



Warmest holiday greetings to you and your loved ones! May this festive season be filled with boundless joy, cherished moments, and the serenity of peace.

MICHIGAN INDIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES (MICS)

“One Community - One Voice”

e-Newsletter 2023



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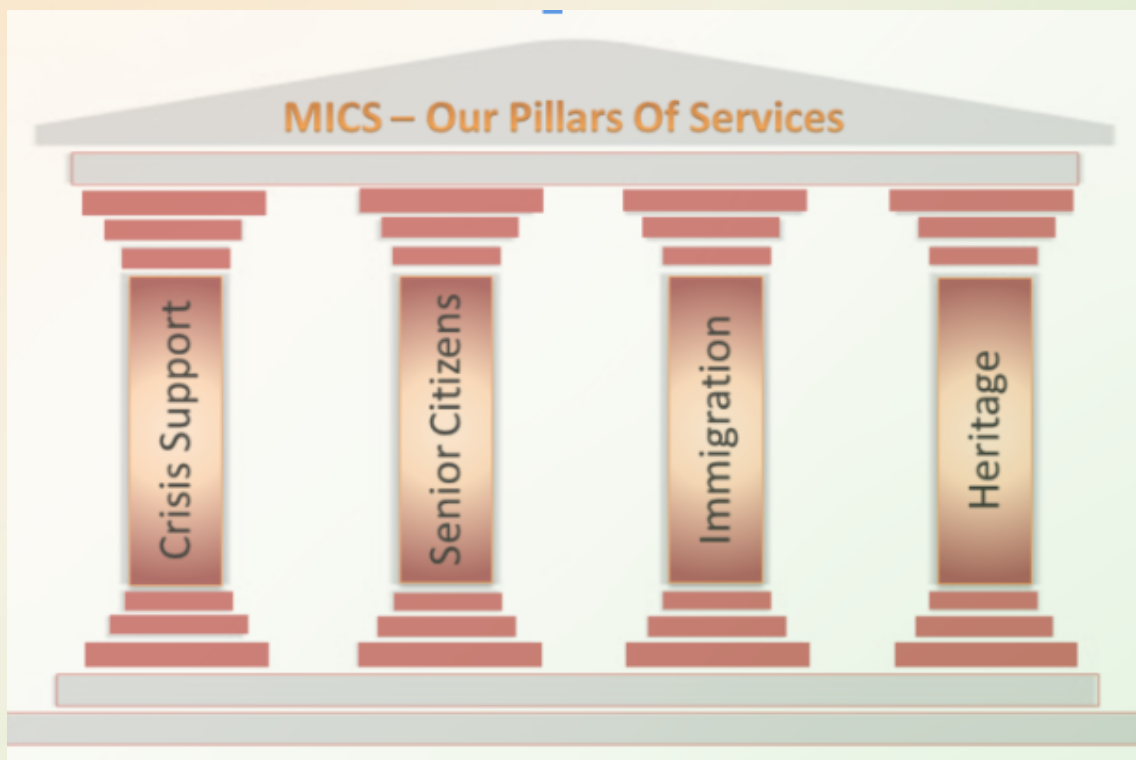
[WWW.MICSGROUP.ORG](http://www.micsgroup.org)

MICS is a non-profit establishment organized exclusively for charitable purposes and is an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRSC.

ABOUT MICS

MICS was founded on the collective vision of Indian Americans for whom unity and identity mean amalgamation of the rich Indian heritage and a deep sense of community care. MICS is driven by the philosophy of 'one community one voice' and aims to foster collaboration among Indian-American community organizations to support relevant causes.

We are supported by service-minded volunteers who provide relief services in case of family emergencies or community-wide crises and are governed by well-defined bylaws and a governance structure comprising of BOD, Advisory Board, and Executive Committee. MICS (Michigan Indian-American Community Services) was formed during the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020 with the intent of providing social services to Indian-American families during personal family crises.



