Insider

VOLUME II, ISSUE II

SUMMER 2009

Sahara News and Recent Events

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Shashi Jagadish LMHC
(President)

Shahida Shakir, MD
(Vice President)

Lakshmi Subrahmanian, LMHC
(Treasurer)

Vidya Prakasam
(Secretary)

Tehsin Siddiqui

DIRECTORS:

Shveta Kulkarni Esq.

Manju Kalidindi Esq.

Monalisa Gangopadhyay-Roy

Mohammad Shakir

Billo Jolly

Bhavani Nirmal, JD

Vasanti Puranik, MD

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Sahara News 1

Upcoming Events 1

Sahara Partnerships 2

A Survivor's Story 2

Teen Summit: One of Sahara's volunteers organized a teen summit in Miami which was very well attended. We are very happy with the success of our second program for teenagers in the South Florida community.

Sahara Participation Events -

A Healthy Family = A Healthy Community: This program was arranged by a local South Florida mosque and was very well attended. About 50-60 women of all ages were present. Representatives of Sahara did a short presentation including a case study and resources in South Florida. We had a very positive response. Materials such as brochures and palm cards were passed out and the Sahara representatives also had a Question/Answer session.

Anatolia Cultural Center Women's Branch: This event was arranged by the Turkish American Association. This was their "first intercultural sweets and tea nite". Two Sahara representatives attended this event. Sahara had a table at the event where we displayed our materials. We gave a short presentation on Sahara. There were about 20-25 women in the attendance. It was a perfect networking opportunity.

Women's Fund of Miami Dade Luncheon:

Members of Sahara attended the Women's Fund's Annual Luncheon at the Hilton in Biscayne. As Grantee's, Sahara set up a display table and handed out palm cards and pamphlets. In attendance were close to 1000 women from the Miami-Dade communities!

Sahara Film Screening: *Please See Upcoming Events Below*

Synopsis of Provoked: A True Story

Kiranjit Ahluwalia (Aishwarya Rai), a battered Punjabi homemaker and mother of two, living in Southall, UK is married to an abusive, alcoholic husband, Deepak Ahluwalia (Naveen Andrews). Unable to bear the brutality and repeated rapes at the hands of her spouse, she sets fire to his feet, unintentionally killing him. Charged with murder, her case comes to the notice of a group of South Asian social workers running an under funded organization called the Southall Black Sisters. Before Kiranjit's appeal hearing the Southall Black Sisters bring her plight to the attention of the media by organizing rallies to gather public support for her freedom. She is ultimately freed by the judicial system in a landmark case called "R v Ahluwalia", redefining provocation in cases of battered women in the UK. Kiranjit is reunited with her children and subsequently given an award by Cherie Blair, for her crusade against domestic violence.



Upcoming Events...

Sahara General Body Meeting and Film Screening Saturday, July 25, 2009. 1:30pm - 5:00pm

Meeting from 1:30pm - 2:30pm

Screening of "Provoked: A True Story" from 2:30pm-5:00pm

South Regional-BCC Library

7300 Pines Boulevard Pembroke Pines, FL 33024

Light refreshments and snacks will be served.

Please RSVP to info.at.saharافل@gmail.com.

The Lodge: Domestic Violence Core Competency

Training Dates August 7th - 9th 2009, 8:00am - 5:00pm

This is a FCADV (Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence) Training offered by The Lodge. Professionals in the domestic violence field are encouraged to take this training just to further their knowledge. CEU's are available.

RSVP: info@thelodgemiami.com, 305-693-1170 EXT. 237 RSVP BY WEDNESDAY, July 29, 2009

JULY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



***“You are not
alone...”***

saalt
SOUTH ASIAN AMERICANS LEADING TOGETHER



EMAIL:

Info.at.saharافل@gmail.com

WEBSITE:

www.saharافل.org

HELP LINE:

1.866.567.7635

A Sahara Survivor's Story

"I am from India from a middle class family. As a typical Indian girl I grew up in a small town, I stayed at home all the time and knew nothing about the world and understanding people and their mentalities. After marriage I came to the U.S. I was married for 2 years and then because of misunderstandings I got separated from my husband. Being naive about divorce and the law I signed all the papers that my husband put in front of me. After few days I was told by my husband that I no longer had the right to stay in his house and the house was not mine. That was a mind blowing situation for me. I was shocked when I came to know the mistake I made by signing the papers. I asked his permission to stay in his house until I completed a degree I was seeking to try and work to support my child. By the grace of God he agreed to that request. Soon after finishing my graduation I moved out of his house, but I was still unemployed and I needed help to get a job.

My sister told me about Sahara; I called Sahara and immediately I got a response from people who played a very important role in helping me. Lakshmi Subrahmanian, Manju Kalidindi and Priya Nagaraj took their valuable time to help me and to find a job. With their help, and by the grace of God, I got a job at a doctor's office. They are very nice to me and so also are their wives. Sahara volunteers continue to follow up and check on me.

I used to feel like I didn't have any one to help before calling Sahara but after calling Sahara I felt like I am not alone. Thank you Sahara."
-A Sahara Survivor

Sahara Partnerships

On the weekend of April 24th, Sahara, along with more than 200 individuals, including representatives from 33 organizations, participated in the 2009 National South Asian Summit in Washington D.C. The summit was hosted by South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT) an organization that advocates, using a social justice framework, around issues affecting South Asian communities.

The Summit provided an opportunity for progressive organizations and individuals from throughout the country to build relationships, gain resources and develop strategies that will support social change. The initial day began with the first national South Asian Advocacy Day that included briefings from White House and congressional staffers and meetings with congressional offices that gave summit participants a chance to advocate on civil and immigrant rights. The rest of the weekend participants attended informative workshops and panels ranging from immigration reform to fundraising and how to develop community-based organizations.

At the Summit, Sahara became a member of SAALT's National Coalition of South Asian Organizations (NCSO.) As a new member, we've been asked to assist in SAALT's "One Community United Campaign for Immigrant and Civil Rights" by hosting their first townhall meeting in South Florida! Sahara will collaborate with other local immigrant rights organizations to put the event together tentatively by September 2009. Please check the Sahara website for the official date.

WOMEN IN DISTRESS BROWARD www.womenindistress.org

Hotline: 954.761.1133

FLORIDA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE www.fcadv.org Florida

Toll-Free DV Hotline 1.800.500.1119