



# SAAVI Annual Report 2013

SAAVI expresses deep gratitude to Mindia.com – our biggest sponsor – for outstanding and generous support in helping us meet our goals to serve the South Asian American community (SAA). Thank you, Mindia.com!

## Program: Immigration

### **New Americans Campaign**

*Direct services:* Increased naturalization rates among LPRs by serving over 100 applicants through workshops; Provided counsel for employment related immigration services

*Education and outreach:* Generated Civics Test materials in 4 Indian languages; Generated media materials on workshops; Created YouTube videos on benefits and rights as a U.S. citizen

*Capacity Building:* Trained Gandhi Fellow in immigration services

*Advocacy:* Border Advocacy Day, meeting with staff of Gang of 8, senators and congressmen in Washington and Detroit, March for Immigration on the Mall as coalition member of MU

*Direct action:* Engage with Republican Party in Lansing, meeting with Congressman Bentivolio, and Fast for Families for immigration reform as a coalition member of MU

## Program: Civil Rights

### **Lotus Bank Civil Rights Case**

*Advocacy:* Gained community support and advocated for plaintiffs' civil rights; Supported legal counsel for plaintiffs on SAA community; Gained support from allies including New Detroit – The Coalition, Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, Asian Pacific American Legal Center (LA), SAALT (DC), SAN - UofM, Asian American Institute (Chicago), and American Citizens for Justice

## Program: Education

### **My School, My Space - Racial Equity Initiative**

*Education:* Working with 4 APA collaborative members to decrease cultural insensitivity in elementary schools in metro Detroit public school

districts (<http://myschoolmyspace.weebly.com>); Educated Public school district staff and new hires on South Asian American issues and needs; Partnered with New Detroit in Conversation on Race.

*Capacity Building:* Hiring project coordinator to work on REI and collaborative partners' goals

## Program: Youth Leadership

### **Gandhi Fellow in Community Leadership**

Mentored and trained Gandhi Fellow through one-on-one meetings; Conducted 2 community meetings to highlight issues in education, civil rights, and immigration in Troy and Canton; Meetings were attended by city mayor, school district superintendent, city council members, and law enforcement.

### **High School Chapter – International Academy East, Troy**

A team of high school juniors created video materials for outreach; Youth participated at New Detroit's Youth Leadership Conference

## Program: Health

*Education and Outreach:* Planning awareness and enrollment campaigns for ACA; Joined AIM For Equity, a national force for health justice and ensures access to the highest quality and culturally competent health care

## Fundraising

### **Culture for a Cause – May 5<sup>th</sup> Cultural event**

Raised funds through ticket sales, sponsorships, and donations through Indian classical dance program produced by Maitri, a local group of talented artistes in metro Detroit.

*SAAVI's mission statement:* To create impact on the SAA community by addressing specific needs through education, advocacy, and outreach programs especially in the areas of health, employment, immigration, and civil rights.