



# Phoenix

New York Asian Women's Center

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Spring 2009

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



Gloria Chin Besthoff, Marylin Chou, Larry Lee, and Antonio Fong

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 the Community Outreach and Education Program of the New York Asian Women's Center (NYAWC). Nearly a hundred guests enjoyed a ten-course traditional Chinese banquet. The festivities also included a lion dance performance, silent auction, boutique, and raffle.

NYAWC Executive Director Larry Lee thanked the Mei Hua Society for their generous support and explained how the funds raised will help the Center bring awareness of domestic violence and human trafficking to the Asian community and the broader society. To view pictures of the Mei Hua Society Chinese New Year Banquet, please visit [www.nyawc.org/events/past.html#MHS](http://www.nyawc.org/events/past.html#MHS).

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).

## **NYAWC EXPANDS SERVICES TO SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

The only contract issued by the New York City Office of the Criminal Justice Coordinator to provide services to human trafficking survivors in 2008 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 over a dozen 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 a hub 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 were 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. The Department of Justice 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 Haemy Lee at (212) 732-0054, ext. 133, or at [ProjectFree1@gmail.com](mailto:ProjectFree1@gmail.com).

## *THANKS TO ALL OF THE NEW YORK ASIAN WOMEN'S CENTER'S 2008 CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION DONORS*

<b>A Light in the Community International Foundation</b>	<b>Korean American Community Foundation</b>
<b>Abacus Federal Savings Bank</b>	<b>MetLife City Hall Office</b>
<b>Altria Group, Inc.</b>	<b>Morgan Stanley Foundation</b>
<b>Asian American Federation</b>	<b>Morrison &amp; Foerster LLP</b>
<b>Asian American Law Fund of New York</b>	<b>MSD Capital</b>
<b>Avon Products, Inc.</b>	<b>New York Rotary Foundation</b>
<b>Baker &amp; Hostetler LLP</b>	<b>NY1 News</b>
<b>C. J. Huang Foundation</b>	<b>Research Foundation of the City University Of New York</b>
<b>Carnegie Corporation of New York</b>	<b>Robin Hood</b>
<b>Child Welfare Fund</b>	<b>Target Corporation</b>
<b>Chinese American Women Commerce Association of New York, Inc.</b>	<b>Tiger Baron Foundation</b>
<b>Different Roads to Learning, Inc.</b>	<b>Time Warner Cable</b>
<b>Disney Worldwide Outreach</b>	<b>TJX Foundation</b>
<b>Estee Lauder Companies, Inc.</b>	<b>United Federation of Teachers</b>
<b>Five Together Foundation</b>	<b>United Way of New York City</b>
<b>Grace and Mercy Foundation/Tiger Asia Management, LLC</b>	<b>Verizon Foundation</b>
	<b>WABC-TV</b>
	<b>WAC Lighting</b>
	<b>William T. Grant Foundation</b>

## VERIZON CELL PHONE DRIVE NETS \$5,000 DONATION FOR NYAWC

Verizon Wireless recently donated \$5,000 to NYAWC, money raised through the Verizon Wireless HopeLine phone recycling program. The HopeLine phone recycling program collects old, out-of-use cell phones, which are refurbished, recycled, or sold, and the proceeds are donated to domestic violence advocacy groups. Phones that cannot be refurbished are disposed of in an environmentally sound manner. The HopeLine program began in New York in 1999 and has since spread across the nation.

The NYAWC HopeLine Drive established collec-

tion points across the New York metro area, including in the district offices of City Council Member John Liu and New York State Assembly Member Felix Ortiz, and at Asian Professional Extension, Inc., the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of New York, the Asian American Federation, and the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association. "We want to thank Verizon Wireless, Councilman Liu, Assemblyman Ortiz, local Asian organizations, and all New Yorkers whose cell phone contributions will help us make a difference in these women's lives," said Larry Lee, executive director of the NYAWC.



### Brooklyn Law School Students Hold Fundraiser for NYAWC

On February 19, the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association and Brooklyn Law Students for the Public Interest—student organizations at Brooklyn Law School—held a fundraiser for NYAWC at the Brooklyn pub Ceol. Students gathered for a night of food, drinks, and socializing, and to show their support for NYAWC. All funds raised from the event were generously donated to NYAWC.

