



SAHELI

ANNUAL
REPORT 2021





Neelam Wali,
Board President



Divya Chaturvedi
Co-Executive Director



Renu Tewarie,
Co-Executive Director

A MESSAGE FROM SAHELI BOARD PRESIDENT AND CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the progress we have made at Saheli in helping immigrant survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, our team has continued to provide critical services to those in need.

Through our partnerships with housing authorities, shelters, legal aid organizations, and community organizations, we have been able to offer a wide range of services to survivors, including housing, legal representation, and mental health counseling. Looking forward to the next year, we are excited to build on our successes and continue to expand our outreach and services to even more survivors. Our vision is to create a world where all survivors of domestic violence, regardless of their immigration status, have access to the resources and support they need to live safe and fulfilling lives.

None of this would be possible without the generous support of our donors and volunteers. Your contributions have enabled us to make a real difference in the lives of countless survivors and their families. We are grateful for your continued support and look forward to working with you to create a more just and equitable world for all survivors of domestic violence.

Neelam Wali, Divya Chaturvedi, and Renu Tewarie

ABOUT SAHELI

Saheli's mission is to empower South Asian and Arab women and families to lead safe and healthy lives

Saheli is a culturally specific domestic violence response and intervention organization offering non-judgmental and trauma informed services to immigrant domestic and sexual violence survivors from South Asia and the Middle East.



A snapshot of Saheli clients

GEOGRAPHY

Saheli is a statewide organization helping survivors who are South Asian and Arab immigrants coming from countries of South Asia, middle-East and Northern Africa

LANGUAGE

Multi-lingual staff help survivors in major South Asian languages like Hindi, Bengali, Urdu, Telugu, Gujarati etc. as well as Arabic and French. 2/3rds of Saheli clients speak limited English

ECONOMIC

Majority of Saheli clients are low-income and/or dependent on their abusive partners

IMMIGRATION

Majority of survivors need both immigration and family law support. Many survivor's legal status is dependent on their spouses

Saheli Programs

2021 FOCUS AREA

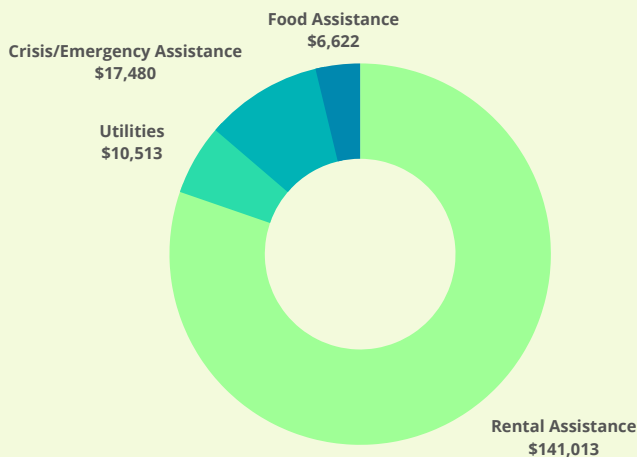
Housing Program

Saheli's focused on developing and strengthening its new housing program that focused on the following areas:

1. Address barriers to housing for immigrant survivors
2. Develop a strategy to assist them in securing affordable housing
3. Ensure adequate support to maintain stable housing.



In 2021, Saheli helped **66** survivors and their children with strengthened housing advocacy supporting them with multiple months of rental assistance, utilities assistance, food and emergency funding. Saheli also supported 4 families with rental assistance for 12 months. Saheli provided more than \$175,000 in direct financial assistance to survivors so that they had a safe place to stay free from abuse.



IMPACT

Saheli housing support allowed a survivor to leave her abusive relationship after years of enduring violence and abuse. Having assurance of a safe roof over her head for one year gave the survivor the confidence to move out, get a restraining order, and start looking for work. For the first time in many years, her new home became a safe space for her and children.

