NEW YORK
ASIAN WOMEN'S CENTER
2007-2008
Biennial Report



Empowering Women to Live Free of Violence

NEW YORK ASIAN WOMEN'S CENTER 2007-2008 Biennial Report Contents

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NYAWC Mission Statement

Founded in 1982 as the first domestic violence organization on the East Coast to serve the Asian communities, the New York Asian Women's Center (NYAWC) helps battered women overcome violence and govern their own lives, free of abuse. The Center also works to raise public awareness about domestic violence and human trafficking, advocates for the rights of battered women and creates an agenda for social change.

All of NYAWC's services are free and confidential, rooted in our philosophy of empowering women and supporting their choices so that they can lead their lives free of violence.

The phoenix is a mythological bird reborn from fire and ashes. The New York Asian Women's Center chose the phoenix as its logo to symbolize the strength of the women who have overcome domestic violence.

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Dear Friends.

The years 2007 and 2008 were a time of transition for NYAWC. We said good-bye to our executive director of 8 years, Tuhina De O'Connor. There have been challenges, not the least of which being the impact of the recession on social services. There have also been opportunities – preparing a new residence, building our children's program, and responding to human trafficking.

In this biennial report, you will meet some of the women who inspire our everyday work. These women have faced fear, degradation, and pain daily. Yet, they found the courage to seek help and make a change for their children and themselves.

NYAWC continues to be a vital resource for women and children in our community. Our staff, volunteers, and interns are uniquely qualified to provide guidance and services in Asian languages. They have a thorough understanding of the role that domestic violence and family play in Asian cultures. We provide shelter geared toward our clients' needs, where they can feel safe and welcome.

NYAWC is committed to helping women and children live their lives free of violence. We thank all of our friends and supporters who help us put that vision into action each day. Together, we can challenge old beliefs that accept domestic violence as a fact of life. We can create new community values that declare a life free of domestic violence is a basic, human right.

any

Larry Lee Executive Director

Jessicas. Cee

Jessica S. Lee Chair, Board of Directors

Emergency Residential Program

The New York Asian Women's Center currently runs two emergency residences– Rose House (20 beds) and Phoenix House (15 beds) – for victims of domestic violence. NYAWC provides a safe and empowering environment in which women and children find shelter from violence and begin their journey towards independence. Our residences offer a close-knit, multilingual community and comfortable, home-like surroundings with thoughtful touches such as serving familiar foods. While we specialize in Asian women, we welcome any woman in need. Our clients receive the following linguistic and culturally appropriate services:

- · Weekly counseling
- Support groups
- · On-site child care
- Help navigating New York City's complex entitlement system
- Legal advocacy and referral to legal services
- Assistance crafting individualized career plans and finding the resources to meet their career goals

2007 and 2008 Highlights and Accomplishments

- In 2007 and 2008 an average of 76 women and 137 children per year stayed in a NYAWC residence.
- In October of 2008, NYAWC launched an updated version of the Shelter Vocational Program, in which staff help survivors determine new vocational goals and resources to achieve these goals.
- Throughout 2007 and 2008, planning continued on Peace House, a 20-bed residence which will replace NYAWC's Phoenix House. Peace House is a brand-new, spacious building with its own grounds and room for on-site individual, group, and children's counseling in addition to other support services. Its projected opening date is October 2009.
- More than half the women in residence were enrolled in college, a vocational/technical school, ESL classes or training programs.
- Nearly two thirds of the women found safe housing by the time they left residence, and only 2% returned home to their batterer.*
- * Based on client data for July 2007 June 2008.

oris has a Career



Two weeks after she came to the United States, Doris was sold by her husband to another man in Queens. The stranger raped her and kept her a virtual prisoner in his house. He let his relatives beat her. Her husband would stop by and rape her. Eventually, Doris was able to escape and the police placed her in a single women's homeless shelter. Although Doris was out of immediate danger, she remained afraid, as her roommates at the shelter used drugs.

NYAWC helped Doris transfer to one of its Emergency Shelters, where she finally found a sense of security. In this supportive environment, with NYAWC staff

who spoke her native language, she began to take control of her life and plan for a better future. Her main concerns were finding permanent housing and supporting herself financially. With NYAWC's assistance. Doris applied for low-income housing and public assistance. NYAWC also helped Doris enroll in a job training program that allowed her to build on her previous work experience as a nurse in her home country. In July 2008, Doris received news that her application for low-income housing was approved. That same month, she passed an exam to become a Certified Nursing Assistant and began working in a nursing home.

