



Phoenix

New York Asian Women's Center

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December 2010

OVER \$80,000 RAISED AT THE 2010 NYAWC 28TH ANNIVERSARY BENEFIT



Left to right: Executive Director Larry Lee, NY State Senator Daniel L. Squadron, and 28th Anniversary Benefit Co-chairs Stephanie Yu and Ankur Gandhi.

Grace and Mercy Foundation; Goldman Sachs; Kirkland & Ellis with Karen Elizaga & Jay Ptashke; Barclays Capital; The Estee Lauder Companies, Inc.; UBS Investment Bank; Abigail Disney; Active International; Ankur Gandhi; Jay Huang & Elenor Mak; Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky & Popeo, PC; Julian Liao & Clara Chae; The Morrison Foerster Foundation; NY1News; WABC-TV; WAC Lighting; and Linda Lew Woo. We also thank our silent auction donors, volunteers, attendees, and other supporters.

Around 250 guests gathered at the Anniversary Benefit & Phoenix Award Event on Tuesday, October 19th, to celebrate the 28 years of incredible work that NYAWC has done in support of victims and survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking.

Festivities took place at the charming Rubin Museum of Art in Chelsea. Guests sipped cocktails and nibbled samosas and noodles as they mingled and placed bids on silent auction items like theater tickets, designer handbags and luxury hotel stays. The program was hosted by Ankur Gandhi and board member Stephanie Yu, who presented the event's speakers: State Senator Daniel Squadron; Executive Director Larry Lee and the Chair of the Board of Directors, Jessica Lee. Lucy Friedman, President of The After-School Corporation and Karen L. Hagberg, Partner of Morrison & Foerster LLP, were honored with Phoenix Awards. Comedian Vijai Nathan entertained the audience with her routine about growing up as an Indian in suburban America. Kyoko Uchiki, a former NYAWC client, told her courageous and moving story about surviving abuse. "When she spoke you could hear a pin drop," said Larry Lee.

Over \$80,000 was raised that evening, including a \$76 contribution made by a board member's dedicated daughter from her lemonade stand.

NYAWC wishes to thank all our generous sponsors: The

FIRST WALK-IN COMMUNITY OFFICE OPENS IN ELMHURST, QUEENS

The Center for Asian Women Crime Victims (CAWCV), NYAWC's first walk-in community office, opened in August 2010 in Elmhurst, Queens. CAWCV assists women victims of crime by providing comprehensive domestic violence services, including: assessment and referrals for crime victims; assistance with court cases, immigration, Crime Victims Board applications and other legal issues; and help with obtaining emergency shelter, housing, and ESOL instructions.

CAWCV is located at 82-02 Broadway, 3 Fl., Elmhurst, NY 11372, with its entrance on Cornish Avenue. Women in need can walk in Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm or call 718-803-7201 to reach an NYAWC counselor.

NYAWC RECEIVES \$250,000 FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NYAWC was recently awarded a \$250,000 Transitional Housing Assistance Grant from the United States Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women. The 3-year award enables NYAWC to launch Safe Apartments, the first Pan-Asian domestic violence transitional housing program in New York City. Safe Apartments will be a secure home for survivors to live in while they search for and obtain permanent housing. NYAWC will provide its extensive services to help survivors recover from trauma, meet their career goals, secure jobs, and integrate into

the community. NYAWC will collaborate with the Lutheran Family Health Center's Adult and Family Education Program to assist survivors in gaining self-sufficiency through employment and education training.

Thanks to the generous support of the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women, NYAWC will be able to provide 12 families with safe housing for 6 months to 2 years.

RUNNING FOR A GREAT CAUSE

Through a non-profit charity program managed by the New York Road Runners, NYAWC received 5 spots in the 2010 ING NYC Marathon on November 7th. Our runners—Caitlin Borgmann, Cindy Wagner, Arthur Dobelis, Patricia McCullough, and Amy Sterner—raised over \$10,000 for the agency and participated in the race. NYAWC extends its thanks to the runners, their families and friends for supporting NYAWC in its NYC Marathon debut.



NYAWC staff and volunteers support the runners from the Cheering Station at mile 19.

NOT EVEN A TORNADO COULD STOP THE QUEENS BENEFIT

It wasn't a typical fundraiser for NYAWC. Twenty minutes before the 6 pm start time of the Queens Community Center Benefit Dinner on Thursday, September 16th, a tornado struck just one block away from the Flushing venue, the Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel. But what could have been a disappointment only affirmed the dedication of our supporters.