### NYAWC CLIENTS FIND LOVE (AND MAKEOVERS) ON VALENTINE'S DAY

This past Valentine's Day, 30 NYAWC clients spent all afternoon being loved, no strings attached. But instead of chocolates and candle-lit dinners, these women were recipients of an alternative form of love: head-to-toe pampering in a "Valentine's Day Ultimate Makeover" hosted by Reveal, a grassroots movement of New York City professionals in the beauty and fashion industry, which volunteered its services for the day-long event.

The makeovers took place at the W Hotel and featured one-on-one consultations in skincare, makeup, hairstyling, and designer clothes and shoes—which the women were able to keep. Reveal teamed up with Restore, a nonprofit organization serving women enslaved by the sex trade, to host the event. Together Reveal and Restore served 60 clients, half of them from Safe Horizon, an agency that provides support for survivors of crime and abuse.

"The women seemed so happy," said Julie Kim Richards, NYAWC's director of client services, who was at the event. "It was all about them. For once, it wasn't about their children."

"I was choked up," said Kara Kim, a Restore staff member who also attended. "To show these women they're worthy to be honored is such a powerful message to send them, and this event was one opportunity to shower them with the respect they deserve. Each of them was treated like a queen."

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LARRY LEE TALKS ABOUT ASIAN AMERICAN POVERTY ON MY9NEWS

On Sunday, February 22, My9 TV News aired a powerful story on poverty in the Asian American community. Reported by Ti-Hua Chang, "A Community in Crisis" brings to life the impoverished side of the New York City Asian American community, dismantling the pervasive "model minority" stereotype. The news story is based on "Working but Poor: Asian American Poverty in New York City," a report developed by the Asian American Federation. NYAWC Executive Director Larry Lee appears in the news segment, discussing the paucity of services assessable to poor Asian Americans in the City.

To watch Mr. Chang's investigative report, visit [www.my9tv.com/asiancommunity](http://www.my9tv.com/asiancommunity). To read the Asian American Federation's study, visit [www.aafny.org](http://www.aafny.org).

### Phoenix Newsletter

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### OVER 550 WOMEN AND 90 CHILDREN HELPED IN 2008

NYAWC, the largest minority domestic violence agency in New York State, continues to offer a lifeline to women being abused. Below is 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.

### Board of Directors

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## VOLUNTEERS PREPARE NYAWC PEACE HOUSE FOR OPENING

Thanks to 48 staff and volunteers from NYAWC, Peace House—NYAWC's newest shelter—is almost ready to serve survivors of domestic violence and their children. Staff and volunteers, including several from the Asian American Google Network and WAC Lighting, spent three weekends renovating the 20-bedroom, three-story facility. They painted walls, moved furniture, and, with the generous support of WAC Lighting and Bulbrite Industries, installed sconces, ceiling mounts, and energy-efficient lighting.

"It's wonderful that we had such an enormous turnout from our volunteer network for this project," says Interim Director of Shelter Operations for NYAWC

Alyssa Elser. "The house looks amazing, and it wouldn't have been possible without help from our volunteers—many of whom came to all three weekends."

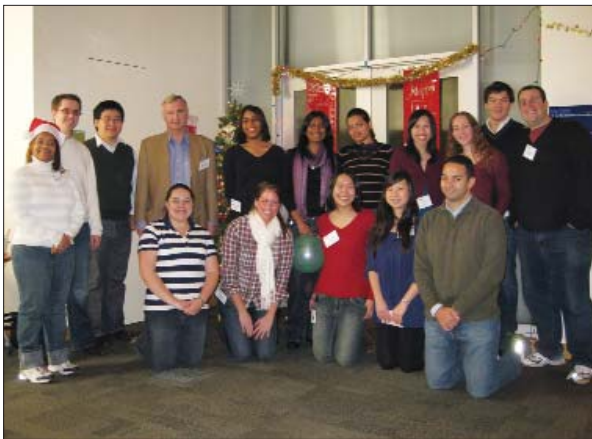
The beautification of Peace House is an ongoing project, funded in part by Lily Shao and Quinn Chan, recipients of the MetLife Good Business Practices Community Award. Painting the facility in cheerful, non-institutional colors and the other preparations were only first steps. As the shelter goes operational this spring, staff and volunteers will continue to explore other ways to make Peace House a safe and comfortable home for NYAWC's clients and their children.



## 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 Deloitte Consulting's Women's Initiative Network (WIN), the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF), 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 WIN arranged for the donated space, tables, chairs, and desserts, 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.



