



**New York Asian Women's Center  
E-Newsletter – September 2008**

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The New York Asian Women's Center proudly presents the first issue of its e-newsletter! Learn about NYAWC's latest efforts in combating violence against women. Receive updates on how NYAWC's programs and services are helping women and children live free of abuse. Find out what you can do to join our fight against domestic violence and human trafficking.

Can't see the images? For a downloadable pdf version of this e-newsletter, go to <http://www.nyawc.org/about/news.html>.

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**1. Launching New Project *Hitting Home***

Child abuse and intimate partner abuse very frequently occur in the same household. Yet services for each are almost always provided separately. And, child welfare preventive programs and domestic violence agencies rarely work together. Thanks to funding from the Child Welfare Fund and the Asian American Federation, the New York Asian Women's Center has launched a new project in Spring 2008 called *Hitting Home* which aims to increase collaboration between NYAWC and child welfare agencies. Through this partnership, NYAWC provides domestic violence counseling to Asian American women and technical assistance to the child welfare agency's staff that serve them. NYAWC's fundamental goal is safety for the mother and her children. Counseling includes teaching safety planning, protecting themselves and their children from abuse, and, if necessary, arranging for shelter.

Our partners include the Chinese-American Planning Council, Lower East Side Family Union, the Center for Family Life in Sunset Park, the Chinatown YMCA, and the Child Center of New York. With this new partnership, *Hitting Home* hopes to lead the way for both child welfare and domestic violence fields to collaborate and share best practices. NYAWC will be seeking additional funding to provide services to more Asian American domestic violence survivors in foster care prevention programs and to expand to include domestic violence focused counseling services for their children.

**2. Partnership with New York City Family Justice Centers**

On July 15, 2008, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg officially opened the New York City Family Justice Center in Kew Gardens, Queens. As a public-private partnership of the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, the Family Justice Center will work towards

reducing barriers faced by victims of domestic violence who are seeking help. Based on the NYC Family Justice Center's success in Brooklyn, the program will further increase the effectiveness of service delivery to break the cycle of violence in Queens. In 2007, NYAWC was recognized for outstanding client service and collaboration with the New York City Brooklyn Family Justice Center. NYAWC will be partnering again with this innovative program in Queens to enable victims to meet with prosecutors, speak with trained counselors, and apply for housing and financial assistance all in their native language. With each new collaboration, NYAWC continues to combat domestic violence and help branch out additional centers in other boroughs. For information on NYC Family Justice Centers, please visit <http://www.nyc.gov/html/ocdv/html/fjc/fjc.shtml>.

### **3. Shelter Beautification Project**

NYAWC's new shelter Happy House will open its doors later in 2008. Thanks to a contribution from MetLife's City Hall Office, NYAWC will transform our new 20-bed shelter to make it a more joyful place for the children to be. In June 2008, MetLife's City Hall Office won the MetLife's Good Business Practices Community Award which recognizes MetLife operations nationwide for their exemplary business practices and provides award recipients an opportunity to designate a charity to receive a contribution. We are honored that the City Hall Office selected the NYAWC to receive a contribution in their honor.

At the award ceremony, Larry Lee, NYAWC Executive Director, explained the importance of NYAWC's shelter beautification project: "Our children have had difficult lives. They have seen or heard their father abuse their mother. Sometimes they blame themselves for the violence. Sometimes they are forced prematurely to be adults. Sometimes they are torn, loving both Mom and Dad. When they move to shelter they are always thrust from their home, always forced to give up their friends, and always required to change schools. We will use the donation to decorate our shelter turning it into a warmer, culturally appropriate, soothing place for our children to feel happy as well as safe."

For more information on how you can assist with the Shelter Beautification Project, please contact [beautification.nyawc@yahoo.com](mailto:beautification.nyawc@yahoo.com).

### **4. Annual Summer Picnic Recap**

On a sunny Saturday in August 2008, NYAWC held its annual summer picnic for battered women and their children. More than 30 women and 45 children who are current or former NYAWC clients joined staff and volunteers for a festive afternoon of fun activities and delicious food. The menu included cuisine from many Asian ethnic origins, such as sushi, fried rice, noodles, egg rolls, roast pork buns, as well as American staples like hamburgers, chicken wings, hotdogs and sandwiches. In preparation for our December holiday party, counselors helped children write letters to Santa. Volunteers organized fun games for the children to play on the grass field. Meanwhile women enjoyed playing bingo for prizes and chatting with each other under shaded trees. The afternoon ended with a raffle drawing of special prizes for women and children, as well as small parting gifts, balloons and souvenirs for everyone to take home and enjoy.

Thank you to all the volunteers and staff for their generous donation of food, prizes, time and effort. Also we would like to thank those who could not join us at the picnic but generously donated to the event. This year's picnic could not have been a success without their help! Check out pictures from the summer picnic at <http://www.nyawc.org/events/08-09-08.htm>.