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Shelter Alternatives: Fostering Empowerment (SAFE)

Shelter Alternatives Fostering Empowerment (SAFE) program provides essential life-saving services to women who are not ready to leave their batterer or in need of shelter. The program enables women and their children to avoid the tumultuous nature of multiple moves – to a shelter often to yet another temporary living arrangement, and then again to a permanent home – while still being able to work towards independence.

SAFE offers free, confidential services that are linguistically and culturallysensitive:

- Crisis counseling and safety planning
- · 24-hour multilingual hotline counseling
- Counseling
- Practical assistance in securing the basic needs of food, clothing and housing
- Accompaniment and advocacy with the public benefits and court systems.
- Information and referrals
- Translation

2007 and 2008 Highlights and Accomplishments

- SAFE served 331 women in 2007 and 552 women in 2008. (In Spring 2008, NYAWC improved its recording of services provided to SAFE clients, giving a more accurate number of clients served by this program. This explains the significant jump in number of clients from 2007 to 2008.)
- In 2008 we received over 3,000 hotline calls and our language capacity topped over a dozen Asian languages and dialects.
- We developed a unique project called "Hitting Home", in which NYAWC provides training and consultation to staff of child welfare programs who serve Asian communities. We also provide on-site domestic violence services to their clients. Seed funding for this project was provided by the Child Welfare Fund and the Asian American Federation.
- Our staff partners with city and other social service agencies to
 provide women with a complete array of domestic violence services at
 the Brooklyn and Queens Family Justice Centers. Without our multilingual staff, many Asian American women would not be able to use the
 services provided at the centers, including meeting with prosecutors and
 applying for housing and financial assistance.



Nina is Moving to a Home All Her Own

When Nina came to NYAWC for help, her boyfriend had just been arrested for brutally beating her up. In their apartment, he had kicked and punched her and threw her from the kitchen to the bedroom door. where she slammed against the doorknob. She was bruised and swollen and suffered neck and back pain. NYAWC went with Nina to family court and helped her to file for an Order of Protection, a temporary court order to prevent her boyfriend from abusing her further. With limited English, Nina relied on NYAWC to act as her advocate and to explain the legal ramifications of the court order and her abuser's arrest.

Because of the court order, Nina's abuser moved out of their apartment. However, he continued to harass her, offering her money to drop the order and stopping by the apartment building frequently to pick up his mail. When she was outdoors, he would trail her in his car and snap

photos of her before driving off. NYAWC helped Nina to develop a safety plan should he try to approach her again. Acting as her interpreter, NYAWC also discussed her abuser's violations of the court order with the assistant district attorney. Through NYAWC's advocacy, Nina was granted a Stay Away Order requiring her abuser to avoid contact with her. Eventually, he pled guilty to the criminal charges against him and agreed to enter anger management classes.

Nina ultimately felt that she could never be safe in the apartment so NYAWC helped Nina prepare applications for low-income housing. NYAWC explained to Nina the documents that she needed to gather for her applications and prepared her for the interviews required as part of the application process. Three months after submitting her applications, Nina was approved for low-income housing.

Children's Program

Children are very vulnerable victims of family violence. Ninety percent of children of survivors witness intimate partner violence. Often they are direct victims of abuse. Sadly, this sometimes occurs when the child is trying to intervene or protect the mother or siblings. Recognizing the needs of child survivors, NYAWC is one of only a very few domestic violence programs nation-wide to offer a program for children. NYAWC also has the first and only mentoring program in New York City to benefit Asian child survivors of domestic violence.

The Children's Program provides:

- Counseling (play, art and talk therapy) to help children overcome internal conflicts and psychological trauma
- Assistance with finding appropriate educational settings and services
- Information and referrals for assessments, medical care or child care
- Support groups
- Mentoring
- Parenting support
- Recreational and educational activities

NYAWC children's counselors view the child in the context of his/her environment, and look at the influences of family, school, peers, cultural environment and society upon the child. Therefore, individual counseling sessions are coordinated with and complemented by other services to provide emotional, social, and educational support.

2007 and 2008 Highlights and Accomplishments

- The Children's Program provided on-going counseling and advocacy services support to 102 children and their mothers in 2007, and 109 children and their mothers in 2008. Each year, approximately 40 additional children, mostly former clients, participated in annual or semi-annual program events and activities.
- A total of 41 children participated in NYAWC's Mentor Program.
- NYAWC launched the new program Drawing and Truth (DAT) in 2008, which innovatively combines art therapy and computer technology to help teen survivors of household domestic violence deal with their emotions and recover from trauma. This improvement project was funded by William T. Grant Foundation.

