



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

**New York Asian Women's Center, 39 Bowery, PMB 375, New York, NY 10002
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The New York Asian Women's Center proudly presents its December 2008 e-newsletter! This issue especially highlights individuals and organizations whose generosity and good work remind us that there are many ways (big and small) to help make a difference in the lives of women and children affected by domestic violence. Inspired to take action? Go to www.nyawc.org and find out how you can help! Have a happy and safe holiday!

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. Donate your used cell phones to help domestic violence victims

We need your help to collect as many phones as possible from now to December 31! NYAWC is partnering with Verizon Wireless' HopeLine to collect used cell phones. These phones are refurbished and given with complimentary minutes to domestic violence survivors. Phones that can't be refurbished are sold for parts and the proceeds go to NYAWC. Cell phones, batteries and accessories in any condition and from any carrier are accepted.

From now until the end of 2008 if you want to donate your phone please first purge it of personal information. Then send it to: *The New York Asian Women's Center, 39 Bowery, PMB #375, New York, NY 10002* or drop it off at one of the collection boxes at the following locations:

*Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of New York
62 Mott Street, 2nd floor, New York, NY 10013*

*City Council Member John Liu's District Office
135-27 38 Avenue, Room 388, Flushing, NY 11354*

*New York State Assembly Member Felix Ortiz' District Office
404 55 Street (corner 4th Avenue), 1st Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11220*

*Asian Professional Extension
352 Seventh Avenue, Suite 201, New York, NY 10001*

*Asian American Federation
120 Wall Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10005*

In addition to the locations above, phones may also be accepted at any Verizon Wireless Communication Stores in the five boroughs. However, NYAWC only gets partial credit for phones donated through the Verizon Wireless stores.

To learn about the HopeLine program, visit:

<http://aboutus.vzw.com/communityservice/hopeLine.html>

2. Save the Date – The Mei Hua Society's gala to benefit NYAWC, February 4, 2009

The Mei Hua Society, an organization that raises funds for worthwhile projects in the local New York Asian community, will have its annual Chinese New Year banquet to usher in the Year of the Ox on Wednesday, February 4, 2009, 6pm at Chatham Square Restaurant, 6 Chatham Square, New York City. Proceeds from the event will benefit the New York Asian Women's Center. We hope you can join us! For more info on the event and to purchase tickets, visit: <http://www.nyawc.org/events/upcoming.html>.

3. Doctor erases physical scars for Asian survivors of domestic violence

In October 2008, Dr. Edmund Kwan, a New York based surgeon specializing in plastic and cosmetic surgery for ethnic patients, announced that he will waive his surgical fees for reconstructive surgery on patients who are survivors of domestic violence in honor of domestic violence awareness month. NYAWC assisted Dr. Kwan in selecting a patient. "Reconstructive procedures are the most rewarded surgeries I can perform on a patient," said Dr. Kwan. "Breast cancer survivors, burn and abuse victims are reminded daily of a traumatic time in their life. My hope is to continue to partner with organizations like NYAWC to raise awareness on these issues and provide patients with an opportunity to erase the physical scarring they've endured." (Excerpted from October 21, 2008 press release: *Dr. Edmund Kwan Offers Pro Bono Services in Honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month*)



4. NYAWC 26th Anniversary Fall Benefit Gala

On November 6, 2008, NYAWC celebrated its 26th anniversary at our Fall Benefit held at the Tribeca Rooftop in Manhattan. Nearly 350 friends and supporters of NYAWC came together to celebrate the Center's legacy of exemplary service to and advocacy for battered women.

Our excellent Mistress of Ceremonies was Michelle Yu of NY1 News. Guests were treated to eloquent speeches by Donna Lee, Chair of Board of Directors; Larry Lee, Executive Director; and Shelley Wang, Board Member. Ms. Wang spoke passionately about the need to support Happy House, NYAWC's newest shelter. In support of Happy House, she pledged to make a generous matching donation of \$10,000.

The gala was graced by the presence of 2008 Phoenix Award honorees: Taina Bien-Aimé, Executive Director, Equality Now; Phoebe Eng, Vice Chair, Ms. Foundation for Women; and Carol Robles-Román, Deputy Mayor for Legal Affairs & Counsel to the Mayor. Throughout the evening, guests visited the silent auction table to view and bid on the wonderful array of auction items generously donated by our supporters.

