



**New York Asian Women's Center  
E-Newsletter – April 2011**

**New York Asian Women's Center, 39 Bowery, PMB 375, New York, NY 10002  
Admin: 212-732-0054 Toll-Free Hotline: 1-888-888-7702 Website: [www.nyawc.org](http://www.nyawc.org)**

Can't see the images? For a downloadable PDF version of this e-newsletter,  
go to [www.nyawc.org/about/news.html](http://www.nyawc.org/about/news.html)

**Included in this issue:**

1. A Holiday Party to Remember
2. NYAWC Receives \$200,000 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
3. Shelter Spotlight: Rose House and Peace House
4. Over 800 Women and Children Served in 2010
5. NYAWC Hosts Forum Addressing Needs of Asian Women Crime Victims
6. Thanks to 2010 Donors
7. NYAWC Opens Sunset Park Community Office
8. Run for NYAWC

**1. A Holiday Party to Remember**

NYAWC and its clients had many reasons for celebrating at the 2010 annual client holiday party. On Sunday, December 19, the Asian American/Asian Research Institute hosted a lunchtime event for the women and children who participate in NYAWC's programs. More than 40 NYAWC volunteers helped spread the cheer, along with volunteers from the Asian Americans for Equality (AAFE) Young Leaders Council (YLC), Children's Chinese Book Garden, Coalition for Asian American Children & Families (CACF) and Citigroup.



Volunteers from NYAWC and Children's Chinese Book Garden assist in arts and crafts.

Provided with over \$700 raised by AAFE YLC for the event, the party was filled with food and entertainment. CACF arranged a program of children's activities led by volunteers from Children's Chinese Book Garden. NYAWC's own Digital Art Therapy (DAT) students, mentors, and instructors worked together to take photographs of the children with Santa. The Citigroup volunteers served lunch to everyone. Naturally, with any good holiday party, there were gifts galore. Every child received a gift. The women each received one of 90 generous gift bags filled with over 1,000 products donated by Avon and its associates during a holiday gift drive organized by Avon's Asian Network. Our other kind donors and supporters included Baby Buggy, Chase, Children's Chinese Book Garden, Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, Verizon, and New York Cares, through its sponsor, Ernst & Young.

"With intimate partner violence, half of the children are also abused. Our holiday party is always a wonderful way for us to celebrate our brave and resilient children," said NYAWC Executive Director Larry Lee.

## **2. NYAWC Receives \$200,000 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**

NYAWC recently received a \$200,000 matching grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to launch Project Speak Out, a grassroots initiative to address domestic violence in New York City's Asian-American community. Local funding partners including the Asian American Federation, The Grace and Mercy Foundation, Korean American Community Foundation, Ong Family Foundation and Tiger Baron Foundation have contributed matching grants totaling \$150,000 so far. Distributed over two years, the grants will enable NYAWC and its project partners—Garden of Hope, Korean American Family Service Center and Sakhi for South Asian Women—to recruit volunteers from the community to foster attitudinal change about domestic violence and engage in a community-wide movement to stop abusive behavior. Project Speak Out will also help survivors become informed of their rights and available assistance and encourage them to seek help.

"We're not just raising awareness; we are creating momentum for long-term community change," says Alyssa Elser, Director of Shelters and Operations. "We will work with everyone—women, youth, elders, religious leaders, shopkeepers, students, housewives and men—to embrace traditional ideas about non-violence and harmonious homes that should make DV unacceptable. Our volunteers will craft and execute a plan of action that encourages people not just to be aware, but to take small but significant steps to send a clear message that violence against their mothers, sisters and daughters will not be tolerated."

NYAWC thanks the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and our local funding partners for their support of Project Speak Out.

To volunteer for Project Speak Out, please contact NYAWC's Project Speak Out Manager, Ms. Jerin Arifa, at [jarifa@nyawc.org](mailto:jarifa@nyawc.org) or 212-732-0054 ext. 163.

## **3. Shelter Spotlight: Rose House and Peace House**



A playroom at one of NYAWC's shelters.

After 25 years, NYAWC's Emergency Residential Program offers roses and peace to its clients at its two emergency shelters. The older of the two locations, Rose House, was established as a shelter in 2004 in a four-story, 10-bedroom brownstone, housing up to 20 residents. Peace House, which opened its doors in 2009, is NYAWC's newest shelter, set in its own large

plot of land and boasting 20 bedrooms. Though the two shelters are distinct, both offer numerous services for NYAWC clients, including on-site childcare; 24/7 multi-lingual staff trained in domestic violence issues; security systems with cameras and alarms; computer labs with 24/7 Internet access; a vocational program for career planning, as well as help in securing education and employment; and counseling and case management services. The shelters offer a close-knit, multilingual community and comfortable, homey surroundings. As for roses and peace, these are not only found in the shelters' names, but in their respective outdoor gardens. It is here that NYAWC clients have found true respite in the midst of emergency.

