



April 2009 E-Newsletter

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

1. **Volunteers Prepare NYAWC Peace House for Opening**
2. **Verizon Cell Phone Drive Nets \$5,000 Donation for NYAWC**
3. **NYAWC Clients Find Love (and Makeovers) on Valentine's Day**
4. **Brooklyn Law School Students Hold Fundraiser for NYAWC**
5. **Executive Director Larry Lee Talks About Asian American Poverty on My9News**
6. **NYAWC Reaches Out to Long Island Community**
7. **Correction to February 2009 E-Newsletter**

1. Volunteers Prepare NYAWC Peace House for Opening

Thanks to 48 staff and volunteers from the New York Asian Women's Center (NYAWC), Peace House—NYAWC's newest shelter—is almost ready to serve survivors of domestic violence and their children. Under the direction of Board Member Shelley Wang, volunteers from the Asian American Google Network and *WAC Lighting* spent three weekends renovating the 20-bedroom, 3-story facility. They painted walls, moved furniture, and, with the generous support of WAC Lighting and Bulbrite Industries, installed sconces, ceiling mounts, and energy-efficient lighting.

"It's wonderful that we had such an enormous turnout from our volunteer network for this project," says Interim Director of Shelter Operations for NYAWC Alyssa Elser. "The house looks amazing, and it wouldn't have been possible without help from our volunteers—many of whom came to all three weekends."

The beautification of Peace House is an ongoing project, funded in part by Lily Shao and Qinn Chan, recipients of the MetLife Good Business Practices Community Award. Painting the facility in cheerful, non-institutional colors and the other preparations were only a first step. As the shelter goes operational this spring, staff and volunteers will continue to explore other ways to make Peace House a safe and comfortable home for NYAWC's clients and their children.

2. Verizon Cell Phone Drive Nets \$5,000 Donation for NYAWC

Verizon Wireless recently donated \$5,000 to NYAWC, money raised through the Verizon Wireless HopeLine phone recycling program. The HopeLine phone recycling program collects old, no-longer-used cell phones, which are refurbished, recycled, or sold. The proceeds are donated to domestic violence advocacy groups in the form of cash grants and prepaid wireless phones for survivors. Phones that cannot be refurbished are disposed of in an environmentally sound manner. The HopeLine program began in New York in 1999 and has since spread across the nation.

The NYAWC HopeLine Drive established collection points across the New York metropolitan area, including in the district offices of City Council Member John Liu and New York State Assembly Member Felix Ortiz, and at the Asian Professional Extension, Inc., and the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of New York. Larry Lee, executive director of NYAWC, expressed his gratitude on behalf of the organization. "We want to thank Verizon Wireless, Councilman Liu, Assemblyman Ortiz, local Asian organizations, and all New Yorkers whose cell phone contributions will help us make a



NYAWC Executive Director Larry Lee, Ruth Villalonga of the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, and Tony Tsang and Chris Malenda of Verizon Wireless

difference in these women's lives," said Lee.

3. NYAWC Clients Find Love (and Makeovers) on Valentine's Day

By Selyn Choi

This past Valentine's Day, thirty NYAWC clients spent all afternoon being loved, no strings attached. But instead of chocolates and candle-lit dinners, these women were recipients of an alternative form of love: head-to-toe pampering in a "Valentine's Day Ultimate Makeover" hosted by Reveal, a grassroots movement of New York City professionals in the beauty and fashion industry, which volunteered its services for the day-long event.

The makeovers took place at the W Hotel and featured one-on-one consultations in skincare, makeup, hairstyling, and designer clothes and shoes—which the women were able to keep. Reveal teamed up with Restore, a nonprofit organization serving women enslaved by the sex trade, to host the event. Together Reveal and Restore served sixty clients, half of them from Safe Horizon, an agency that provides support for survivors of crime and abuse.

"The women seemed so happy," said Julie Kim Richards, NYAWC's director of client services, who was at the event. "It was all about them. For once, it wasn't about their children."

"I was choked up," said Kara Kim, a Restore staff member who also attended. "To show these women they're worthy to be honored is such a powerful message to send them, and this event was one opportunity to shower them with the respect they deserve. Each of them was treated like a queen."

4. Brooklyn Law School Students Hold Fundraiser for NYAWC

On February 19, the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association and Brooklyn Law Students for the Public Interest—student organizations at Brooklyn Law School—held a fundraiser for NYAWC at the Brooklyn pub Ceol. Students gathered for a night of food, drinks, and socializing, and to show their support for NYAWC. All funds raised from the event were generously donated to NYAWC.



5. Executive Director Larry Lee Talks About Asian American Poverty on My9News

On Sunday, February 22, My9 TV News aired a powerful story on poverty in the Asian American community. Reported by Ti-Hua Chang, "A Community in Crisis" brings to life the impoverished side of the New York City Asian American community, dismantling the pervasive "model minority" stereotype. The news story is based on "Working but Poor: Asian American Poverty in New York City," a report developed by the Asian American Federation. NYAWC Executive Director Larry Lee appears in the news segment, discussing the paucity of services assessable to poor Asian Americans in the City.

To watch Mr. Chang's investigative report, visit www.my9tv.com/asiancommunity. To read the Asian American Federation's study, visit www.aafny.org.

6. NYAWC Reaches Out to Long Island Community



On March 21, NYAWC participated in the third annual Asian American Cultural Festival of Long Island at Farmingdale State College. Sponsored by the Suffolk County Executive's Office of Minority Affairs, Farmingdale State College, and several small and large businesses in Nassau, Suffolk, and Queens, this event promotes awareness and appreciation for cultural diversity on Long Island. Throughout the Saturday afternoon, festival attendees stopped by NYAWC's booths to learn about the Center's work combating domestic violence and human trafficking and to learn how they can help abused women in their local community. Visitors also purchased t-shirts, fashion scarves, bonsai plants, and other items. All proceeds benefited NYAWC.

Thanks to the Chinese Cultural Association of Long Island for donating booth space. Thanks, also, to Board Member Shelley Wang, Tai Wang, and *WAC Lighting* for their generous donation of scarves, plants, and snack sale profits. And much gratitude to our board members, volunteers, and staff for participating in this fun activity!

7. Correction to the February 2009 Issue E-Newsletter

In the February 2009 issue of NYAWC E-Newsletter, *WAC Lighting* was mistakenly omitted from the list of the 2008 Corporate and Foundation Supporters of NYAWC. We apologize. For the correct list of supporters, please visit www.nyawc.org/about/support_nyawc.html.

How can you help?

Volunteer! Our 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 www.nyawc.org, or contact xzhen@nyawc.org to volunteer your services or fmui@nyawc.org to make a donation.

To unsubscribe to NYAWC E-Newsletter, please respond to this email with "REMOVE" as the subject line.