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BALTIMORE'S EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN DOING EXTRAORDINARY THINGS

From Hardships to Healing

Facing every obstacle with strength and compassion, Marlene Mahipat, D.C., extends a healing hand to both her chiropractic patients and vulnerable populations community wide.



hen Marlene Mahipat, D.C., first touched U.S. soil in 1990, she had nothing but two suitcases, \$300, and ceaseless tenacity. Having left a small village in Trinidad to pursue a better life, she had little support as an undocumented immigrant whose family was a continent away.

Fueled by the understanding that education opens doors, she weathered a stressful marriage, spent her first Thanksgiving sleeping on a sidewalk in Miami, and simultaneously juggled two jobs and full-time schooling before graduating with a doctor of chiropractic in 2001. She founded Mediquest, a chiropractic practice, in 2004, and earned a master's in pharmacological sciences in 2021.

"A holistic approach is very important," says Dr. Mahipat. "There's value in exercise, nutrition, and rehabilitation, and I embrace it all."

Putting Passion Into Practice

Determined to help others navigate challenges both inside and outside of her field, Dr. Mahipat has received dozens of accolades in recognition of her merit, including Baltimore County's Woman Making a Difference award, SmartCEO's Future 50 recognition, and induction into the Circle of Excellence by the *Maryland Daily Record* for being named one of the Top 100 Women in Maryland three times. Affiliated with organizations such as the Women Presidents Organization, Meals on Wheels, The International Women's Leadership Association, and Girl Scouts of Central Maryland, she is called to service by one never-ending question: "If I don't step in to help, who will?"

This dedication to philanthropy can also be found in her two nonprofits: Helping Orphans Prosper Everywhere (HOPE) and People Letting Every Animal Survive Euthanasia (PLEASE). Helping children, families, and seniors navigate disability, homelessness, and educational barriers, HOPE is centered on the human side of healing while PLEASE seeks to eradicate euthanasia in healthy animals.

Just as she takes a holistic approach to medical wellness, Dr. Mahipat finds overlap in her nonprofit services. Recognizing that poverty is often a driving factor behind pet surrender, she would bring both groceries and pet food to pet owners in need, such as Dolores, who reached out for help. However, after Dr. Mahipat couldn't contact her for a routine

food drop-off, she learned that Dolores had overdosed on methadone treatment, which was being given in surplus to lessen crowds during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Experiences like these have inspired her to seek out solutions that work with the body, rather than against it. Having worked alongside Dr. William Pawluk, a leading authority in pulsed electromagnetic field (PEMF) therapy, for over five years, Dr. Mahipat educates people worldwide on how controlled magnetic energy can positively impact human beings on a biological level through the stimulation of cells.

Hoping to utilize this knowledge as well as a recent degree in science and therapeutics of medical cannabis for a safer approach to exit drugs, she is paving a path toward monumental change.

"I never want there to be another Dolores," says Dr. Mahipat, whose long-term goal is to utilize plant medicine, nutrition, counseling, and PEMF therapy in a comprehensive treatment plan to help those who are struggling with addiction move forward with their lives. "I know there is a better way."



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