

MANAVI ANNOUNCES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TRANSITION

New Brunswick, NJ, December 1, 2011 – The Board of Directors of Manavi announces that Executive Director Maneesha Kelkar will be stepping down from her position effective April 1, 2012.

“This work has been incredibly challenging as well as deeply rewarding, and I am proud of all that we have accomplished together. I now feel the time has come to make room for new leadership” said Maneesha. “I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve Manavi. It has been a profoundly fulfilling experience. I look forward to staying connected with Manavi, and continuing to work towards ending violence against women.”

During Maneesha’s eight year tenure, Manavi increased its funding by nearly 50%, and launched two new programs – one addressing Economic Empowerment and another addressing Sexual Violence. Manavi now has a satellite office in Jersey City, in partnership with Christ Hospital, to provide better access to battered women in northern New Jersey. Also in this period, Manavi gained national recognition in the form of two invitations to the White House, and has made numerous contributions to policy discussions at the state and national level.

Manavi Board chair Vinita Jethwani said on behalf of the board, “Maneesha has made many valuable contributions to this organization, and she deserves recognition for her years of dedicated work to Manavi and to the South Asian community. Manavi is starting the search for a new Executive Director and we are pleased that Maneesha has agreed to help in any way possible to ensure a smooth transition.”

You can find out more about Manavi’s work at www.manavi.org. Interested candidates should watch for the posting on the website and other career recruiting venues.

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Founded in 1985, *Manavi* (meaning “primal woman” in Sanskrit) is a New Jersey-based women's rights organization dedicated to ending all forms of violence against South Asian women. Manavi ensures that women of South Asian descent can exercise their fundamental right to live a life of dignity that is safe and free from violence. Manavi's programs include direct service provision, grassroots organizing for social change within the community, informing mainstream institutions in the US about how to better serve South Asian women, and bringing South Asian women’s voices to policy conversations. *Manavi* is the first organization in the U.S. to focus on violence against women in the South Asian community.