



# Phoenix

New York Asian Women's Center

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Spring - 2013

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NYAWC thanks all of our donors and supporters for their generous contributions in 2012. The following foundations, companies and individuals provided critical support\* last year.

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## NYAWC JOINS SENATOR GILLIBRAND URGING HOUSE LEADERS TO PASS THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT REAUTHORIZATION

NYAWC joined New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand to demand action on the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Reauthorization. Describing the safety of women and families as a "basic, common-sense principle," Sen. Gillibrand urged House Speaker John Boehner to give an up-or-down vote on the Senate-passed bipartisan version of the bill without any further delay.

"There is simply no room for partisan gamesmanship when we're talking about the safety of our families," said Sen. Gillibrand. "For millions of women and families, VAWA serves as a lifeline to keep them safe. Congress must finally provide victims of domestic and sexual violence with the protections and treatment they deserve."

NYAWC former client, Katty Ng and Senior Assistant Director of Client Services, Fran Gau, were among the survivors and advocates supporting this call to action. Katty introduced herself to the press media forthrightly, "Good morning. My name is Katty Ng, and I am a domestic violence survivor." Katty suffered ongoing abuse for over ten years until one day, the violence escalated to her husband threatening her daughter's life with a meat cleaver in hand. Forced to escape, she found refuge at one of NYAWC's emergency residences.

"Without this legislation [VAWA] and the resources it helped the New York Asian Women's Center provide, I would not be here today," Katty bravely advocated. "Thanks to NYAWC, we are alive today."

On February 28th, 2013 the House approved the bipartisan VAWA Act Reauthorization.

### THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA) REAUTHORIZATION: WHY IT MATTERS

March 7, 2013 -- President Obama signed the bipartisan bill that strengthened and reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) into law. At its core, the bill enables domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking survivors nationwide to continue accessing the services and resources they need to recover from the trauma of abuse.

The reauthorization then expands the scope of the survivors it fully protects, removing barriers faced by immigrant, indigenous, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender survivors when seeking the services they both need and deserve. In addition, Congress took the important step of reauthorizing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act in the same bill.

Expanding its scope even wider, the Act addresses the high rates of dating and sexual violence among our youth. Teens and young adults will have better access to prevention and intervention programs to help break the cycle of violence. College campuses will be held more accountable to making sexual assault a top priority -- by providing information to students on dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, and collecting more accurate statistics on these crimes.

Ultimately, the reauthorization of VAWA affirms the belief that no woman should have to live in fear of violence. It ensures that survivors receive the critical services they need to overcome violence and go onto live safe and healthy lives.

*We Grow with Your Support ~ Thank you to:*

The Beautiful Foundation USA, the Tides Foundation and all of our generous donors for their recent\* support. \*Since January 1, 2013

## NYAWC's OUTREACH TEAM HEADS TO ALBANY FOR ADVOCACY DAY

NYAWC's outreach team, the Coalition for Asian American Children & Families (CACF), and other local Asian serving organizations went to Albany for Advocacy Day. Together, we are working to advocate for the Disaggregation Bill

(A1186/S2348) introduced by Assembly Member Ronald Kim and Senator Toby Ann Stavinsky. This bill demands that New York State collects, analyzes and shares disaggregated data on the diverse Asian Pacific American community.



CACF Executive Director, Assembly Member, Ronald Kim, NYAWC Project Free Manager, So Yeon Kang, and other advocates at Advocacy Day in Albany, NY.

Disaggregated data would highlight misinformed community stereotypes around key issues such as, wealth distribution, immigration status and trauma. Disabusing these stereotypes would enable resources to be accurately distributed based on actual, and proven, need. This is particularly evident when considering the culturally and linguistically Asian-American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. For example, disaggregated statistics might indicate a concentration of a specific ethnicity or language need in a community (e.g. Sri Lankans in Staten Island). Now, informed by this statistic, NYAWC can advocate ensuring that local service providers (e.g. private therapists) are trained to best work with this group. Complementing NYAWC's culturally and linguistically sensitive services, this would enable us to provide salubrious continued care and support over and above our core scope of services.

## V-DAY: ONE BILLION RISING MOVEMENT

NYAWC rose with One Billion Rising, the largest global action campaign to end violence against women. Culminating on Valentine's Day 2013, over one billion people in 207 countries came together to strike, dance and RISE against violence.

Pledging to do our part to end violence against women, NYAWC staff shared what motivates them to advocate on behalf of abused women.

Completing the phrase, "I will stand against domestic violence because..." in English, Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Hindi, responses ranged from the joy of empowering women to more hard hitting messages, like the need to speak out even louder on issues of abuse. V-Day has since passed, but NYAWC will leverage the momentum from the day of action to move us forward in our effort to empower women to live free from violence.