Rachel Reclaims Her Youth

Rachel was her mother's protector. When her mother needed help communicating in English, Rachel would be her interpreter. When her father abused her mother, Rachel would receive verbal and emotional abuse for coming to her defense. Although it meant she had to say goodbye to her friends, Rachel supported her mother's decision to leave her father and to move the family into a NYAWC Emergency Shelter.



Rachel loved to paint and was excited to join the Digital Art Therapy group. Without the safe environment of the NYAWC Children's Program, Rachel might have kept silent about the emotional toll of her home life. Instead, through group activities and individual sessions with a children's counselor, she disclosed that she had tried to hurt herself and was able to get weekly counseling from a social worker at the hospital.

Rachel was also two grades behind for her age. NYAWC staff explained the purpose of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) to Rachel's mother in her native language, which allowed her to understand and feel more comfortable with the evaluation process. She attended the assessment with Rachel, after which an IEP was designed for Rachel's academic needs for next year.

As the academic year wound down, Rachel's mother learned that she was required to contribute to the costs of the cap and gown for the school graduation ceremony. She could not afford the amount and was afraid that her daughter would not be allowed to attend the ceremony. NYAWC discussed the issue with the school principal, who agreed that the school would sponsor Rachel's costs. That spring, Rachel was able to graduate alongside her classmates. She will attend middle school in the fall.

Project Free: Ending Modern Day Slavery

Human Trafficking is known as modern-day slavery. Victims are given false promises, tricked, and then sold or forced into labor or the sex industry. Their mobility is often restricted and their living and health conditions substandard: they are essentially treated like property.

Because human trafficking is a global industry and approximately 40-60% of the human trafficking survivors in New York City are of Asian descent, NYAWC is well suited to provide the services needed by this largely hidden population.

Project Free addresses human trafficking survivors' immediate and longterm needs. Services include:

- A 24-hour multilingual hotline
- Practical assistance in accessing benefits and resources
- Counseling
- Temporary safe housing
- Support through criminal justice proceedings and the immigration relief process.

We extend our gratitude to the Korean American Community Foundation for the funding that allowed us to conduct outreach and to start providing comprehensive services for human trafficking survivors and to the New York City Office of the Criminal Justice Coordinator for funding that allows us to continue to provide these essential services to human trafficking victims.

2007 and 2008 Highlights and Accomplishments

- We screened over 87 women human trafficking survivors through the phone and on-site at the Midtown Community Court, police precincts, and in the local communities.
- Twelve human trafficking survivors were provided with extensive comprehensive services.
- We sponsored a screening of the sex trafficking film "Holly" to shed light on this important topic. The theater was fully packed. Community leaders, members and the press attended, broadening their knowledge of human trafficking.
- We organized the Korean Americans Against Trafficking (KAAT) forum, so that local leaders of the Korean community and social service sector could learn about the prevalence of human trafficking in New York City and discuss how to collaborate in fighting against it.

Rita is a Survivor



"My spirit had died." Rita came to the U.S. from India to care for an arthrific woman who promised her a high salary and a work visa. When she arrived on a visitor's visa, she learned that she had to take care of her employer's entire family. She was forced to do all the household work, including babysitting, cooking and cleaning, and for her labor she was only paid \$100 to \$150 per month. Her passport was confiscated and she was kept locked in the house. Her employers and their children assaulted her, spat on her and threatened to burn her. They prevented her from contacting her relatives in India, threatening to harm them as well. The eldest son removed the lock from her bathroom door so that he could watch her bathre. When the doorman sexually and physically assaulted her, the employers refused to report the incident to the police. Instead, they blamed her for the assault and threw her out of the house without her passport or any money.

A woman in her 60s, Rita was also medically neglected during her captivity. NYAWC helped her to apply for Medicaid and helped her discuss her conditions with her psychiatrist and physician, often acting as her interpreter. After receiving support from NYAWC, Rita's mental health began improving tremendously, her psychiatrist noted. Her antidepressant medication was reduced.

Coordinating with local and federal agencies, NYAWC helped Rita to procure a T visa, a type of visa that allows certain victims of human trafficking to remain in the U.S. With NYAWC's assistance, Rita was able to secure basic benefits such as food stamps, cash and work waiver. NYAWC also helped Rita find ESL classes, job training programs and refugee programs. Despite her hardships, she found time to help others, volunteering at a hospital.

Rita's most significant success was obtaining, with NYAWC's assistance, a visa for her disabled husband in India. It has been 11 years since she has seen her husband. She looks forward to reuniting with him.

Community Outreach & Education

NYAWC's Community Education and Outreach program provides information and trainings to educate community-based organizations, leaders, community members, and the general public about the realities of domestic violence and the services that we offer. NYAWC also offers cultural sensitivity training and information about domestic violence to police precincts, hospitals, and schools.