Women in need can obtain shelter by calling NYAWC's hotline (1-888-888-7702) for a shelter screening.

#### **4. Over 800 Women and Children Served in 2010**

NYAWC, as one of the largest minority domestic violence agencies in New York State, continues to help women and their children live free of abuse and thrive. Below is a quick look at how many people NYAWC helped in 2010:

- 686 women and 116 children received free and confidential services, including counseling and advocacy assistance.
- 92 women and 82 children were sheltered in NYAWC's temporary emergency residences.

#### **5. NYAWC Hosts Forum Addressing Needs of Asian Women Crime Victims**

On December 29, 2010, NYAWC hosted the Asian Community Forum: Health & Safety First, at its new Center for Asian Women Crime Victims (CAWCV) in Elmhurst, Queens. Guests and panelists admirably endured the 24 inches of snow left by a blizzard in order to attend. In conjunction with the "health and safety first" theme, panelists shared their expertise on issues affecting the health and safety of the Queens community.

The Department of Labor's Kinaja Janardhanan discussed financial safety and responses for dealing with workers facing domestic violence or abuse on the job, such as vocational planning and workers' rights support. Queens Legal Services' Sandra Mattessich discussed immigration remedies for crime victims, and other concrete benefits of legal remedies including access to public assistance, food benefits, and public medical insurance.



Panelists discuss assistance available to immigrants who are victims of domestic violence.

NYAWC thanks the audience of community leaders and partners in Queens and throughout New York City whose passion and dedication inspired them to participate in this forum, which will create an agenda for a collaborative effort connecting those in need with effective resources and services.

## **6. Thanks to 2010 Donors**

NYAWC thanks all donors for their generous contributions in 2010. The following organizations, companies, and individuals provided critical support\* last year:

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Matching Gifts Program  
Asian American Federation of New York  
Barclays Capital Inc.  
C.J. Huang Foundation  
Mong-Yoon Chung  
Estee Lauder Companies, Inc.  
Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies  
Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church  
Goldman Sachs  
The Grace and Mercy Foundation  
Jay Huang  
Hyde & Watson Foundation  
Kirkland & Ellis LLP  
Mei Hua Society  
Robin Hood Foundation  
Somaly Mam Foundation  
Tiger Baron Foundation  
TJX Foundation  
UBS Investment Bank  
United Way of New York City  
Verizon Foundation  
Wei Wei Wang Foundation

\*Contribution of \$4,000 or more.

## **7. NYAWC Opens Sunset Park Community Office**

NYAWC is bringing some sunshine to Sunset Park with the grand opening of its community office at 62-15 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11220. The office is set to open by this summer and will offer drop-in services, including the assistance of four women's counselors, for the benefit of anyone in the community. With an office in the heart of a major Asian neighborhood, NYAWC will be able to connect more deeply with Brooklyn's Asian community, including those in the borough's Chinatown. The Sunset Park office is NYAWC's second community office, the first of which is located in Elmhurst, NY. Domestic violence survivors and others in need will be able to walk in and receive critical assistance and support immediately.

## **8. Run for NYAWC**

NYAWC has received 20 guaranteed spots in the 2011 ING NYC Marathon to help raise funds for the abused women and their children the agency serves. The marathon will take place on November 6, 2011.

If you are interested in running in the world's most famous marathon and supporting NYAWC at the same time, this is a great opportunity. The ING NYC Marathon Charity program requires each runner to raise a minimum of \$2,500 for NYAWC. Your support will help provide emergency shelter, counseling, advocacy, and other crucial services that empower survivors to get back on their feet and thrive.

Contact NYAWC's Volunteer Coordinator, Xue Yi Zhen, at [xzhen@nyawc.org](mailto:xzhen@nyawc.org) or 212-732-0054 ext. 127 for more details.

**How can you help?**

Volunteer! NYAWC's volunteers find fulfillment and enjoyment by enriching the lives of women and children.

Donate! Your tax-deductible donation will help to provide emergency shelter, counseling, advocacy, and other crucial services to battered women and their children.

For more information on how you can get involved, visit <http://www.nyawc.org>, or contact [xzhen@nyawc.org](mailto:xzhen@nyawc.org) to volunteer your services or [fmui@nyawc.org](mailto:fmui@nyawc.org) to make a donation.

**Unsubscribe**

To unsubscribe to NYAWC's email list, please respond to this email with "REMOVE" as the subject line.