



Phoenix

New York Asian Women's Center

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Winter 2009-2010

PEACE HOUSE OPENS

The New York Asian Women's Center is excited to announce the opening of its newest emergency residence, Peace House. The facility opened for operations on October 3, 2009, and is licensed to house up to 20 survivors of domestic violence. It replaces Phoenix House, a 15-bed shelter that closed the day Peace House opened. The new residence will enable NYAWC to shelter 10 more families than it did last year.



Peace House kitchen

The Chinese and Japanese character for peace combines the characters for woman and roof, an abstract depiction of a woman with a roof over her head (安). From this concept came the newest shelter's name. A modern facility, Peace House is set on landscaped grounds and has 20 bedrooms, a dining room, a group counseling room, a spacious childcare room, a client computer lab, and various other offices.

On October 30, NYAWC held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening. NYAWC supporters, including New York State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and State Senator Daniel Squadron attended the event, along with many other public officials and representatives from agencies serving domestic violence and human trafficking survivors. At the event, NYAWC honored former Board Chair and current Advisory Board Chair Kyung Yoon and former Executive Director Tuhina De O'Connor with plaques commemorating their contributions to the opening of Peace House.



New York State Senator Daniel L. Squadron, NYAWC Executive Director Larry Lee, former Executive Director Tuhina De O'Connor, Advisory Board Chair Kyung Yoon, Director of Shelter Operations Alyssa Elser, and New York State Homeless Housing and Assistance Corporation Assistant Director Brett Hebner attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Peace House.

THANKS TO 2009 DONORS

NYAWC thanks all 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

NEARLY 700 WOMEN AND 90 CHILDREN SERVED IN 2009

NYAWC, one of the largest minority domestic violence agencies 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.

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, New York, 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.

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.



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.

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 commu-

nity 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 Fund to assist in hiring a new counselor, who will provide both counseling to South Asian children and case management for their families.

Special Thanks to the Mei Hua Society

NYAWC extends sincere thanks to the Mei Hua Society for its donation of over \$11,000, the proceeds from its February 17, 2010, Chinese New Year celebration. The event, held at the Golden Unicorn Restaurant in Manhattan, included a silent auction, boutique, raffle, and traditional ten-course Chinese banquet.

The donation will support renovations at NYAWC's new community offices in Queens and Brooklyn, and will help provide services to Asian immigrant survivors of domestic violence from the two boroughs.

Additional information about this successful event and generous donation will follow in the April issue of the NYAWC e-newsletter.

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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, trafficking, 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 the clients' Thanksgiving dinner. They also provided a festive holiday tree and seasonal decorations for the Rose House shelter. The Calvary Baptist Church donated Thanksgiving baskets to both clients and staff. Each basket included a meal of chicken, stuffing, vegetables, and pie. It was the third consecutive year that Calvary Baptist Church donated Thanksgiving baskets to NYAWC.

In addition, NYAWC volunteer Emily Ma organized a holiday party for clients and their children at a location 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 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.



Volunteers wrap gifts for clients and their children.



A thank you poster by survivor's children

Home Court Advantage Protects Children of Domestic Violence Survivors

In the fight against domestic violence, NYAWC has the home court advantage. NYAWC's Home Court Advantage initiative protects its child clients from the trauma of family separation and divorce that is often a result of domestic violence. It teaches these children coping mechanisms and improves the quality of their attorney representation. It also improves the valuable counseling they receive through NYAWC.

Home Court Advantage is a collaboration between NYAWC and the Children's Law Center. It aims to help children understand the role of their attorneys, and teaches their attorneys about Asian American cultural norms that may impact the child's communication patterns. Thus, the program strengthens the attorney-client relationship, allowing for stronger representation and protection.

In addition, the project trains NYAWC counselors to more fully understand how intimate partner violence affects children, and teaches them about the laws that govern and protect children. Finally, the project helps domestic violence survivors find the words to speak to their children. Home Court Advantage has already begun attracting supporters, including the Avon Foundation for Women, which recently awarded a \$50,000 one-year grant to NYAWC for the initiative.

NYAWC LAUNCHES SAFETY FIRST

NYAWC has received a two-year \$300,000 federal grant from the Office on Violence Against Women to start a first-of-its-kind, replicable program: Safety First. NYAWC is teaming up with Lutheran Medical Center (LMC) and Lutheran Family Health Centers (LFHC) to promote safety among Asian American women through outreach and additional services at health care facilities. As the East Coast's first organization to address domestic violence issues in Asian communities, NYAWC is all too aware of linguistic and cultural barriers that prevent Asian American domestic violence victims from seeking help. Safety First attempts to remove these barriers in health care facilities.

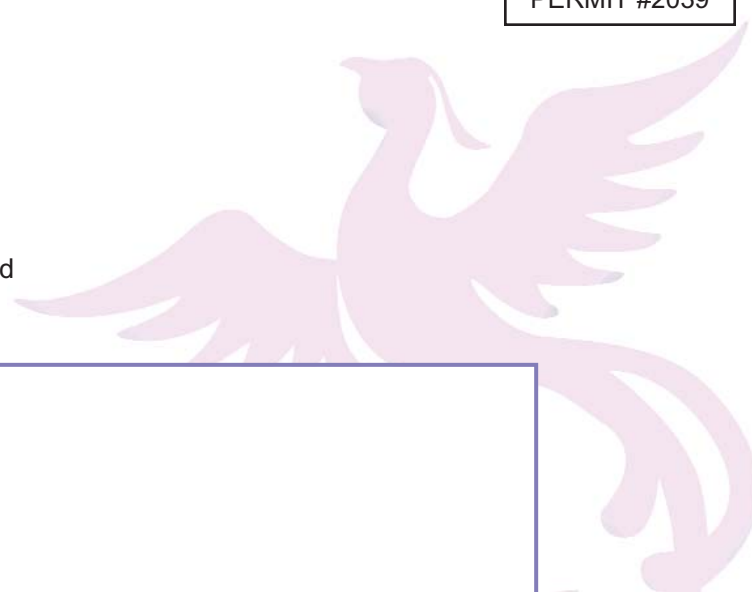
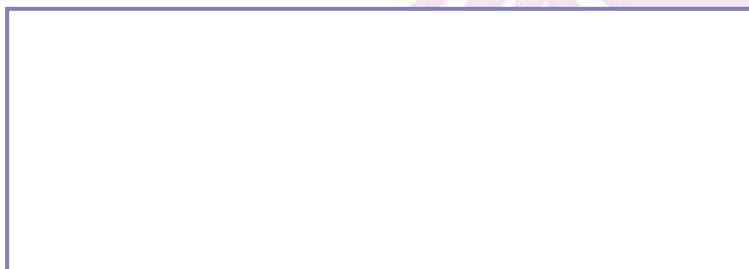
The program offers a domestic violence cultural outreach training curriculum for LMC and LFHC staff, teaching them about culturally sensitive issues. Armed with a deeper understanding of domestic violence in the Asian American community, staff are better equipped to identify and serve Asian American victims. Safety First also provides guidance about how to refer victims to emergency shelters and domestic violence services, and makes post-referral feedback available to LMC and LFHC staff. The program will also provide culturally and linguistically appropriate onsite services to domestic violence victims identified by staff, through referrals to NYAWC emergency shelters and services and through referrals to other service providers. Finally, Safety First will spread the wealth by sharing its best practices with other agencies.



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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.

Donate!

Checks payable to the NYAWC can be mailed to:

NYAWC
39 Bowery, PMB 375
New York, NY 10002

**Attn: Development
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**Or donate online at
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.