



February 2010 E-Newsletter

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Special note: We extend our sincerest thanks to the Mei Hua Society, which donated over \$11,000 from its February 17 Chinese New Year banquet to NYAWC. More information about this festive event will appear in the April 2010 e-newsletter!

- 1. Almost 700 Women and 90 Children Served in 2009**
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1. Almost 700 Women and 90 Children Served in 2009

NYAWC, the largest minority domestic violence agency in New York State, continues to offer a lifeline to abused women and their children. Below is a quick look at how many people were helped in 2009:

- 694 women and 90 children received free and confidential services, including counseling and advocacy assistance.
- 76 women and 75 children lived in NYAWC's temporary emergency residences.

2. NYAWC Hiring a New Counselor for South Asian Children

Since 1995, NYAWC has been one of the few domestic violence agencies in the country providing counseling to children in Asian languages. Now, NYAWC is preparing to hire a new, part-time children's counselor with the training, cultural sensitivity, and language skills to serve the growing population of South Asian women and children affected by domestic violence.

The emotional impacts of domestic violence—including fear, isolation, and vulnerability—can be exacerbated by the cultural alienation felt by many immigrant children. This may be especially true among the South Asian population in the United States; in the seven states with the largest Asian populations, suicide is the leading cause of death for South Asians between the ages of 15 and 24.

Asian immigrants are the fastest growing racial population in New York City, and among Asian immigrants, the Bangladeshi community is the fastest growing. The rapid influx of these immigrants has led to an increase in the number of South Asian—especially Bangladeshi—women and children affected by domestic violence. In the past year, NYAWC has received numerous requests from human services agencies and survivors of abuse for children's counseling services in South Asian languages.

NYAWC has received grants from the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies and the Edward and Ellen Roche Relief Foundation to assist in hiring a new counselor, who will provide both counseling to South Asian children and case management for their families.

3. This Holiday, Volunteers Bring Peace and Joy to NYAWC's Clients

The winter holiday season can be a lonely time, especially for women and children affected by domestic violence or exploitation. But at NYAWC, this year's holidays were marked by cheer and festivity thanks to the goodwill and generosity of numerous donors and volunteers.

The Rotary Club of Flushing, Queens, donated a turkey for a Thanksgiving dinner for the clients. They also provided a Christmas tree and seasonal decorations for the Rose House shelter.



Volunteers wrap gifts for clients and their children

Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies donated two bags of holiday presents. The Wishes for Children volunteer group also donated presents requested by NYAWC mothers on behalf of their children. This latter program enabled mothers to personally select Christmas presents that they could give to their children themselves. The Asian American Federation donated its office space for the Wishes for Children volunteers to gather and wrap gifts. Additionally, wish letters from the children were fulfilled by donors at Ernst & Young through a program coordinated by New York Cares. The New York Cares Coat Drive also donated 70 warm winter coats for the clients and their children.

Emily Ma, an NYAWC volunteer, organized a holiday party for clients and their children at a venue donated by St. Peter's Church in Midtown Manhattan. The event was staffed by 40 volunteers from NYAWC and the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF), an organization that has helped host NYAWC's holiday parties for the past six years. CACF also prepared games and activities for the children. Entertainment from the Canopus Singers and original artwork by 17 artists were provided by Thesia Arts. Thesia Arts also volunteered at the event, which was attended by over 150 women and children.

NYAWC's clients did not want for gifts, either. The Robin Hood Foundation organized a gift drive, and the



A thank you poster by clients and their children

4. A Thanksgiving Caravan

On November 23, 2009—just three days shy of Thanksgiving—NYAWC had much to be thankful for. In true Oprah-esque fashion, the GEICO Insurance Company donated a Dodge Caravan worth approximately \$10,000 to the organization. The donation was presented to NYAWC representatives at Sam's Auto Body Shop in Brooklyn, NY, through Recycled Rides, the vehicle donation program of the non-profit National Auto Body Council (NABC).

Through Recycled Rides, members of the NABC repair recycled vehicles and donate them to needy groups and families. As a member of the NABC, Sam's Auto Body Shop provided the space to renovate the minivan, and its workers sacrificed their own time to repair the vehicle. Additionally, Keystone Parts supplied parts, and PPG and Sam Ditchek and Sons, Inc., contributed paint supplies.



Sam's Auto Manager James Moy, GEICO Supervisor Chris Testani, NYAWC Outreach Coordinator Fronthy Nguyen, NYAWC Executive Director Larry Lee, and Sam's Auto owner Kim Sem pose with the donated vehicle.

After receiving the generous donation, NYAWC Executive Director Larry Lee said, "We appreciate the National Auto Body Council's Recycled Rides program, Sam's Auto Body Shop, GEICO, and the suppliers and staff who made this dream come true. Now, we will be able to better help our women and children as they struggle to recover from domestic violence."

The donated vehicle will be used to transport up to 65 domestic violence survivors to NYAWC's shelters every year, and will be used to purchase supplies and groceries to feed and care for the recovering families.

5. Thank You to 2009 Donors

NYAWC thanks all of our donors for their generous contributions in 2009. The following organizations, companies, and individuals provided critical support* last year:



Asian American Federation
Asian Women Giving Circle
Avon Foundation
Avon Products, Inc.
Brooklyn Community Foundation
Carnegie Corporation of New York
The CBS Corporation
Child Welfare Fund
Citi Employee Community Fund
The Estee Lauder Companies, Inc.
Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies
Five Together Foundation
The Grace and Mercy Foundation
The Hyde and Watson Foundation
Korean American Community Foundation
LexisNexis Group
The Allison Maher Stern Foundation
Yoko Ono Lennon
Mei Hua Society
Restore NYC Inc.
Robin Hood Foundation
Edward & Ellen Roche Relief Fund
Starside Drugs
Tiger Baron Foundation
TJX Foundation
United Way of New York City
Verizon Wireless
WABC-TV
WAC Lighting
Shelley Wang
Wei Wei Wang Foundation
The Woo Family Charitable Foundation and Linda Lew Woo

**Contributions of \$4,000 or more*

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