



# Phoenix

New York Asian Women's Center

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

March 2012

## THANKS TO 2011 DONORS

NYAWC thanks all donors for their generous contributions in 2011. The following organizations, companies, and individuals provided critical support\* last year:

Asian American Federation  
C.J. Huang Foundation  
CBS Corporation  
Consulate General of Japan in New York  
Estee Lauder Companies, Inc.  
Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church  
Goldman Sachs  
Grace and Mercy Foundation  
Hedge Funds Care  
Jason Ma and Vivian Lau  
Jay Ptashek and Karen Elizaga  
Kirkland & Ellis LLP  
Korean American Community Foundation  
Lin & Susie Chen Foundation  
Lower Manhattan Development Corporation  
Morgan Stanley Foundation  
Ong Family Foundation  
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation  
Rocking Moon Foundation  
Rotary Club of West Hempstead  
Tiger Baron Foundation  
TJX Foundation  
Verizon Foundation  
WABC-TV  
Wei Wei Wang Foundation

\*Contributions of \$4,000 or more

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LARRY LEE RECEIVES HIGHEST HONOR FROM NASW-NYC

The New York City Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW-NYC) bestowed NYAWC's very own Executive Director, Larry Lee, with its highest honor as a "Top Leader" in the social work profession at its 5th Annual Leadership Awards Dinner on December 1, 2011. The event boasted over 500 attendees, including New York City's Comptroller John C. Liu, and NASW-NYC Executive Director Robert Schachter.

Larry Lee is one of only four Top Leaders chosen for 2011 and one of the 7 awardees since the award category began in 2010. As a recipient of the NASW-NYC Top Leaders Award, Mr. Lee stood out from the pack. While the 6 other recipients have been either heads of federations or leaders in academia, he was the only recipient from an agency. "This is a very important award," said Mr. Lee, "We're really trying to develop a strong agency, and I see this award as being symbolic of that – being a top leader in a top organization."

"In a sense," said Mr. Lee, "this is an award for NYAWC."



NYAWC Executive Director Larry Lee (center, back row) with former and current staff.

## NYAWC ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

On December 18, 2011 NYAWC staff and volunteers spread holiday cheer at the agency's annual holiday party. Thanks to the Asian American/Asian Research Institute of CUNY, who offered their space for the second year in a row, NYAWC provided a safe place where domestic violence and human trafficking survivors and their children could celebrate the holiday with each other.

Over 100 former and current NYAWC clients and their children enjoyed the free food and drinks served by NYAWC staff and volunteers from Citigroup's Asian Network. While the mothers relaxed and socialized, their children participated in numerous activities. The children got their creative juices flowing at the arts and crafts table sponsored by the Children's Chinese Book Garden. Santa Claus happily posed for pictures with the children who were, in turn, able to keep the pictures taken with him.

(cont. on pg 2)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jessica S. Lee – Chair  
Karen Elizaga – Vice Chair  
Mika Bouvard – Treasurer  
Joan R. Cheng – Secretary  
Zal Dabhoiwala  
Ankur Gandhi  
Narges M. Kakalia  
Teena H. Lee  
Shelley Wald  
Stephanie Yu

(Cont. from pg 1)

Children eagerly picked up their chosen gifts, made possible through the support of New York Cares and Ernst & Young. “It was so cute to see the children so excited about their gifts – going to the floor, opening them, and playing with them right then and there,” said Ojaswi Kafle, NYAWC Development/ Communications Associate who helped plan the event. Yet, the Christmas gifts didn’t stop there. Thanks to Avon Products, Inc. and Avon Asian Network, who donated gift bags, NYAWC women clients also left with a little something.

But perhaps the best part of the 2011 NYAWC holiday party reflects the best part of the holiday spirit – a spirit of love, peace, and whole-hearted giving. For the second year in a row, all of the participants in NYAWC’s mentoring program for youth exposed to domestic violence volunteered at the party. “Since this is our children volunteering for our event, it’s special,” said Jennifer Chen, NYAWC’s Children’s Program Manager who also helped plan the event, “some of the kids who were complaining about volunteering at first ended up changing their minds by the end of the event. One kid even said he would do it again— for a teenage boy to give that kind of response is something in itself.”

## NYAWC CELEBRATES 30 YEARS!

A look back at the highlights of the past three decades with NYAWC.

### 1982-1991: The Launch

- NYAWC was founded in 1982 as a graduate school student project.
- 10 women attended the first meeting to discuss domestic violence in the Asian community.
- NYAWC organized the first emergency shelter program for DV survivors on the East Coast in 1985.
- NYAWC established the first ever 24-hour Asian multi-lingual hotline in NYC in 1990.

### 1992-2001: The Foundation

- Comprehensive services, including counseling, case management and advocacy, became available for survivors.
- The Children’s Program was launched in 1995, offering counseling, play therapy, and parenting skills services.
- NYAWC opened our second shelter facility in 1999.

### 2002-2011: The Expansion

- In 2004, NYAWC purchased Rose House, our first owned shelter. Our second, Peace House, opened 5 years later.
- Project Free, a program for human trafficking survivors, launched in 2005.
- We began offering employment readiness support.
- NYAWC initiated the community education and domestic violence prevention campaign Project Speak Out in 2010.
- Transitional housing became available in 2011, as well as immigration relief services and wellness activities.
- NYAWC has expanded to nearly 50 staff members and over 150 active volunteers.

Celebrate NYAWC’s 30th birthday with us on Thursday, October 18, 2012 at the Edison Ballroom in midtown Manhattan. Stay tuned for details.

## SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF: LAUREN BURKE, ESQ.

I spent my pre-k Saturdays a bit differently than most of my peers, as a toddler crush led me to enroll in weekly Chinese language classes where I was the only non-Asian participant. This introductory class sparked a lifelong interest in the language and its people. I studied in China during high school and college, and returned during my second summer of law school to conduct human rights research. After graduating, I received a Skadden Fellowship to work with Chinese child victims of human trafficking.

I decided to team up with NYAWC because it was the only place my clients could receive culturally competent counseling and case management services. In 2011, NYAWC and I began exploring the possibility of offering in-house legal representation to the domestic violence and human trafficking survivors the agency serves. This plan became a reality when NYAWC received a generous grant to launch immigration relief services last year.

The survivors NYAWC serves have already gone through so many hurdles. Accessing legal services that will help them stay here with their loved ones and embrace the opportunities this country offers shouldn’t be one of them.

As NYAWC’s first staff attorney, I assist 40 to 50 survivors with their immigration needs—in Mandarin if needed! I also provide workshops on legal rights to the women in our holistic wellness program, Asian Women Empowerment, and meet with counselors weekly to answer questions regarding our women’s immigration claims.

I am so thrilled to be able to provide free, culturally competent legal services that allow survivors to remain in the U.S.



Attorney Lauren Burke with friends from Chinese class.

## MARATHON, CIRCUS, MAKEUP AND MORE

The runners' perseverance, strength, and stamina as they ran the 26.2-mile ING NYC marathon on November 6, 2011 were truly inspiring. In addition to meeting this physical challenge, the runners raised over a total of \$50,000 for NYAWC. Thank you to our runners Cindy Brower, Brent Canada, Susan Choy, Joe DiCioccio, Lily Divino, Mia Fernandez, Norbert Gehrke, Stephen Levey, Maria Lopez, Patricia McCollough, Joanna Paul, Jay Ptashke, Rameliza Ratio, Mariam Reiter, Jessica Rodriguez, Lisa Smith, Emily Strange, Rhodora Ursua, and Isha Weerasinghe. NYAWC also thanks Fuad Karimov, Frances Silva, and over 550 donors for their support.

If you would like to learn about participating in the 2012 ING NYC Marathon in support of NYAWC, please contact [nkubon@nyawc.org](mailto:nkubon@nyawc.org).

NYAWC thanks the Ong Family Foundation, Asian American Federation and Coalition for Asian Children and Families for the day of magic and wonder for NYAWC children and their mothers at the Big Apple Circus on November 17, 2011.

In honor of Valentine's Day, NYAWC clients celebrated the beauty in themselves with the help of Reveal. On February 11, 2012, Reveal volunteers pampered the women by providing head to toe makeovers— from stunning hairstyles and to shiny shoes. In addition to a souvenir of new outfits, the women walked away with fond memories of a relaxing afternoon they truly deserved.



Cheering on the runners.



Reveal volunteers pampered the truly deserving women with head to toe makeovers that included stunning hairstyles and new outfits.

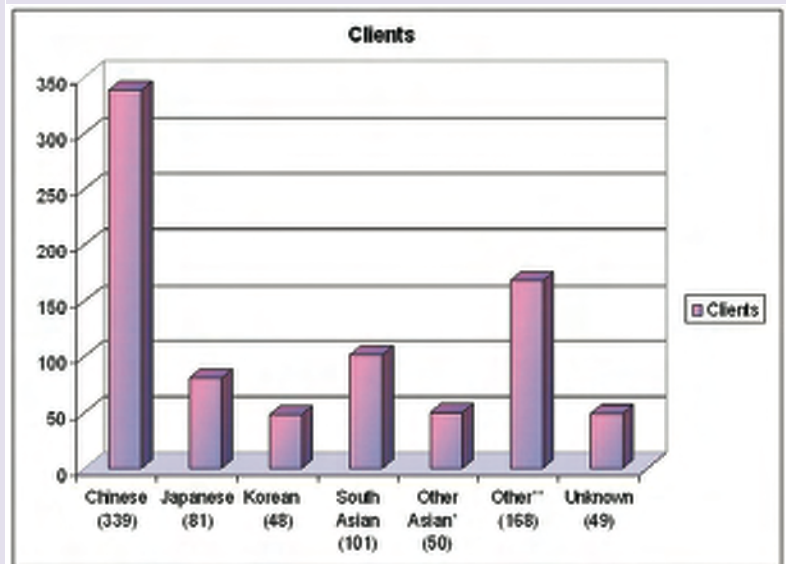
## OVER 800 WOMEN AND CHILDREN SERVED IN 2011

NYAWC, as one of the largest minority led and governed agencies providing DV services in New York State, continues to help women and their children live free of abuse and thrive. Below is a quick look at how many people NYAWC helped in 2011:

- 718 women and 109 children received free and confidential services, including counseling and advocacy assistance. Nine men were also served.
- 107 women and 85 children were sheltered in NYAWC's temporary emergency residences.
- NYAWC answered 5,685 call on its 24/7 multilingual hotline.

### STAY CONNECTED WITH NYAWC

"Like" our Facebook page at  
[www.facebook.com/nyawc.org](http://www.facebook.com/nyawc.org)



Nearly 75% of the 836 NYAWC clients were from Asian American communities.

## Phoenix Newsletter

### Editor-in-Chief

Florence Mui

### Managing Editor

Ojaswi Kafle

### Editor

Sabrina Bachai

### Volunteer Coordinator

Nicole Kubon

### Contributing Writers

Lauren Burke

Nicole Kubon

Ojaswi Kafle

Selyn Choi





New York Asian Women's Center  
32 Broadway, 10th Floor  
New York, NY 10004

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
NEW YORK NY  
PERMIT #2039

Return Service Requested



**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](http://www.nyawc.org).

### Donate!

Checks payable to the NYAWC can be mailed to:

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

**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 provide emergency shelter, counseling, advocacy, and other crucial services to battered women and their children.*