

October Is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Rihanna. Madonna. Tina Turner. What do these three women have in common? Grammy Award winning singers. Super Bowl halftime show performers. Domestic violence survivors.

These women were able to draw the public's attention towards the abuse inflicted on them by their intimate partners largely because of their high-profile status. But what about the countless women who are not celebrities and whose ordeals do not make it on the evening news?

One in 4 women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime. Aside from the obvious signs of physical violence such as scars and bruises, there are also the more subtle signs of emotional and psychological abuse. Recognizing them can help save a life.

Does your partner ever:

- 1.) Publicly shame you?
- 2.) Threaten to kill you or harm someone you love?
- 3.) Stalk or follow you?
- 4.) Take your money or deny you financial resources?
- 5.) Threaten suicide to force you to do something?

NYAWC offers extensive support for victims of domestic violence. Visit <http://www.nyawc.org/info/what-is-dv.html> for an extensive list of how to identify abuse and the myths and realities of domestic violence. If you or someone you know is a victim, please call the Center's 24-hour, multilingual hotline to learn more about available options: 1-888-888-7702.

Grants Not Taken for Granted

The New York Asian Women's Center is a proud and grateful recipient of a \$2.1 million multi-year award from the New York State Office on Victim Services (OVS) Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim and Witness Assistance Grant Program.

Elizabeth Cronin, Director of OVS, said, "No one should have to face the aftermath of a crime alone." In the spirit of this effort, NYAWC endeavors to ensure that all Asian survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in New York City will receive uncompromised access to the help they need to recover from the trauma of abuse.

Guided by NYAWC's culturally-competent, trauma-informed model of practice, Moving Ahead Positively (MAP), a menu of specialized services will be available to survivors. The offered services include: counseling focused on positive relationship building, self-empowering advocacy, emergency housing, support groups to redefine community, along with wellness services.

At 1.23 million or 15%, Asian-Americans are the fastest growing immigrant group in NYC. OVS funding fills a critical gap in services for the diverse pan-Asian community—small and large ethnic enclaves alike. It will enable NYAWC to reach survivors from these often isolated communities and help them break free from the confines of silence and trauma.

NYAWC would also like to acknowledge the following donors for their generous grants: The Estée Lauder Companies Inc., Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, the Manhattan Delegation, NYC Council's Domestic Violence and Empowerment (DoVE) Initiative and Elder Abuse Enhancement Fund, and the Offices of Council Members Margaret Chin, Daniel Dromm, and Peter Koo.

Save the Date

NYAWC's 2nd Annual Tree of Hope Ceremony
Thursday, October 30th | 6-8 PM
Flushing Library's Auditorium

Join us for an evening to commemorate Domestic Violence Awareness Month with guest speakers, performers, and other community members who will write wishes and pledges to take action. For more information, please contact Karen Zhou: kzhou@nyawc.org.



Support Team Phoenix at the TCS NYC Marathon!

The TCS New York City Marathon on November 2nd, 2014 is fast-approaching, but it's not too late to get involved.

Here's how:

- **Donate.** Each runner is fundraising \$3000 for NYAWC and the women and children we serve, and they need your help! Please check out and consider donating at <https://www.crowdrise.com/teamphoenix2014nycmarathon>. Every little bit counts.
- **Cheer.** NYAWC is assembling a team of supporters to cheer on Team Phoenix runners on Marathon day. If you have bottomless energy or the ability to hurrah a group, we want you! And if you bring your friends along, even better! Contact Carvey Hor at chor@nyawc.org to learn more.

Hope to see you on November 2nd!



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Staff Spotlight: Albert Chan



Q&A with Albert Chan, LMSW, Residential Manager of Shelter Operations at Peace House

Q: *What brought you to the NYAWC?*

AC: I am a retired lieutenant of the NYPD. I was on the force for 27 years. When I joined, I was one of the few Asians. I was assigned to Undercover Operations infiltrating organized Chinese crime rings. I was unique because I could speak the language and knew the culture. Later, I worked in the Organized Crime Control Bureau. There, I worked with victims of human trafficking. Many were Asian women who were deceived and conned into working in massage parlors. Many felt they had no way out. These women were in a vulnerable position; so many financial obligations, and so few options.

Q: *What do you enjoy most about working at NYAWC?*

AC: At the NYPD I always had female bosses: my sergeant, my lieutenant, my captain. So I feel right at home here where 90% of my co-workers are women. I'm so amazed at how many energetic and intelligent colleagues I get to work with. I've learned so much here. Even an old man like me...I'm still growing! And I'm happy to be growing with this agency.

PHOTOGRAPH BY YI AN QUACH

Lissa Crane: Reflections of a Hotline Advocate

When hotline advocates sit at their stations, they never know what to expect when they pick up a ringing telephone. Is someone simply calling for information? Is it a life-threatening emergency? Is it a wrong number? It can be nerve-wracking despite the comprehensive training hotline advocates, like Lissa Crane, receive. "I came to realize that I wasn't there because I had been endowed with magical powers to solve problems. I was there to listen."

One particular caller stood out to Lissa. She was a Mandarin-speaking woman who left a boyfriend who abused her. She was living in the US, a country that was foreign to her, and was scared for herself and her baby. Lissa went through various options with the woman and made sure that someone followed up with her.

A few weeks later, Lissa was at the shelter where the caller ended up finding refuge. They talked, and Lissa also babysat the client's baby. She noticed a big change in the woman's voice. "I could tell that she felt safe, and that she now had friends and allies. She was even smiling."

Lissa summarizes her feelings about working at the hotline thusly. "After the caller hangs up, I hope that they felt less alone, that someone cared about their problems, and that they had options and support."

After a year of dedicated volunteer work at NYAWC, Lissa has returned home to Massachusetts to apply to PhD programs in Anthropology.



PHOTOGRAPH BY LUCAS HUANG



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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 women who have overcome domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual violence, and other forms of abuse.

Support NYAWC!

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



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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:

NYAWC

32 Broadway, 10th floor

New York, NY 10004

Attn: Director of Development

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 abused women and their children.