With public transportation halted and traffic at a standstill, the majority of our guests, volunteers and entertainment still managed to get to the party. Some hitchhiked; others arrived three hours late; but the event eventually got started, with WNBC anchor and reporter DeMarco Morgan as the emcee. Performances included a Chinese chorus, traditional Indian and modern dancers, and actresses performing monologues based on clients' survival stories. "I was moved to see such dedication to the center and community," said Jessica Song, the Benefit Dinner Coordinator.

Larry Lee, NYAWC's Executive Director, expressed similar feelings. "The benefit dinner was memorable. Not just because of the tornado but by the dedication and commitment of our volunteers and staff being truly matched by the perseverance and devotion of our guests."

A special thanks to Committee Co-Chairs Veronica Tsang and Shelley Wang, Tai Wang, the volunteer benefit committee, Queens Benefit Coordinator Jessica Song and volunteers, and to our sponsors, including: WAC Lighting; Avon Products, Inc.; Booth Flower Shop; Cathay Bank; ML Printing and Design; Rotary Club of Flushing; Starside Drugs; SogoTrade; Stevenson Printing; and West Hempstead Rotary Club.

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NYAWC staff members Ojaswi Kafle (left) and Puja Parikh with donated backpacks from Operation Backpack and AWGC.

A SUCCESSFUL SUMMER MIXER FOR VOLUNTEERS

Wet weather could not spoil the NYAWC Volunteer Council's inaugural Summer Mixer Event on August 23 at Room 18 in Nolita. Present and former volunteers came out for a fun-filled evening of mingling, snacks and trivia games testing their knowledge of media & entertainment, current events, New York City and NYAWC. Trivia game winners received baskets of goodies and kindly shared with all. The Council thanks everyone who attended and hopes to see them at the next mixer in the spring.

FRAN GAU RETURNS AS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF CLIENT SERVICES

NYAWC is pleased to announce that in November 2010, Fran Gau returned to NYAWC as Assistant Director of Client Services. Ms. Gau's expertise will strengthen the overall functioning of the Client Services Department by monitoring program issues, needs, and trends, and collaborating with the department Director on appropriate responses.

In rejoining NYAWC, Ms. Gau describes her responsibilities as "a fulfilling and enriching exercise that includes helping the clients attain a safe and healthy life and a more rewarding experience for the staff who assist in reaching those goals."

Ms. Gau's recent experience includes working internationally as the executive director and consultant for a foundation in Taiwan that confronts human trafficking issues in East and Southeast Asia. From 1995 to 1998, Ms. Gau worked at NYAWC as the Children's Services Coordinator, and from 1998 to 2004 as Director of Counseling Services. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from National Chung-Hsing University and a Masters in Social Work from Michigan State University.

With over 15 years of experience working in the domestic violence and human trafficking service field, we welcome Ms. Gau's return to NYAWC. She will be an invaluable asset to us.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Despite a prolonged recession and reduced donations, churches, food banks and other organizations continue to provide holiday meals and other donations to women and children staying in NYAWC shelters. NYAWC is extremely grateful to the Calvary Baptist Church, which donated Thanksgiving baskets to NYAWC families for the fourth year in a row.

In support of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, Verizon LiveSource donated calling cards to New York City domestic violence shelters. NYAWC received 200 calling cards. We thank Verizon for their continued commitment to the individuals and families we serve.

NYAWC also sends a heartfelt thanks to Volunteers of America's Operation Backpack Program and the Asian Women Giving Circle (AWGC) for their donation of backpacks and school supplies, which were distributed to kids in NYAWC's Children Program in time for the new school year in September.





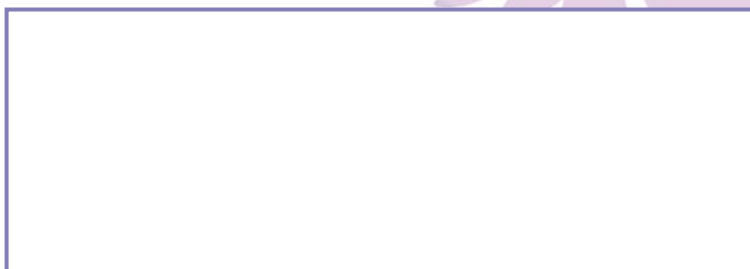
NYAWC

New York Asian Women's Center

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What is the significance of the phoenix?

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.

☐ **Yes!** I want to help women and children live a life free of abuse.
Please add me to the **NYAWC** mailing list.



Name: _____

Address: _____

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☐ I am enclosing a check in the amount of \$ _____

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Support NYAWC!

Volunteer!

Join our dedicated group of volunteers to enrich the lives of women and children.

For more info visit
www.nyawc.org

Donate!

Checks payable to NYAWC
can be mailed to:

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www.nyawc.org

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*Your contributions will help
provide emergency shelter,
counseling, advocacy, and other crucial
services to abused women
and their children.*