Saheli Programs

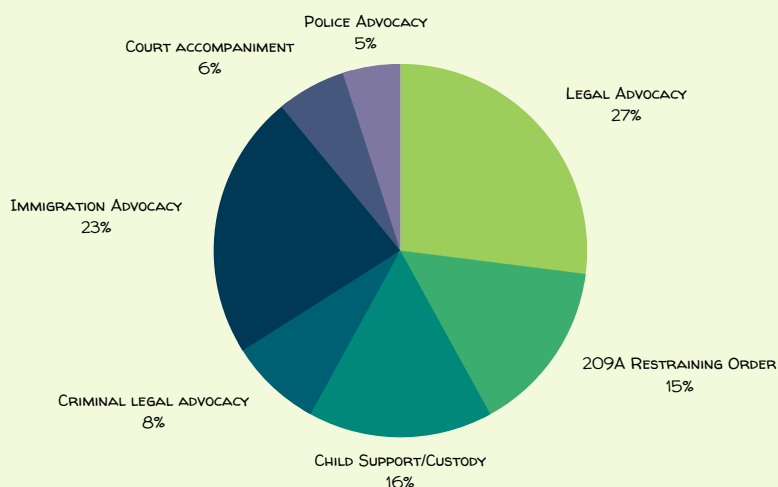
2021 FOCUS AREA

Legal Program

Saheli's Legal Advocacy Program enhances the survivors' access to justice through culturally specific and language-specific services. The program provides safety planning, warm referrals by connecting survivors with organizations and private attorneys who offer pro-bono and low-cost representation, court accompaniments, court preparation assistance, and language-specific and culturally competent case management services for survivors.



In 2021, Saheli helped over 90 survivors with legal advocacy. 43 survivors received help with immigration issues.



IMPACT

A survivor who had been abandoned by her husband received extensive legal support from Saheli. She attended Saheli's free legal clinic to understand her options. Saheli connected her to a pro-bono attorney. With the help of Saheli, she was able to get custody of her children, apply for her work visa, and receive housing support that allowed her a safe place to stay while she waited for her work authorization. Now she has a stable job and is able to support her children financially.

Saheli Programs

2021 FOCUS AREA

Mental Health Program

The Saheli Mental Health Program aims at equipping survivors with tools and resources to process and deal with their trauma. The program includes:

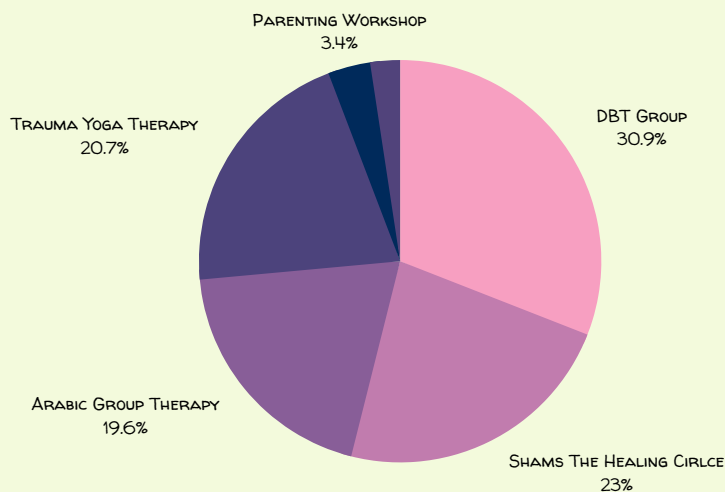
- One-on-one therapy sessions
- Group Therapy in Arabic language
- Dialectical Behavioral Therapy Group
- Parenting Classes
- Shams- The Healing Circle
- Trauma-informed Yoga



In 2021, 93 survivors received mental health support attending over 1000 hours of several support and therapeutic groups that were offered throughout the year.

IMPACT

A survivor had been in an abusive relationship for many years but was reluctant to leave because of children and family pressure. When DCF became involved, her abuser used her limited English speaking to his advantage. He painted her as a bad mother who could not take care of her children. Scared she might lose her children, she came to Saheli. With all the other domestic violence support she received from Saheli, she also received individual mental health counseling and parenting support from Saheli. Her weekly therapy sessions helped her build her confidence and self-esteem and she was subsequently successful in getting custody of her kids.