MICS charter encompasses the following causes:

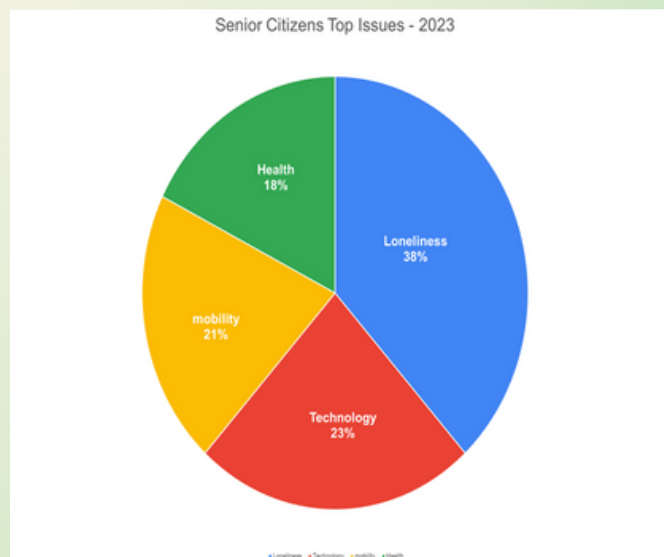
- Provide relief services to Indian-Americans in case of family emergencies or community-wide crisis
- Connect the next generation/youth members of the Indian-American community with their roots from ancient India by promoting, educating, and imparting awareness about the Indian heritage in the community
- Raise issues related to immigration and highlight the hardships faced by community members from India
- Assess the varying needs of seniors in the community and provide support and assistance
- Mobilize the Indian-American community organizations and volunteers to collaboratively create a long-lasting framework & structure for:
 - Support the above listed causes
 - Develop Indian-American community center(s)
 - Have a united voice for common needs

MICS EVENTS 2023

- **Petition to Keep Michigan Campus Safe Against Gun-Violence:** MICS led the efforts to rally several Indian-American organizations to support the petition against gun violence. The signed petition was submitted to the governor of MI (facilitated by Mr. Dhaval Vaishnav, President of IACC)



- **Senior Citizens Survey:** MICS conducted a survey of senior citizens to determine their top needs. Below chart depicts the needs identified in the survey.



- **Immigrant Families Survey:** MICS conducted a survey of immigrants(on visa) to determine the challenges faced by them. Needs identified in the survey are listed below:
 - **State Level: Drive Safe Bill**
 - **Federal Level: Green Card Backlog (Abolish Country based quota limit)**
 - **Federal Level: Pathway to Dreamers**

MICS prepared petitions for all three issues, has presented them to several elected officials, and is continuing the follow-up efforts.

MICS EVENTS 2023

Indian-American Organizations Networking & Collaboration Meeting: The first Collaboration & Networking event was held on Aug 6, 2023, and it was a tremendous success, with participation from 30+ organizations and 75+ attendees in person. The event saw unanimous agreement on closely aligned objectives, focused on creating a comprehensive framework for addressing the diverse needs and challenges faced by Indian-American community.



Unity Convention: The Unity Convention organized and facilitated by MICS on Oct 8, 2023, was well attended by 175 individuals representing approximately 40 Indian-American Community Organizations in MI along with several community leaders and elected officials.

The following 5 key objectives were identified as immediate needs of the Indian-American community:

1. Developing a unified approach for having 'ONE VOICE' of the community.
2. Providing crisis relief and social services.
3. Creating Indian-American Recreational Community Center(s).
4. Supporting the needs of Seniors.
5. Supporting Immigration related issues.



MICS EVENTS 2023

Indian Heritage Contest: MICS conducted Indian Heritage public speaking event, "The 4.5-hour Marathon," which showcased the rich cultural legacy of India. This event brought together 42 talented and passionate youth from Elementary, Middle, and High Schools, each delivering marvelous speeches that celebrated various aspects of our cherished Indian heritage.



MICS Holiday Celebration (Mix & Mingle): MICS hosted a fun-filled holiday event for their officers at Hema and Avinash Rachmale's home.



