



# Phoenix

New York Asian Women's Center

Admin: 212-732-0054 Hotline: 1-888-888-7702 Website: [www.nyawc.org](http://www.nyawc.org)

Summer  
2008

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## NYAWC Sponsors Holly Film Screening to Highlight the Tragedy of Human Trafficking

*Reported by Anne Onoue, volunteer*

"Holly," a fascinating film about the horrors of human trafficking, was screened by the New York Asian Women's Center (NYAWC) on May 1st. at the Quad Cinema in Manhattan. The private screening was opened by Councilman John Liu, who acknowledged the importance "of the work that the New York Asian Women's Center does around human trafficking." He then presented former staff member Anita Gundanna with a citation for co-founding Project Free, NYAWC's program to serve human trafficking survivors. After the film, guests participated in a Q&A session with Guy Jacobson, writer and producer, Adi Ezron, producer and actress, Ivy O. Suriyopas, staff attorney for the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), William Livermore from LexisNexis, and Anita Gundanna.

Human trafficking --a form of modern-day slavery-- is close to the heart of NYAWC's mission. It is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world. Roughly 17,000 victims enter major cities such as New York every year.



*Councilman John Liu, Project Free  
co-Founder Anita Gundanna, and NYAWC's  
Executive Director Larry Lee*

"Holly" was inspired by Guy Jacobson's trip to Cambodia in 2002. Horrified by girls as young as five soliciting him for sex, he gave them money and left. For the film, says Jacobson, "I picked one girl, as I could not tell the story of the 2.5 million victims. I wanted to tell it from the side of the victim."

Concerned audience members asked what they can do to help. The panel suggested that they donate money to organizations like NYAWC to support programs that directly address human trafficking. Additionally, Bill Livermore asked the audience to contact their state leaders, urging them to pass strict laws penalizing offenders.

The panel also attended NYAWC's reception at New York University's Asian Pacific American Institute.

**Save The Date!**  
***Fall Benefit***  
When:  
**Thursday, November 6, 2008**  
Where:  
**Tribeca Rooftop**  
**2 Desbrosses Street, New York, NY 10013**

Celebrating 26 years of empowering women and children to live free of violence. NYAWC remains the only pan-Asian domestic violence agency in New York State.

*For more information or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Vicki Shu Smolin at 646-263-6044 or [vicki\\_shu@yahoo.com](mailto:vicki_shu@yahoo.com)*



*Guests and volunteers enjoying the panoramic  
views at the 25th Anniversary Gala on the  
Tribeca Rooftop*

## Are You a Good Shopper?

What if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support the New York Asian Women's Center's programs and services for battered women and their children? How about if the NYAWC earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Well, now you can make it happen!

GoodShop.com is an online shopping mall which donates up to 37% of each purchase to your favorite cause! Over 500 stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, eBay, Macy's, Zales, Barnes & Noble, 1-800-Flowers, Drugstore.com, Expedia, PetSmart, and Zappos have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting your favorite cause.

To GoodShop for the NYAWC, follow these simple steps:



1. Go to [www.goodshop.com](http://www.goodshop.com).
2. Enter New York Asian Women's Center as the charity you want to support.
3. Select the store of your choice and shop.

GoodSearch.com is a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

To GoodSearch for the NYAWC, follow these simple steps:



1. Go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com).
2. Enter New York Asian Women's Center as the charity you want to support.
3. Conduct search.

Make GoodSearch your homepage. This way every time you start your web browser, GoodSearch will automatically load and be the first site you see. A link to GoodShop is also conveniently located below the search engine on the GoodSearch page. Click on the link and you will arrive at the GoodShop page.

The more people who GoodShop and GoodSearch for NYAWC, the more money will go to women and children in need. So please GoodShop and GoodSearch often and spread the word to your friends and family!

## Family Justice Centers

*Reported by JY Yoon, Volunteer*

On July 15, 2008, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg officially opened the New York City Family Justice Center in Kew Gardens, Queens. As a public-private partnership of the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, the Family Justice Center will work towards reducing barriers faced by victims of domestic violence who are seeking help.

Based on the NYC Family Justice Center's success in Brooklyn, the program will further increase the effectiveness of service delivery to break the cycle of violence in Queens.

In 2007, NYAWC was recognized for outstanding client service and collaboration with the New York City Brooklyn Family Justice Center. NYAWC will be partnering again with this innovative program in Queens to enable victims to meet with prosecutors, speak with trained counselors, and apply for housing and financial assistance all in their native language. With each new collaboration, NYAWC continues to combat domestic violence and help branch out additional centers in other boroughs.

## Hitting Home

*Reported by Teann Nghiem, Volunteer*

Thanks to funding from the Child Welfare Fund and the Asian American Federation, NYAWC has launched a new program called Hitting Home which will build a bridge between NYAWC and child welfare agencies. Through this partnership, NYAWC will provide assistance to child welfare agencies that are struggling with domestic violence issues. NYAWC will also be able to learn from the child welfare agencies' perspective, interventions, strategies and resources.