NYAWC is pleased that despite a very difficult economic time, the gala raised almost \$75,000 to support the Center's programs and services for survivors of domestic violence. We thank our gala supporters and attendees for their generosity, belief in the New York Asian Women's Center, and confidence in our abilities to empower women and children to live free of violence. We also thank our board of directors, benefit committee, event coordinator, staff, volunteers, and others whose organizational abilities and tireless work made the evening a success. For a full list of sponsors, silent auction donors, and benefit committee members, visit <http://www.nyawc.org/events/past.html>.



5. The Living Portrait Exhibition and Panel Discussion

To educate college students about domestic violence during October 20 to 31, 2008, the Living Portrait was exhibited continuously at various sites throughout the New York University campus. A collaboration between composer Woody Pak, new media artists Heather Greer and Liubo Borissov, and NYAWC, the Living Portrait brought viewers to participate in the piece by incorporating audio and visual media, which would begin to play when it detects an individual's movements. A floor-to-ceiling screen displayed a flowing montage of portraits of domestic violence survivors and staff from NYAWC's shelter. Meanwhile, their voices spoke of their experiences, starting with the violence suffered as a victim, the decision to move to shelter and moving on to life's new possibilities as a survivor of domestic violence.

On October 28, NYAWC hosted a panel discussion on NYU campus focusing on the development of programs to engage the community in domestic violence work. Ms. Greer, a professor at New York University's Interactive Telecommunications Program (ITP), spoke of how rewarding this particular art project was for her. She was trying to present different stories, but she found that it came together as one story with many voices. Many of the experiences shared common elements. Ms. Greer said that it was interesting to view art not as a piece of work in itself, but as a means to bring about change and engage the individual.

Along this theme, NYAWC host Julie Kim Richards, described the development of a new program at NYAWC. The Digital Art program for youth was recently launched to help youth who witnessed domestic violence learn a new, popular, and useful skill that would also help express themselves. Guest speaker Purvi Shah, the Executive Director of SAKHI, explained how its programs were designed to foster community based leadership. Finally, guest speaker, Professor Holly Maguigan, spoke about the limitations of the criminal court system and why the system can be better supplemented with alternatives that seek to empower women.

The Living Portrait project was made possible thanks to funding from private donors and a grant from the Asian Women Giving Circle.

6. Young philanthropist donates to Children's Program

Isabel Jacoby, daughter of NYAWC Board Vice Chair Jessica Lee, may be one of NYAWC's youngest supporters yet! Isabel recently turned 7 years old. For her birthday party, she decided to ask her friends to make a gift to NYAWC instead of bringing her gifts. She explained to her guests that the donations will help moms and children who stay in our shelters because they do not have any place else safe to go. Isabel raised \$230 which will be used for counseling, art therapy, mentoring, and other crucial services provided by NYAWC's Children's Program. We are touched by Isabel's wonderful generosity and her strong desire to make a difference at such a young age!



7. Julie Kim Richards, Director of Client Services, wins Emerging Social Work Leader Award

NYAWC Director of Client Services, Julie Kim Richards, was selected by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) – New York City Chapter to receive the 2nd Annual Emerging Social Worker Leader Award. We are so proud of Julie's latest achievement! She and 11 other emerging leaders of the social work profession were recognized for their visionary and exemplary work at the 2nd annual NASW-NYC awards dinner, which was held on December 4 at the Grand Harmony Restaurant in Chinatown.

Julie has spent the last 8 years fighting domestic violence at the NYAWC. As Director of Client Services, Julie is responsible for the management and oversight of the largest division of NYAWC consisting of more than 20 staff members and interns who provide counseling, case management, and advocacy/accompaniment to 400 women and children survivors of domestic violence and trafficking annually. Julie also helped create Hitting Home, a program whereby NYAWC provides counseling at child welfare agencies to mothers whose children are abused or neglected. Hitting Home is the first – and only – such program in New York City.

How can you help?

Volunteer! Join our dedicated group of volunteers to enrich 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 to volunteer your services or fmui@nyawc.org to make a donation.

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