Volunteers from Deloitte Consulting

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.

One client's 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 Deloitte Consulting's WIN, CACF, AAGN, and NYAWC staff and volunteers for making the party a success. We also extend our thanks to New York Cares and the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies for arranging the donations of presents.

Pictures of the winter holiday party are available at [www.nyawc.org/events/12-13-08.htm](http://www.nyawc.org/events/12-13-08.htm).



Volunteers from the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families and Asian American Google Network

## NYAWC REACHES OUT TO LONG ISLAND COMMUNITY

On March 21, NYAWC participated in the third annual Asian American Cultural Festival of Long Island at Farmingdale State College. Sponsored by the Suffolk County Executive's Office of Minority Affairs, Farmingdale State College, and several small and large businesses in Nassau, Suffolk, and Queens, this event promotes awareness and appreciation for cultural diversity on Long Island.

Throughout the Saturday afternoon, festival attendees stopped by NYAWC's booths to learn about the Center's work combating domestic violence and human trafficking, and to learn how they can help abused women in their local community. Visitors also purchased t-shirts, fashion scarves, bonsai plants, and other items. All proceeds benefited NYAWC.

Thanks to the Chinese Cultural Association of Long Island for donating booth space. Thanks, also, to Board Member Shelley Wang, Tai Wang, and WAC Lighting for their generous donation of scarves, plants, and snack sale profits. And much gratitude to our board members, volunteers, and staff for participating in this fun activity!

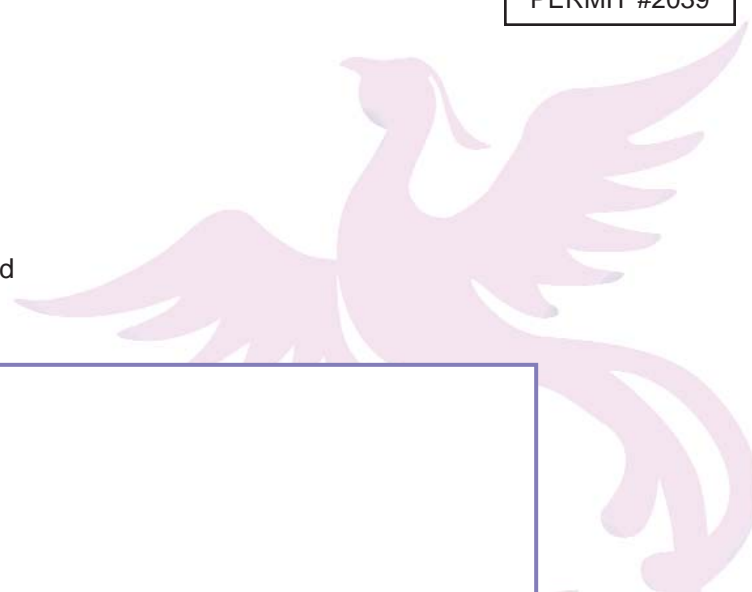
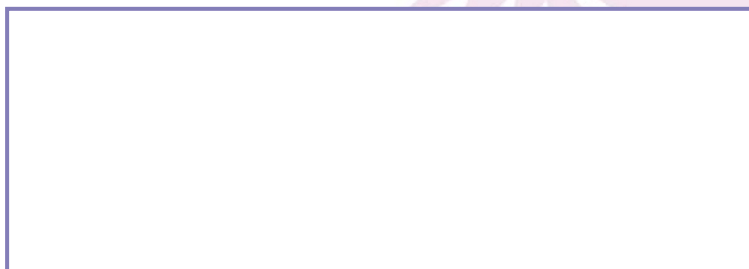




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**What is the significance of the phoenix?**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

☐ I am including my credit card information to make a tax-deductible donation.

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ American Express (check one)

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Donation Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Support the NYAWC!

### Volunteer!

Join our dedicated group of volunteers to enrich the lives of women and children. For more info visit [www.nyawc.org](http://www.nyawc.org).

### Donate!

Checks payable to the NYAWC can be mailed to:

**NYAWC**  
**39 Bowery, PMB 375**  
**New York, NY 10002**

**Attn: Development  
Manager**

**Or donate online at  
[www.nyawc.org](http://www.nyawc.org).**

### Join our mailing list:

Fill out the form on the left and mail it to the above address.

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