



Monthly Visions

Reflection of Shantiwood

By: Miku Kawakami, New Visions Intern

On January 19th, 2007, the Arts & Activism Community Action Team (AACAT) performed a new vignette entitled, "A Step Up". The team performed at Shantiwood, which is a film series organized by The Shanti Project. The audience consisted of students and Asian community members of all ages, who shared their thoughts about domestic violence.

The vignette featured a married couple with two young children, and a mother-in-law living with them. The first scene is a celebration of the wife's promotion at work. The husband shows his discontentment towards his wife, including her promotion, by using subtle insults. The characters captured the audiences' attention the moment they began their dialogue. It was very intense, and hard to watch the challenges that the survivor in the story faced. The AACAT members made the story real, and brought the issues faced by women in domestic violence situations closer to home.

The performance was an important experience for me. The use of Forum Theater, which gives the audience an opportunity to try out different solutions by replacing characters, allowed me to see the various approaches that individuals take in confronting domestic violence. The audience members did not approach the situation by blaming the abuser, but tried to help ease the tension between the couple. Although it may be hard for people to intervene, the audience participation showed that we can do something to change a violent situation.

Most importantly, the performance showed me that there is not any one right answer to ending domestic violence. We need to talk about these issues with our family and friends because it is an issue everyone is affected by and everyone is responsible for ending.



Arts & Activism Community Action Team (AACAT) Upcoming Performances

- March 9th, 2-4pm, Plymouth Gurdwara, "A Step Up"
- March 13th, 11:30-1pm, U of M, Asian Pacific American Women undergraduate course 363, "A Step Up"

For more information, please email, pandyan@umich.edu.

New Visions is a community-university partnership whose mission is to inspire and support sustainable community action for ending violence against women in Asian communities of Southeast Michigan. Affiliated with the University of Michigan School of Social Work, we work with local Asian communities and domestic violence-related agencies to achieve one vision: "Asian women are safe, and Asian communities are free of violence."

Did you miss this years Vagina Monologues? There are still opportunities to see it! The Vagina Monologues is a play intended for empowering females.

- Feb 14th, 6-8pm & 17th, 3-5pm @ University of Michigan Dearborn \$5. Contact Women's Resource Center, 313-583-6445
- February 15th 8pm & 16th 8pm @ Eastern Michigan University, EMU Student Center Auditorium \$10 Student, \$12 Non-student. For more information, call 734-487-4282
- February 16th, 7pm @ the Emerald Theater (Macomb) \$25. Contact, www.turningpointinc.com or <http://www.emeraldtheater.com/>

Upcoming Workshops & Conferences

Interested in learning about how we can create a safer community? The following are a few workshops you might want to consider.

- Michigan Department of Civil Rights holds two training workshops:

Building Cultural Competence, a 4 hour workshop to help victim service providers, prosecutors, law enforcement and allied professionals to work with diverse population @ Ann Arbor "Weber's Inn"
February 20th 8am-12pm, February 20th 1pm-5pm, February 21st 8am-12pm.

Hate Crime 101, a 2 hour workshop to assist hate crime victim service providers to understand how to work with hate crimes @ Ann Arbor "Weber's Inn"
February 21st 1pm-3pm



OECAAT (Outreach & Engagement Community Action Team)

The Korean members in OE CAT, have started its 2nd series of "A Cup of Tea in the Afternoon," a small community gathering that promotes dialogue on domestic violence and related issues by using different types of media. The gathering is held every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at the University of Michigan Northwood Community Center. For more information, please contact 734.615.2106 or eunjil@umich.edu.

New Visions: Alliance to End Violence in Asian/Asian American Communities

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These trainings are available in other counties as well, please visit http://miaahc.com/trainingcourses_View.aspx to register, or email mdcrct@miaahc.com for more information.

- 5th Annual Fix Conferences**

It is open to everyone and will consist of dialogues, discussion, and cultural exchange to bring the community together. Focuses on minority family structure, school systems, the community and workplace through development and empowerment led by Detroit's social and human service providers, educators, grassroots activists, financial experts, media personalities, spiritual and faith-based leaders and youth.

March 26th-28th 2008

For more information, visit www.thefixconference.org

"Celebrate International Women's Day!"

March 8th 2008 10:30-1:30pm @ Novi Community Center

Address: 45175 West 10 Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375

Please join us to celebrate this day! Guest Speaker Smt. Sharada Kumar will be giving an inspiring speech, and discuss about how we can shape our families and communities as women. Free lunch & child care provided! This event is organized/sponsored by Asian Indian Women's Association (AIWA), The Shanti Project (TSP), and Michigan Asian Indian Family Services (MAIFS). For more information, contact 1.888.4SHANTI or email miiwd2008@gmail.com

Introducing Community Action Team Involving Youth



In the fall of 2007, New Visions conducted an 8-week Youth Theater Program (YTP) aimed at developing youth leaders in dating/domestic violence prevention. With the support from the Michigan Women's Foundation and Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, the youth participants from YTP will be continuing their work as a new Community Action Team (CAT) of New Visions. This new CAT will focus on raising awareness and encouraging action to prevent dating/domestic violence amongst youth. The youth members are in the process of developing specific goals and activities for the new CAT, including a name for the CAT. This is a very exciting opportunity to see our youth members in action. If you would like to learn more about this new CAT, please contact nv-ytcat@umich.edu.

Monthly Visions is a collaborative project between New Visions and authors. The views of the authors may or may not reflect the views of New Visions. We encourage submissions (poetry, artwork, articles, short stories, prose in English or your native language) to further the mission and philosophy of New Visions. Submitters will work with New Visions staff to ensure content is consistent with its philosophy and mission. For more information about the newsletter, please e-mail us at monthlyvision@umich.edu.

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