During trainings for professionals, NYAWC addresses topics such as the oftentimes subtle signs that a woman might be experiencing domestic violence, and the resources that are available to assist Asian survivors of domestic violence.



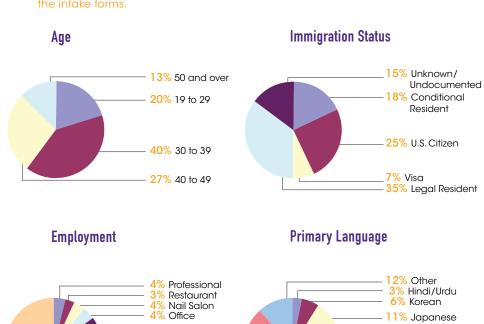
2007-2008 Highlights and Accomplishments

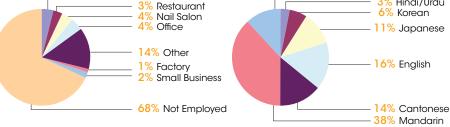
- We made over 90 appearances on Asian language radio shows.
- Our staff and volunteers participated in more than 100 community forums/events to inform community members about violence against women.
- Sixty-six workshops were held for health, education, employment, social service agencies and other community based organizations.
- We collaborated with New York University in exhibiting "Living Portrait," an interactive audio-visual installation that gives voice to the women in the Asian immigrant communities who are working each day to break the cycle of violence. Living Portrait was exhibited for 12 days at 5 New York University sites. Living Portrait was made possible with a grant from the Asian Women Giving Circle.
- We partnered with Verizon Wireless, the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence and local community organizations in a 60-day cell-phone recycling drive to raise awareness about domestic violence.
 A portion of the proceeds from the used phones collected was donated to NYAWC.

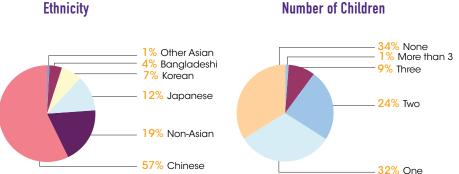
Client Demographics

July 2007 - June 2008

The following graphs describe the 161 women who have an intake date between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008. This data was obtained from the intake forms.







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Supporters

The NYAWC would like to thank ALL individuals, foundations. corporations and government funders for their contributions in 2007 and 2008.

Major Donors 2008

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Major Donors include contributions of \$1,000 or more.

Gala Supporters include sponsorships, journal advertisements, silent auction donations, and ticket sales and contributions of \$1,000 or more.

The NYAWC would also like to thank our 127 volunteers. We would not be able to help the number of people we do without their support and dedication. They do so muchanswer our 24/7 hotline, teach our women and children English and computer skills, translate documents, plan parties and other fun activities for clients, write for our newsletters, raise money for our programs and services, and provide administrative support in our office and at events

Statement of Activities

For Fiscal Year 2007 & 2008

Net Assets - End of Year

Amount in U.S. Dollars

Support and Revenue	2007	2008
Contributions and Grants	711, 102	717,714
Government Fees and Grants	2,089,607	1,950,302
Special Events	159,471	96,267
In-Kind Contributions	61,953	264,148
Other Revenues	95,426	69,712
Total Support and Revenue	3,117,559	3,098,143
Expenses		
Program services	2,995,916	2,760,956
Administrative & General	287,367	270,877
Fundraising	151,849	170,525
Total Expenses	3,435,132	3,202,358
Net Unrealized Loss on Investment	-	(246,103)
Changes in Net Assets	(317,573)	(350,318)
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	2,099,696	1,782,123

1.782.123

1.431.805

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How You Can Help

Help a Battered Woman

Support her decisions
Do not blame her for the abuser's actions
Talk to her separately from her abuser
Use non-family members as translators
Encourage her to seek help

The New York Asian Women's Center's 24-hour multilingual hotline is **1-888-888-7702**

Volunteer

NYAWC's volunteers find fulfillment and enjoyment by enriching the lives of women and children. For more information on volunteer opportunities or to volunteer your services, visit www.nyawc.org, or contact our Volunteer Coordinator at 212-732-0054 ext 127 or xzhen@nyawc.org.

Donate

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

Checks payable to The New York Asian Women's Center can be mailed to:

New York Asian Women's Center 39 Bowery, PMB 375 New York, NY 10002 Attn: Development Manager

Or donate online at www.nyawc.org.
To donate by phone or for inquiries about donations, contact Development Manager at 212-732-0054 ext 105 or fmui@nyawc.org.

