



MAY 2008

AGC Quarterly

FIVE YEARS OF SUPPORTING ASIAN AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS

On May 21st, Asian Giving Circle will award a total of \$22,000 to four local Asian American organizations. The awards reception, to be held at Phoenix Restaurant, will mark the fifth year of grant making for one of the first-ever Asian Giving Circles in the United States. Looking back, we can remember our first public event, held on December 5, 2002, at the Andrew Bae Gallery. Since then, we have supported over a dozen local Asian American organizations and inspired similar giving circles in five other cities, whose combined donations exceed \$300,000. What we have created together has both financial and symbolic significance for the Asian community and the people who work at Asian American not-for-profit organizations. It is with great pride and joy that our grant recipients accept the AGC grant which is made possible by the donations of fellow Asian Americans who have made the decision to give deliberately, collectively and across ethnic lines. We are grateful to all of our members for their contributions and look forward to many more years of working together.

New Members

DAN & JULIA GIN
SUSAN UPDIKE

GRANTEE PROFILE

Apna Ghar

Since 1990, Apna Ghar has provided housing, counseling, life and job skills development and legal services to over 5,000 victims of domestic violence. It is the first and longest running domestic violence shelter established specifically for South Asian women in the Chicago metropolitan region. Today, Apna Ghar serves women and children from South Asia, Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia, the Middle East and African countries. Staff and volunteers of Apna Ghar

collectively speak 13 different languages (Persian, Arabic, Korean and Polish, in addition to many South Asian languages).

In 2007, Apna Ghar received an Asian Giving Circle grant for its Safe Communities Initiative. This initiative is a state-wide program that seeks to educate individuals—who are likely to be the first point of contact with a victim of domestic violence—about the challenges facing low-income, limited English speaking immigrant women who are trying to escape family violence.

So far this year, Apna Ghar has provided approximately 150 hours of presentations and trainings to various groups, including judges, law enforcement officials, law schools, medical and hospital professionals, religious leaders and organizations and social service providers. They have also taken their message to the general public through media outreach including a monthly call-in program on Chicago Access Network Television (CAN TV) and an interview on WXAV-FM (88.3).

Apna Ghar has 18 full-time and five part-time staff and 75 trained volunteers. It is widely seen as a leader in the field and increasingly approached by other agencies for advice and assistance.

(L-R) Elizabeth Sherman (community advocate), Tejal Shah (shelter supervisor) and Prem Mehta (community educator)



The 2008 Grant Recipients

This year's grant awards are intended to support organizational development and capacity building activities. We received many worthwhile proposals, but in the end, the membership voted to award the 2008 grants to the following organizations.

CHINESE AMERICA SERVICE LEAGUE, a comprehensive social service agency serving Chinese Americans, will receive \$6,000 to strengthen their volunteer program.

HAMDARD CENTER FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, a multicultural social service agency serving the South Asian, Middle Eastern and Bosnian communities of Illinois, will receive \$4,500 to conduct a strategic plan.

JAPANESE AMERICA SERVICE COMMITTEE, a cultural and social service agency for Japanese Americans, will receive \$4,500 to assess their plans to provide senior programs in the northern suburbs.

SILK ROAD THEATRE PROJECT, a not-for-profit theater company that showcases playwrights of Asian, Middle Eastern and Mediterranean backgrounds, will receive \$7,000 in support of fundraising and capacity building.

ANNUAL AWARDS RECEPTION AND MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

**Wednesday,
May 21, 2008
5:30-7:00 p.m.
Phoenix Restaurant
2131 South Archer Ave.
Chicago**

Please join us for the annual grant awards reception and membership drive. The event will recognize the 2008 grant recipients and also provide an opportunity for prospective members to learn more about the Asian Giving Circle.

To attend, please e-mail asiangivingcircle@cct.org or call 312.616.6769 by Friday, May 16.

MEMBER PROFILE

SAMEENA MUSTAFA



Sameena Mustafa is a director at ProTen Realty Group, a commercial real estate brokerage firm. In 2006, Sameena joined AGC in order to be more strategic with her philanthropy. Soon after joining, she volunteered for the membership committee with the goal of helping AGC recruit more members from the corporate world. In addition to AGC, Sameena is involved in the Northwestern Alumni Association, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and the National Association of Asian American Professionals.

Sameena is passionate about women's issues, especially in the areas of leadership, health and education. She managed a clinic for Planned Parenthood and currently runs the Chicago chapter of Indus Women Leaders, a South Asian women's leadership forum. In the future, she sees herself doing volunteer work in India to help make a difference for women and girls.

Born in Evanston and raised in Chicago's Edgebrook neighborhood, she is the third of five sisters born to parents originally from Hyderabad, India. Now a resident of Rogers Park, Sameena enjoys live jazz, theater, classic movies, cooking and traveling.

Asian Giving Circle is a volunteer-driven organization that raises money for Asian American not-for-profit organizations in Chicago. It operates as a donor advised fund of The Chicago Community Trust and receives administrative support from the Trust and the Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (AAPIP). To join AGC, please contact Jerome Harper at 312.616.8000 ext. 149 or asiangivingcircle@cct.org.

For general questions or comments about *AGC Quarterly*, please contact Kathy Im at kim@macfound.org.



c/o The Chicago Community Trust
111 East Wacker Drive, Suite 1400
Chicago, Illinois 60601