



# Monthly Visions

## New Year's Resolutions

Eun Joo Lee, New Visions Project Coordinator



On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006, the National Census of Domestic Violence Services was conducted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence. It is the first of its kind. The National Census measured the number of adults and children served by domestic violence programs in the United States in a 24-hour period. More than 1,200 domestic violence programs from across the country (62%) participated in the survey.

The results show an astonishing number of individuals affected by domestic violence. **During the 24-hour period, domestic violence programs answered 16,644 hotline calls, more than 11 calls every minute, and assisted 47,860 victims through shelter, transitional housing and advocacy.** In addition, they educated 40,120 attendees at community programs. The survey also found that more than 10% of requests for services were not met because of lack of resources. Given that not all of the domestic violence programs participated in the Census, the results offer only a partial picture of the number of victims seeking services and receiving services from local domestic violence programs across the country; furthermore, many individuals do not contact domestic violence programs. The actual number of individuals or families who are experiencing domestic violence may even be higher. (For more information, please visit, <http://www.nnedv.org/resource-center/d.v.-counts/>)

As this Census results reflect, domestic violence is serious problem that happens in all communities. Over the past six years, New Visions has been working with community members to prevent domestic violence in our communities; to name a few, we have offered trainings on domestic violence, organized community-wide events, held theater-based workshops, and created small community-based gatherings. The tireless commitment of community members has not only helped raise awareness about the issue of domestic violence, but also inspired and supported community actions to end it.

This may be news to some of you, but New Visions' major source of funding will end in September 2008. So, let's talk about how we can sustain the momentum that we have!

Every year, we make a list of what we like to call New Year's resolutions. For some, the list can be long; for others, it can be just one thing that they hope to accomplish during the course of the year. This year, if you have not made the commitment, we would like to encourage **YOU** to commit to working on ending domestic violence in your communities. For those of you who have been working on this issue, think about what you would like to accomplish this year as a community leader in domestic violence. It can be as simple as talking to five friends about the issue, or as involved as engaging 300 community members at a forum.

**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."

Remember, domestic violence affects everyone. It's not just the survivor who hurts, but it's her friends, colleagues, children, and the community. Your commitment to end domestic violence has the power to change the world as we know it. Carpe Diem!!!

### January is the 5th National Stalking Awareness month (NSAM)

Theme-"It's not a joke. It's not romantic. It's not OK. Stop Stalking."  
"Stalking is real. It can happen to anyone. It's dangerous.  
It's a crime."

For more information, visit The National Center for Victims of Crimes  
[www.ncvc.org/src](http://www.ncvc.org/src)





YTP participants performing "The Days of Our High School Lives"

## Reflection on the Youth Theater Program\*

Milliza Malabanan, Youth Theater Program participant

For the past three years, I have invested much of my time in programs addressing public policy and diversity. When I heard about the Youth Theater Program (YTP), and New Visions, I knew I wanted to get involved. The eight informative sessions about domestic/dating violence, mixed with lessons in theatrical arts, were an experience that can never be replaced. Not only were new relationships formed with the New Visions staff and the participants, but we bonded over an issue most people don't talk about – domestic/dating violence.

The theater part of the program was probably one of the most time consuming, but also the most influential parts of the program. Not only did we, as participants, learn about acting, facilitating and staging, we also learned how to efficiently communicate with an audience about this taboo and sensitive issue. After talking to some of the people who attended our final performance, I feel that they took a lot from it. The Youth Theater Program was a great experience not only being a participant, but also for those who attended the final performance.

\*With the support from Michigan Women's Foundation and the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, New Visions worked with four Asian youths to develop them as leaders in dating/domestic violence prevention through a 8-week program. During this time, they learned about dating/domestic violence, prevention, and theater as a tool for activism.

By the end of the program, the youth wrote and put together a sketch entitled, "The Days of Our High School Lives," which they performed on December 15, 2007.



YTP participants receiving certificates of completion



### Spotlight: Miku Kawakami

Miku Kawakami is pursuing her Masters in Social Work at the University of Michigan, and began her first year internship at New Visions in October 2007. Ms. Kawakami decided to intern for New Visions because she wants to learn about community organizing and the issue of domestic violence. She has previously worked with Filipina women who experienced domestic violence. Ms. Kawakami has played an active role in planning and putting on the following activities: Domestic Violence 101 Training; the Youth Theater Program; and the 2007 Member Recognition Dinner.

Currently, Ms. Kawakami is busy with her classes and field work. When she has free time, she enjoys walking, arts and crafts, and baking.

When asked her future plans, she said, "I am still searching...but I know that I want to work as a social worker...and empower the minorities in the multi cultural community."



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