CRISIS RELIEF 2023

Crisis cases supported by MICS in 2023

Families in Distress:

- Supporting Disposal of Body / Remains: MICS recently received a request to assist a family to facilitate an honorable cremation of an individual, that has been held up for a long time due to a financial crisis. MICS is in the process of finding an appropriate solution.
- A family requested MICS for urgent assistance due to the sudden hospitalization of the mom (of two young kids) as the dad needed to attend her at the hospital. The hospital refused to provide a bed as well. MICS was able to provide medical assistance, guidance & and support and facilitated domestic help.
- Due to the sudden untimely death of the primary household, the family was left in limbo with significant debt, MICS provided legal, financial, and tax guidance & and support.
- Sudden death of student across State line: MICS connected the family members overseas with a Partner organization (TeamAid) to guide and support/assist the family in the funeral arrangements.

Domestic Abuse Situations:

- MICS received a request to support a victim of domestic abuse. The case was referred to MaiFS and in the meantime, MICS provided immediate legal guidance and ride support through volunteers.
- MICS was contacted to assist a single mom facing critical issues related to Home Maintenance that had made her day-to-day living very difficult. MICS assisted the family and resolved these issues.
- An Immigrant family had issues due to divorce and the wife needed urgent assistance & and guidance related to her visa issues.

Mobilizing Community Support & Spreading the Word:

- Support for finding the lost child: Within a few minutes of knowing about the case, MICS connected with the parents and assisted with search operations, along with other organizations. We are glad that the collaborative efforts of the community paid off.
- Support for finding a Blood Plasma Donor Match: MICS received a request to spread the message about finding a matching donor for the leukemia patient. MICS spread awareness and encouraged several volunteers across the Indian-American community to register for a swab test at home (at bethematch.com)

Exchange Students in Crisis:

- Students at The University of Michigan were left in a lurch by the landlord without an apartment; MICS initiated efforts to assist through its network, while students eventually got a room in the dorm.

MICS PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY EVENTS

In 2023, MICS participated/promoted/sponsored several events organized by various community organizations:

- (AJC) American Jewish Community - HCRC Hanukkah-Diwali Celebration
- **Lansing** : Michigan Senate adopted a resolution to recognize the historic, cultural, and religious significance of the festival of Diwali.
- **Lansing**: Met several elected officials to rally support for Immigration causes
- **Lansing**: Participated in Indian-American Legislative Day
- **Michigan Capitol: Diwali Celebration**
- **MaiFS Event**
- **Abhi Shah Foundation: Walkathon**
- **Key2Finesse + Abhi Shah Foundation: Charity event**
- **ILA - India Independence Day: Gala & Parade**
- **Radio Talk Shows with Narendra Sheth of Geetmala Foundation**
- **MAIFS**
- **IACC**
- **AIWA**
- **VTSeva**
- **Palav**
- **ASEI**
- **DIWA**
- **AIM for Seva**
- **BAPS**
- **UPAD**



MIGS PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY EVENTS

Some Glimpses...



MICS 2024 OBJECTIVES AND PLANS

MICS has outlined 5 major objectives listed below, to focus on during 2024 and beyond, based on the top needs of the Indian-American community in Michigan.

Objective-1: Unity & Collaboration (a platform for 'One Community, One Voice')

Objective-2: Crisis Relief

Objective-3: Senior Citizens Support

Objective-4: Indian-American Community Center(s)

Objective-5: Immigrant Families Support

To support some of these objectives, MICS has already identified the following projects/events for the year 2024:

- **Senior Citizens Support:**
 - Create a Mobile Application Platform to match the needs of seniors with volunteers
 - Conduct Medical Camps
 - Conduct Technology Camps
- **Crisis Relief:**
 - Create Crisis Relief / Support Hubs in some of the cities in MI to support the local crisis or an emergency
- **Grants Writing:**
 - Create a focused team with expertise in grant writing. This effort will support multiple community organizations.
- **MICS Annual Event, "MICS Unity-Gala Night", a fundraiser for Crisis Relief and Community Center.**
- **MICS MIX & MINGLE**

THANK YOU

On behalf of MICS we would to Thank Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Advisory Board and Support Groups.

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