See more of our staff photo responses on NYAWC's Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/nyawc.org](http://www.facebook.com/nyawc.org)



NYAWC staff and volunteers taking the One Billion Rising pledge

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## REVEAL NYC HOSTS VALENTINE'S DAY MAKEOVER EVENT FOR SURVIVORS

February 16, 2013 - - "Joy," "transformative," "encouraging," "beautiful," "renewal," "love," and "peace" were all words used to describe the 2013 Valentine's Day Makeover Event for survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking held by Reveal NYC. The



Reveal NYC Volunteer laughing and feeling the joy of giving a survivor a brand new look.

goal of the Makeover Event is to "instill confidence and celebrate the inherent beauty of the women -- no strings attached." Seventeen of NYAWC's clients participated receiving a head to toe makeover from fashion and beauty industry professionals. Our clients were celebrated for their beauty and strength, and encouraged to keep working towards safe and independent futures.

Special thanks to Reveal NYC for hosting such a wonderful event and supporting the recovery and

renewal process for all survivors. Reveal NYC is a New York City-based organization that aims to foster uplifting experiences for women survivors of domestic violence.

## NYAWC'S FRAN GAU PARTICIPATES IN THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

March 15th, 2013 -- The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) adopts the Agreed Conclusions on the theme of elimination of violence against women and girls. NYAWC's Fran Gau, Senior Assistant Director of Client Services represented NYAWC at this critical session of the CSW. The Agreed Conclusions recognizes the correlation between women's sexual and reproductive rights and gender-based violence. It also addresses issues of human trafficking.

Bea Hanson, Acting Director of the United States Department of Justice on Violence Against Women (OVW), summed up the day with a sense of optimism: "It was wonderful to witness the CSW adopt such an important Agreed Conclusion through this spirit of collaboration and through a shared goal of ending violence against women and girls around the world." NYAWC looks forward to working in this collaborative spirit to bring about an end to violence against women.

## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER, ALEX ONG

Get to know Alex Ong, NYAWC volunteer since 2003, Volunteer Council Co-Chair and the newest NYAWC Board member.

### Defining moment as an NYAWC volunteer:

"A former client recognized me years later at a NYAWC holiday party. She started crying and said she was grateful for having taken my Microsoft Excel classes. After she left the shelter, she helped a local business owner computerize his shop. As a result, he was able to expand his business to 15 locations.

This client's perseverance and hard work coupled with her new skills helped her gain self-sufficiency. She forged a new life for



Newest board member and Volunteer Council Co-Chair, Alex Ong

herself--I'm just happy to have been a very small part of it."

### Goals as Volunteer Council Co-Chair:

"The primary goal of the Volunteer Council is to increase retention rates and have wonderful, long-term volunteers that stay with NYAWC for years. We want to build a sense of community among volunteers."

### New Role as a Board member:

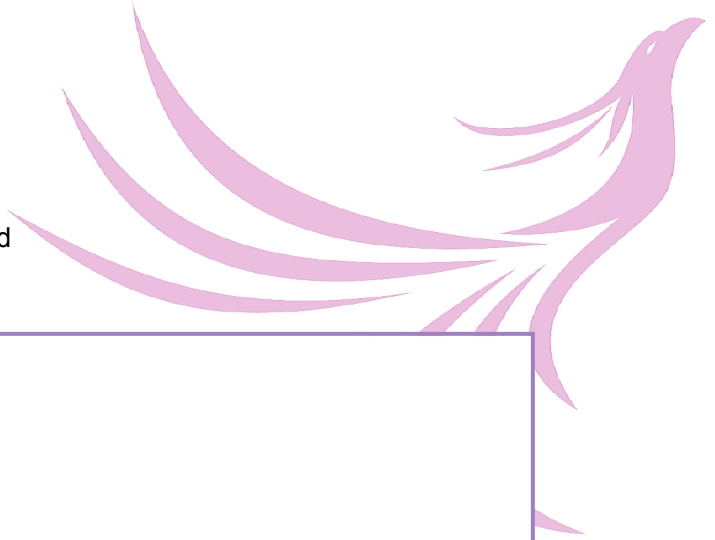
"I am chairing the 31st Anniversary Benefit Gala. Today, my calendar is booked four weeks out. Every night is a networking event, dinner, fundraiser or gala. I welcome the challenge, and am working very hard to make this year's event a success!"



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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 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 NYAWC  
can be mailed to:

**NYAWC**  
**32 Broadway, 10th Floor**  
**New York, NY 10004**

**Attn: Development  
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**Or donate online at**  
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Fill out the form on the left and  
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*Your contributions will help provide  
emergency shelter, counseling,  
advocacy, and other crucial services to  
abused women and their children.*