

## RAKSHA

### “Opening doors to a stronger and healthier South Asian community.”

Raksha, a 501c3 (non profit agency) providing support resources to victims of domestic violence, family violence, discrimination and sexual assault has fielded more than 12,000 calls to date through its direct services. These services include crisis interventions, employment and education services, individual and family counseling, information and referrals, legal and general victim advocacy, and interpretation and translation services. Additionally, Raksha staff and volunteers have provided service to more than 1,000 individuals, of which 80% are survivors of domestic violence.

In addition to its direct services, Raksha’s prevention, outreach, and education strategies have created avenues for community change. Raksha has trained and facilitated dialogues and provided training to thousands of local, state and national law enforcement officials, social service workers, and members of community-based organizations on issues that affect the South Asian Diaspora, such as immigration, family violence, and the needs of youth and elders. Through Raksha’s technical assistance and leadership support, we has launched several community-led projects including HIV/AIDS outreach and prevention, community organizing to end domestic violence and sexual violence, initiatives to address anti-immigrant policies and practices, and initiatives to build community accountability and action in addressing child sexual abuse and sexual assault.

Raksha has received outstanding service awards and recognition from Project IMPACT, the Gandhi Foundation, the Anti-Defamation League and the National Crime Prevention Council. Since 1995, Raksha has grown into a vibrant community-based organization supported by United Way, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Ms. Foundation, Doors of Hope, Atlanta Women’s Foundation, the Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta, John Wieland Second Mile Foundation as well as committed South Asian businesses and donors. Raksha wants to thank event sponsors Khabar and Rivaaj magazines, Cohen & Associates and those that donated in memory of their loved ones.

Aparna Bhattacharyya, Executive Director, says “Through the community’s support, we have been able to directly impact the lives of numerous members caught in domestic violence or sexual assault situations. We have witnessed the program’s success and have watched individuals create new and healthy lives for themselves and their families. It is incredible to see the ‘Power of Change’ when we all come together for a common cause of a stronger and healthier community.”

About Raksha, Inc.

Raksha, Inc. provides South Asians in Georgia, with the resources to face challenges such as domestic violence, family violence, discrimination, harassment, and sexual assault. Raksha’s mission is to promote a stronger and healthier South Asian community through confidential support services, education, and advocacy. Guided by values of consensus in decision-making, diversity in leadership, and the dignity and worth of every individual, Raksha strives to empower and serve the South Asian community.

**Every month**, on average, Raksha staff and volunteers:

- Work with 18 new and 58 existing clients
- Provide 30 free therapeutic counseling sessions
- Provide more than 30 referrals to legal and other types of assistance
- Place more than 100 phone calls advocating for adult and child clients
- Work directly with clients 160 times

For more information visit [www.raksha.org](http://www.raksha.org).

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