

## 4th NYAWC Staff Member Receives NASW Honor

The NYC Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers awarded Aditi Bhattacharya, NYAWC's Supervisory Counselor and Manager of the One Again (Sexual Assault) Program, the Emerging Leader Award.

At NYAWC, Aditi piloted a program under One Again named Pathways to Healing (P2H). Pathways to Healing offers survivors of sexual assault the opportunity to participate in wellness practices, such as trauma-sensitive yoga, acupuncture, and qi gong, along with a creative arts-based support group that prioritizes healing over directly confronting painful memories or rehashing traumatic events. The program is unique in its approach, and if successful, can be promoted to immigrant survivors all over the country.

Around the office, Aditi is known for being an empathetic counselor, a trusted supervisor, and a fierce advocate with an eloquent way with words. She credits her colleagues and mentors at NYAWC for creating a "creative, ambitious, and exciting" environment in which to work and take on new challenges. "It energizes me to keep plugging away at my ideas and create bigger and better programming that brings highly progressive supports to more and more immigrant Americans all around the country."

Aditi joins Executive Director Larry Lee, former Director of Client Services Fran Gau, and former Assistant Director of Client Services Julie Richards as past NYAWC recipients of NASW awards.

PHOTOGRAPH OF ADITI BHATTACHARYA COURTESY OF ERIK TENG



## NYAWC Joins the Freedom Network



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF YI AN QUACH

NYAWC Executive Director Larry Lee (far left) and Project Free Manager Mary Caparas (far right) with conference panelists Shandra Woworuntu, Susan Bissell, Ninotchka Rosca, and Amy Tai.

Human trafficking is the enslavement and exploitation of those most vulnerable at the hand of those most manipulative. The trafficked are viewed as commodities, stripped of their basic human rights, and reduced to labor and commercial sex machines.

NYAWC is proud to announce our membership in the Freedom Network, a national alliance of experienced human trafficking advocates that focuses on the rights and needs of survivors. NYAWC's survivors emboldened us to proclaim the human rights approach of the Freedom Network.

"Even though the prevailing wisdom classifies human trafficking as a primarily criminal justice matter that says there is a victim who needs to be rescued; that prevention equates to arresting "Johns" to "end demand" of prostitution, NYAWC wanted a framework that more authentically represented the narratives of survivors of both sex and labor trafficking with whom we are honored to work. We wanted a paradigm that informs the services we provide and affects real change, not just comforts us for taking any action," said Larry Lee, NYAWC Executive Director at our 2nd Annual Anti-Human Trafficking Conference.

As a member, NYAWC is taking a stance against the supply counterpart to the demand. In small ways, we all fuel the supply: by buying pirated DVDs, indulging in a cheap meal or massage. But at the root of human trafficking lies poverty. And the catalyst for trafficking is the exploitation of the impoverished or vulnerable for gain. We must all be responsible to each other in curtailing our participation in the increasing supply of the exploited. We must all be creative and inventive in real, sustainable ways for survivors to break the cycle of poverty that enslaves them to their traffickers.

Fortified with staff that hail from nearly a dozen Asian countries to establishing wellness programs with Eastern practices familiar to clients, NYAWC brings to Freedom Network's table its vast experience and expertise of working within the Asian communities in New York City. By joining this alliance, NYAWC hopes to strengthen and expand its existing network of service providers to best serve as many trafficking survivors as possible, wherever they may come from.

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# Fall 2014 Highlights

## 32nd Annual

## NYAWC Phoenix Awards Gala

OCTOBER 23: NYAWC presented the Phoenix Award to His Excellency Sumio Kusaka, Ambassador and Consul General of Japan in New York, pictured at right with Mrs. Kusaka, NYAWC Executive Director Larry Lee and Andrea Jung, CEO and President of Grameen America. The evening raised \$315,000.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ERIK TENG



## Tree of Hope Ceremony

OCTOBER 30: The Evergreen Choir of the YWCA of Queens, an impassioned group of Korean women seniors, showed off their Korean-American spirit with a medley of Korean folk and patriotic American songs.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF NYAWC

## NYAWC and Estee Lauder Partner to Pamper Clients



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF NYAWC

Personal well-being and personal relationships are often sacrificed by women involved in abusive situations. NYAWC and Estee Lauder partnered together to host its first Five Senses event on November 8th in the Jones Auditorium at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church to give survivors of violence a chance to relax, renew, and relate. The event brought together 40 Estee Lauder volunteers with women and children for a day of pampering: manicures, massages, makeovers, aromatherapy, gifting, lunches and tastings. The event gave these strong individuals time to focus on self-care skills and relationship building. NYAWC could not do all this alone. Generous corporate partners like Estee Lauder not only provide financial support but also innovative ways for survivors to reengage in leisure, like workshops, wellness events or outings. Volunteers from these partnerships also have the satisfaction of simply doing something good for people who deserve it. The Five Senses event revitalized and recharged—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 women who have overcome domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual violence, and other forms of abuse.

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For more info, visit:

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**NYAWC**

**32 Broadway, 10th floor**

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