Saheli Programs

2021 FOCUS AREA

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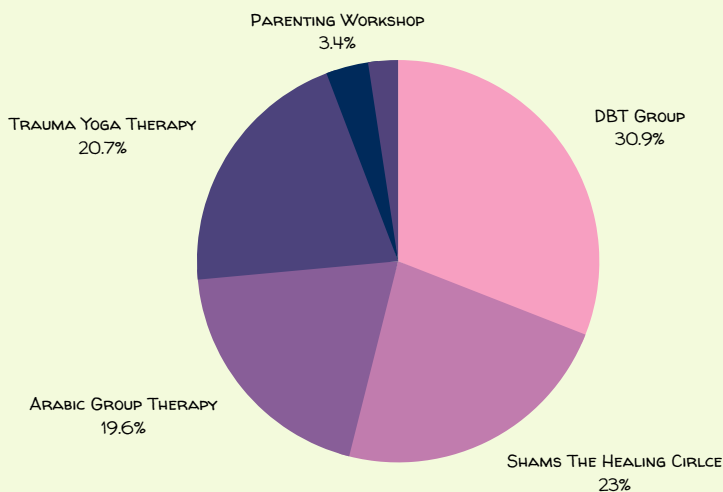
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DVAM 2021

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Saheli organized a series of events in October to raise awareness about domestic violence that culminated with a community wide 5K walk.



Saheli 5K Walk



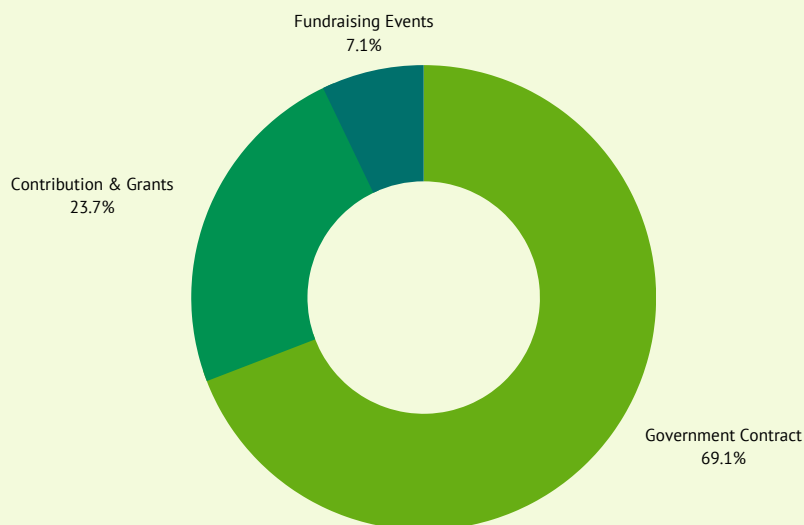
Saheli 'Purple Thursday'
Awareness Event at the Burlington
Public Library



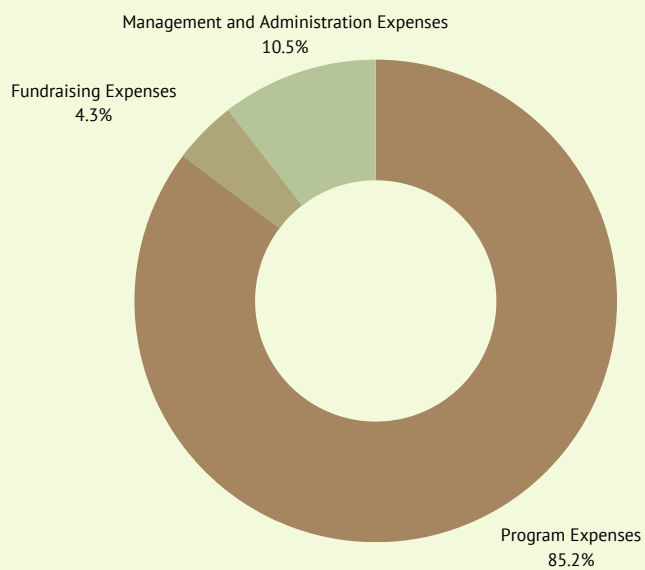
Saheli Tree Lighting Event

2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

INCOME



EXPENSES



Saheli Events and Recognition



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Much of the work of Saheli would not be possible without the generosity and support of our donors and our community. Our deepest gratitude and thanks to all our supporters.

We thank the following foundations and government agencies for believing in survivors and supporting their path to independence and a life free of abuse.

Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Cummings Foundation
The Boston Foundation
The Lenny Zakim Fund
Massachusetts Bar Foundation
Harry Dow Memorial Legal Fund
Beth Israel Lahey Hospital
CHNA15

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WE THANK YOU
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR
OUR WORK