



**New York Asian Women's Center  
E-Newsletter – February 2009**

**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 <http://www.nyawc.org/about/news.html>.

**Included in this issue:**

1. Over 550 Women and 90 Children Helped in 2008
2. NYAWC Expands Services to Survivors of Human Trafficking
3. Annual Winter Holiday Party Brought Cheer and Presents to Clients
4. The Mei Hua Society Raises \$10,000 for NYAWC's Outreach Program
5. Thanks to NYAWC's Corporate and Foundation Donors in 2008!

**1. Over 550 Women and 90 Children Helped in 2008**

The New York Asian Women's Center (NYAWC), the largest minority domestic violence agency in New York State, continues to offer a lifeline to women being abused. Here's a quick look at how many people were helped in 2008:

- ❖ 561 women and 92 children received free and confidential services, including counseling and advocacy assistance.
- ❖ 69 women and 60 children lived in NYAWC's temporary emergency residences.

**2. NYAWC Expands Services to Survivors of Human Trafficking**

The only contract in 2008 given by the New York City Office of the Criminal Justice Coordinator was awarded to NYAWC. This \$50,000 per year grant, renewable up to six years, will enable NYAWC's Project Free to serve dozens of survivors of sex or labor trafficking.

"Human trafficking is in line with our mission as a domestic violence agency to help and advocate for the rights of battered women and to create an agenda for social change," stated Larry Lee, NYAWC's Executive Director. "Trafficking survivors require safety, confidentiality and comprehensive services. NYAWC is in a unique position to provide critically needed services."

Project Free has been offering counseling, case management, advocacy, information and referral services and emergency residential care to eligible human trafficking survivors since 2005. With cultural competency and linguistic capability in fourteen Asian languages, Project Free helps survivors get on their feet and recuperate from trauma. To heighten awareness about trafficking, Project Free reaches out to Asian American communities, service providers, and law enforcement in New York City.

New York City has been identified as one of the hubs for traffickers in the United States. In 2004 the U.S. Department of Justice estimated that between 14,500 and 17,500 men, women and children are trafficked into the United States every year. About 80% of

trafficking victims are female, and 70% of female victims are trafficked for the commercial sex industry. DOJ estimates that 40-66% of those trafficked into the U.S. come from Asia and the Pacific Rim.

For more information on Project Free, visit [www.nyawc.org](http://www.nyawc.org) or contact Project Free Manager, Ms. Haemy Lee at (212) 732-0054, ext. 133 or at [ProjectFree1@gmail.com](mailto:ProjectFree1@gmail.com).



### **3. Annual Winter Holiday Party Brought Cheer and Presents to Clients**

On a sunny day in December 2008, NYAWC threw a grand party to kick off the winter holidays. Held at Deloitte Consulting's headquarters in Manhattan, the event was organized by NYAWC with help from the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF), Deloitte Consulting and Asian American Google Network (AAGN). Over 130 NYAWC clients and their families attended the party, where they took pictures with Santa, participated in arts and crafts activities, enjoyed a delicious lunch and received presents.

Deloitte Consulting's Women's Initiative Network arranged for the donated space and gathered many Deloitte employees to help decorate the space and serve food at the party. "It was really fun getting to help out. It really got me into the holiday spirit," said Leslie Chen, a Deloitte Consulting volunteer.

The arts and crafts activities organized by CACF, with the help of AAGN, were very popular with the children. "The holiday parties have always been a lot of fun, especially for CACF volunteers. It's something they've looked forward to," said Vanessa Leung, the Deputy Director of CACF. This is the fifth year that CACF and NYAWC have partnered for the winter holiday party.

For one client, her favorite part was watching her children play and make crafts. Jill, one of the children, said "I had a great time. The best part for me was making the snowflakes." Another child, Natalie, said "I liked the party a lot. The best part was getting presents."

Special thanks to CACF, Deloitte Consulting, AAGN, and NYAWC staff and volunteers for making the party a success. We also extend our thanks to New York Cares for donating presents.

Check out pictures of the Winter Holiday party at <http://www.nyawc.org/events/12-13-08.htm>.



#### **4. The Mei Hua Society Raises \$10,000 for NYAWC's Outreach Program**

On February 4, 2009, the Mei Hua Society celebrated Chinese New Year at Chatham Square Restaurant in Chinatown, New York. This event was also a fundraiser for NYAWC's Community Outreach and Education Program. Nearly 100 guests enjoyed a ten-course traditional Chinese banquet. The festivities also included a silent auction, boutique and raffle of great finds, many of which were Asian themed, vintage and antique. Guests were treated to a lively lion dance performance to usher in the Year of the Ox.

During the dinner, Gloria Chin Besthoff, Banquet Co-Chair, introduced New York Asian Women's Center to the crowd and encouraged Mei Hua members to support the fight against domestic violence. Larry Lee, NYAWC Executive Director, thanked the Mei Hua Society for their generous support and explained how the funds raised will help the Center bring awareness about domestic violence and human trafficking to the Asian community and the broader society.

Thanks to the Mei Hua Society, the evening netted \$10,000 for NYAWC! To view pictures of the Mei Hua Society Chinese New Year Banquet, please visit <http://www.nyawc.org/events/past.html#MHS>.

About the Mei Hua Society --- The Mei Hua Society was organized in 2006 to disseminate knowledge about China through cultural and social events and to raise funds for worthwhile projects in the local New York Asian community. The Society aims to raise the maximum amount of funds at a minimum cost to benefit local organizations. For more information about the Mei Hua Society, please contact [marylinchou@juno.com](mailto:marylinchou@juno.com).

#### **5. Thanks to NYAWC's Corporate and Foundation Donors in 2008!**

A Light in the Community International Foundation  
 Abacus Federal Savings Bank  
 Altria Group, Inc.  
 Asian American Federation  
 Asian American Law Fund of New York  
 Avon Products, Inc.  
 Baker & Hostetler LLP  
 C.J. Huang Foundation  
 Carnegie Corporation of New York  
 Child Welfare Fund  
 Chinese American Women Commerce Association of New York Inc.  
 Different Roads to Learning, Inc.

Disney Worldwide Outreach  
 Estee Lauder Companies, Inc.  
 Five Together Foundation  
 Korean American Community Foundation  
 MetLife City Hall Office  
 Morgan Stanley Foundation  
 Morrison & Foerster LLP  
 MSD Capital  
 New York Rotary Foundation  
 NY1 News  
 Research Foundation of The City University Of New York  
 Robin Hood

Target Corporation  
Tiger Asia Management, LLC  
Tiger Baron Foundation  
Time Warner Cable  
TJX Foundation

United Federation of Teachers  
United Way of New York City  
Verizon Foundation  
WABC-TV  
William T. Grant Foundation

*A very special thanks to Robin Hood for its generous support spanning over 10 years.*

**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 <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 E-Newsletter, please respond to this email with "REMOVE" as the subject line.