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Dear Friends,

The New York Asian Women's Center (NYAWC) is privileged to receive the **National Association of Social Workers-NYC Social Work Image Award in Direct Practice**. We are honored for developing and implementing Moving Ahead Positively (MAP), our model of practice.

MAP is likely the first integrated strategy to help survivors of violence in their recovery from trauma. It is survivor-centered, trauma-informed, culturally-competent, and evidence-based.

MAP utilizes the relationship between the survivor and counselor as the environment for change. Through the restorative relationship we foster trust, hope, pride and a sense of belonging. Counselors teach self-care and self-help. We provide Eastern healing techniques such as yoga, acupuncture, acu-beads, meditation, and tai chi exercises. MAP is utilized agency-wide--in our two emergency residences, at our three community offices in Queens, Brooklyn and Manhattan, and by our hotline responders.

As part of the model, NYAWC organizes members into natural groups (e.g. children of survivors, survivors in shelters, survivors of human trafficking) when possible. We provide coordinated and expanded services for the individual. NYAWC counselors are cross trained to work with domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and "Later in Life" and elders who are abused.

NYAWC's expanded services are also unified. Our programs for children of survivors, legal immigration, and transitional housing are very successful especially because of the case coordination between the primary counselor and program staff. This is also true with our English as a Second Language, financial education and employment assistance programs.

NYAWC's model is a quintessential social work practice model. We start where the survivor is at and end where the survivor wants to be. We use "self" as the mechanism for change.

Although developed for Asian women survivors of gender violence we consider MAP replicable and adaptable to many ethnic cultures as well as the cultures of poverty, immigrants, and the racial oppressed. Although over half of our counseling staff have a Master's degree in human services, it is practiced by all of our staff - with or even without a BA. So our model may be utilized by services like Purchased Preventive Services, substance abuse counseling services or even mental health clinics. While we are a City-wide agency our approach is more reminiscent of the settlement house of olden days whose focus on the individual was not discouraged or compartmentalized by funding sources. So, with an investment in cross-training a much more holistic model can be practiced.