There is a strong correlation between the clients that are served at a child welfare program and the clients that are served at a domestic violence program - in fact, they often have the same clients. Both programs provide counseling, case management and advocacy as well. Despite the overlap, up until now, there has not been a program that aims to increase collaboration between the two. The NYAWC may be the first program in the nation to develop as a collaboration. Our partners include the Chinese-American Planning Council, Lower East Side Family Union, the Center for Family Life in Sunset Park, the Chinatown YMCA, and the Child Center of New York.

NYAWC will supply the tools to the partnering child welfare programs encountering domestic violence issues with a focus on preventing foster care placement among Asian American families. Clients referred by child welfare programs will be offered

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## Spotlight on Clients' and Volunteers' Experiences

### Susan's Journey Home

*Reported by Diana Lin, Volunteer*

Since moving to the U.S. in 2006, Susan has suffered from consistent physical, psychological, financial, and verbal abuse by her husband, as well as her brother-in-law and his family. Her two children have also been verbally abused by their father and have an open Administration for Children's Services (ACS) case against him.

In 2007, Susan's husband and his brother threatened to hurt her and commit her to a psychiatric institution if she did not give them her identification and immigration documents. When Susan refused, her husband held her by the neck and threw her against the wall while her brother-in-law damaged all her personal belongings.

She reported the incident to the police, and in October 2007 moved into NYAWC's shelter. There she obtained counseling and advocacy on a weekly basis, and continues to do so even after moving out of the shelter in March 2008. Through classes found by NYAWC, Susan's language skills have progressively gotten better. Susan's self-sufficiency and self-esteem continues to improve tremendously as a result of NYAWC's support. With the help of the NYAWC staff, she even initiated a criminal suit against her brother-in-law to seek justice.

Similarly, the lives of her children have improved and they are adapting well to school. At the same time, Susan was given New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) priority as a domestic violence victim. She found an apartment and moved into her new home in April. Susan recently called NYAWC and thanked all the staff who helped her tirelessly for the past few months.



*Intern and client at the Children's Monthly Birthday Party*

### Language of Smiles

*Reported by Selyn Choi, Volunteer*

Uzma has a passion for helping children. So when her cousin, an elementary school teacher, told her about the New York Asian Women's Center, she seized the opportunity to work with children from abusive homes.

Every week, Uzma supervises children at one of NYAWC's shelters as they play games and create artwork.

"No child should be deprived of his or her childhood," she says about her motivation for volunteering. "At NYAWC, they play and have fun and express themselves. They get detached from their situation, at least for an hour; they live their childhood."

Uzma, in turn, points out the childhood memories she relives while volunteering. "It's so much fun! It brightens up my day when the children laugh. The children have the greatest imaginations. They invent games, one of them even invented a secret language."

So in addition to the other work Uzma does for NYAWC - shelter coverage during staff meetings, translating for a client, Uzma plans to indefinitely continue her work with the children.

## MetLife Good Business Practices Community Award Winners Donate to NYAWC

Every year MetLife selects three MetLife Good Business Practices Community Award winners. MetLife's City Hall office was one of the three nationwide award recipients this year. As a part of the program, award recipients have an opportunity to designate charities to receive a contribution.

Lily Shao and Quinn Chan, Co-Managing Directors of the MetLife's City Hall office, selected NYAWC to receive a \$5000 contribution in their honor.

In accepting the award, NYAWC's Executive Director Larry Lee said, "This money will go to good use. We have decided to transform our new shelter to make it a more joyful place for the children to be. Our children have had difficult lives. They have seen or heard their father abuse their mother. Sometimes they blame themselves for the violence. Sometimes they are forced prematurely to be adults. Sometimes they are torn, loving both Mom and Dad. When they move to shelter they are always thrust from their home, always forced to give up their friends, and always required to change schools. We will use the donation to decorate our shelter turning it into a warmer, culturally appropriate, soothing place for our children to feel happy as well as safe."

### Hitting Home

*continued from page 2*

domestic violence services such as counseling, referrals and if needed, shelter. Staff members at child welfare programs who work with families that face domestic violence will be provided with orientation, training, and consultation. With this new partnership, Hitting Home hopes to lead the way for both child welfare and domestic violence fields to collaborate and share best practices.



New York Asian Women's Center  
39 Bowery PMB 375  
New York, NY 10002

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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  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_ Master Card

\_\_\_ American Express (check one)

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

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  
New York Asian Women's Center  
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 to  
provide emergency shelter, counseling,  
advocacy, and other crucial services to  
battered women and their children.*



*Bird's nest made at the Children's  
Monthly Birthday Party*

## In-kind Donations Needed by the Children's Program

1. School bags and back-to-school supplies
2. The weekend teenage computer & art therapy program needs:
  - \* digital cameras: new or second-hand 5-or-more megapixels resolution; 3x or better optical zoom
  - \* Photo quality printers
  - \* Laptops