



Recognizing that few philanthropic dollars go to Asian American communities and far fewer are ever earmarked for women, the **Asian Women Giving Circle** seeks to change the tide.

**Our Mission.** The Asian Women Giving Circle is a group of Asian American women working to address the future and hopes of Asian American women and their families. Our mission is to raise resources to support Asian American serving, Asian American women-led social change organizations in New York City's under-served communities.

**Who We Are:** We are a volunteer collective of diverse Asian American women working to raise resources for the Asian American community in New York City.

**Why fund Asian American organizations?** Because a mere one percent of all philanthropic dollars is invested in Asian American communities. Because Asian Americans have been historically under-represented as funders *and* as grant recipients. Because to *not* fund these organizations is to buy into the myth of Asian Americans as a "model minority." Because putting philanthropic dollars into community-based social change organizations is putting money into the hands of local experts working to make our society systems more equitable.

**Why women-led?** Because many of us have led organizations and we want to support other women doing the same. Because women-led, family-serving organizations receive few philanthropic dollars. Because investing in women is investing in the social fabric that holds local communities together. Because there is still inequity. Because gender (still) matters.

**Make Your Gift and Cast Your Vote.** We will issue a Request for Proposals in January 2006 to a wide range of Asian American serving organizations. We will review the proposals, visit organizations, and then assemble an e-mail ballot of promising projects. All donors to our Circle will have the opportunity to learn about the organizations and then cast their votes. In Spring 2006, we will announce the grantees, and in June 2006, we will host an event for grantees and donors to meet, talk, learn, and build a social justice movement together.

**How does the Asian Women Giving Circle Work?** Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (AAPIP) is the fiscal sponsor of the group, and will receive and hold all donations. AAPIP is a national membership and philanthropic advocacy organization dedicated to bridging philanthropy and Asian Pacific American communities. AAPIP will distribute our funds solely at our instruction and will keep a ten percent administrative fee to host our Asian Women Giving Circle. All remaining money will be distributed in grants.

**There is no national Asian women's fund in the United States today. The Asian Women Giving Circle is potentially the seed for such a fund.**

## **Founding Circle Members**

**Antara Rini Banerjee** is a program officer at the Overbrook Foundation which funds human rights, environment, and youth development. Previously, Rini was the Program Director at The New York Women's Foundation. Rini serves on the boards of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy, South Asian Youth Action!, the Funders Collaborative on Youth Organizing, and Women & Philanthropy governance committee. She received her Master's Degree at Columbia University, School of International Affairs in human rights and economic development and her B. Sc. in finance from NYU, Stern School of Business. She is also the mother of two beautiful boys.

**Aiyoung Choi** is a consultant to nonprofit organizations in strategic planning, board development, and human resource management. She provides onsite consultation and training, and facilitates retreats. She is on the boards of the Korean American Family Service Center, Asian Americans for Equality, and the New York Women's Foundation and is also a trustee of the Manhattan Country School and advisor to the Korean American Community Foundation and Hermandad, Inc. Born in Korea and raised in China and Japan, she is currently involved in producing a documentary film on the Korean diaspora in Cuba which she visited in 2004.

**Melinda Chu** is a paralegal in the Time Inc. legal department focusing on editorial legal review and litigation concerning media, contract, and employment law. She is on the Steering Committee of the Asian American Association of Time Inc and an active participant in New York Cares. She served on the Allocations Committee at the New York Women's Foundation and the benefit committee for the Institute for Labor and the Community.

**Tuhina De O'Connor** is the Executive Director of the New York Asian Women's Center, which provides direct services to Asian women and families, works to raise public awareness about domestic violence, advocates for the rights of battered women, and creates an agenda for social change. The Center received the prestigious Governor's Award to End Domestic Violence in 2002.

**Patricia Eng**, is the Senior Vice President of Domestic Violence Programs at Safe Horizon, one of the largest private providers of domestic violence services in the country. She has worked for 23 years to support women and children who experience domestic violence, sexual assault, and incest. Ms. Eng is the founder of the New York Asian Women's Center, the first domestic violence organization on the East Coast to advocate locally and nationally for battered Asian women and their children. Prior to joining Safe Horizon, Ms. Eng was the Program Officer for Safety at the Ms. Foundation for Women.

**Shinhee Han, Ph. D.** is a psychotherapist in private practice in New York City. Her specializations include working with Asian American adolescents and adults, international adoption, LGBT and academic issues. Previously, Shinhee was a staff member at the counseling services of the University of Chicago, Northwestern University, Barnard College and Columbia University. She received her B.A. from the University of Minnesota, her MSW from the University of Chicago, and her Ph.D from New York University. She lives in New York City with her partner and son.

**Hali Lee** was born in Korea and grew up in Kansas City. She graduated from Princeton University, studied Buddhism at Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand, then received a Masters in Social Work from NYU Hali has worked primarily in the domestic violence field – first at a shelter then as Executive Director of the Korean American Family Service Center in NYC. Her board experience includes the New York Women's Foundation and the Robert Bowne Foundation. She recently co-directed a documentary film about Prom Night in Kansas City. Hali lives in Brooklyn with her husband and three children.

**Brigette Noh** (BJ) received her B.S. in Biology with a minor in Music Performance from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, her Masters in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and her M.Phil. and J.D. from New York University. Most recently she practiced law at the American Civil Liberties Union as their first Post-9/11 Applied Research Fellow. She also has experience providing pro-bono legal services for asylum seekers and domestic violence victims. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the New York Asian Women's Center and the Korean American League for Civic Action. Brigette lives in New York City with her husband and three beautiful girls.

**Lisa Philp** is a VP and the Head of Philanthropic Services at the JPMorgan Private Bank. Previously, Lisa served as a Program Officer for Youth Development and Education at The Robin Hood Foundation and as Director of Communications and Government Relations at the New York Regional Association of Grantmakers. Lisa currently serves on the boards of Grantmakers for Children, Youth & Families and The New York Women's Foundation and formerly served as Chair of AAPIP. She earned an M.B.A. in marketing and nonprofit management from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University and received her B.A. in Asian studies and economics from the University of Michigan.

**Ruby Takanishi** has been involved in private foundation work since 1986, starting with the Carnegie Corporation of New York and currently as President of the Foundation for Child Development. She was one of the founding members of AAPIP, moving it from a voluntary association to a staffed organization.