



Monthly Visions

Reflection on Domestic Violence 101 Training

Ankita Mohanty, Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP)
Student for The Shanti Project

I am currently serving as an undergraduate research assistant for the Shanti Project through the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) at the University of Michigan. This sister project of New Visions works to prevent domestic violence in the Gujarati community (a subset of Indian community) in Southeast Michigan. Though I am not Gujarati, I do have an Indian background and the subject of domestic violence in communities so close to my own has a deep impact on me.

During the contact and interview process, I only had a dictionary definition of what domestic violence was. I did not understand the effects of domestic violence, nor did I truly understand the deep and troublesome complexities of violence within society. These aspects, and more, were highlighted when I attended the Domestic Violence 101 Training on October 17, 2007, organized by New Visions.

This training brought a diverse group of individuals together. The attendees consisted of men and women of all ages and backgrounds; therefore, I was slightly apprehensive about how productive the discussion would be. However, the facilitators created an environment in which everyone felt comfortable sharing their opinions. I openly discussed my opinions with adults with many more years of training and experience in the field including those from social service agencies. The program encouraged discussions, which allowed us to learn from one another.

Through this training, I realized I am working on a project that will truly change people's lives. When I interviewed for the position as a research assistant for the Shanti Project, I was told several times that the program was "prevention based." I heard these words, but I could not internalize the possibility of hope within such a horrific context. Now, as I have worked for several weeks on the project and have attended the training, I see that there is not only hope, but also a way to plant that hope as a seed within individuals. I have come to realize that when one individual in a community is affected by the message we are trying to convey, several seeds will be planted. In this way, a community may change and learn the reality of domestic violence and its prevalence in people's lives. It is through community-based organizations, like New Visions and its sister the Shanti Project that these seeds of hope are sown.



Discussion at the Domestic
Violence 101 Training

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 achieve one vision: "Asian women are safe, and Asian communities are free of violence."

Save-the-date: New Visions Annual Member Recognition Dinner

**Dec. 7th, 2007!!!
From 6:30-9:00**

Join us in honoring the hard work of our members
in working to end violence against women
in our communities.




Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence Hosts National Summit

Neel Pandya, Arts & Activism Community Action Team (AACAT) Facilitator

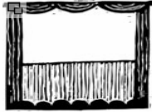
From November 5-7, 2007, I attended a National Summit on, *Confronting Gender Violence: Advocacy & Activism in API (Asian & Pacific Islander) Communities* in San Francisco, California. This summit brought close to 200 API advocates together from all over the U.S., as well as Hawaii, Guam, and Saipan.

Some of the sessions included: *Activism & Advocacy: Empowerment & Power, Same-Sex, Same-Gender Domestic Violence*; and, *Community Engagement and Organizing*. This last session featured Ms. Van Lan Truong, who is a Vietnamese Community Liaison for an organization called Close to Home. This organization is located in Dorchester, Massachusetts and works to prevent domestic violence in the community. Staff and volunteers work with youth, community residents, and community-based leaders on a variety of activities such as kitchen table conversations, trainings, and public awareness campaigns. For more information on this innovative organization please visit <http://www.c2home.org/>.

For me, this conference was a great opportunity to reconnect with friends and connect with colleagues who are doing similar work. In the ethnic-specific and geographic-specific caucuses, we were able to share resources, successful strategies, and inspiring stories. I heard many powerful stories and quotes throughout the conference. However, there is one I would like to share with you: "Our job is not about one more man in jail, one more woman in shelter, and one more child in foster care." In order to address and end domestic violence, we need to change norms and attitudes and address the root causes of this issue.



**Youth Theater Program
Final Performance**
Dec 15th 2007
Location TBA



Save the date for the youth performance about dating violence!!!



16 Days of Activism: "Demanding Implementation, Challenging Obstacles: End Violence Against Women"

The 16 Days of Activism campaign Against Violence Against Women is an international campaign that began in 1991 by the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL). It runs from November 25th through December 10th, in which activists and organizations all over the world raise awareness about violence against women as a human rights issue and its impact globally. The 16 days include the International Day Against Violence Against Women (Nov.25th), International Women Human Rights Defenders Day (Nov.29th), World AIDS Day (Dec.1), and International Human Rights Day (Dec.10th).

This year's theme, "Demanding Implementation, Challenging Obstacle," is about overcoming the challenges and obstacles to end violence against women such as policies or attitudes that condone violence against women. (<http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days/kit07/dismantling.doc>)

Join the 16 days of activism to end violence against women by: increasing your awareness about domestic violence and talking to others about it; volunteering or participating in events at organizations working on domestic violence; or advocating for women's human rights. There are so many things you can do to get involved!

For more information, go to: <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days/home.html>



Join us or create a Small Gather- ing!

YOU can be a part of creating small gatherings to talk about issues related to domestic violence. Have fun and enjoy the company of others while learning! These small gatherings can involve members of your own community, friends, colleagues, or family, as well as individuals from other Asian groups.

For those interested in participating in a small gathering, or in creating your own group, please contact Eun Joo Lee for details 734.615.2106 or eunjl@umich.edu.

New Visions: Alliance to
End Violence in
Asian/Asian
American Communities
University of Michigan
School of Social Work
1080 S. University, Mailbox 182
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1106
Phone: 734.615.2106
Fax: 734.763.3372
General inquiries:
newvisions@umich.edu
Newsletter:
monthlyvision@umich.edu

“A Cup of Tea in the Afternoon”

Kyung Sook Jang, Outreach & Engagement Community Action Team member

Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, a group of community members come together for a small gathering called, *A Cup of Tea in the Afternoon* at the Northwood Community Center (Ann Arbor). This gathering, organized by the Korean members of New Visions' Outreach and Engagement Community Action Team (OE CAT), is a space where Korean women can talk about safe families and healthier communities on a regular basis.

The OE CAT members purposely chose to meet on certain days of the month, and at the same location to allow for consistency. They meet every week to plan the gathering and discuss ways to promote discussion amongst the participants. Members have been using their experiences and familiarity with the community to guide them in finding effective ways to engage the participants. At the gathering, members take turns in leading the discussion, therefore, allowing both the participants and the facilitators to learn and grow.

At the gathering, participants watch popular Korean movies, documentaries, or TV shows and talk about issues such as communication within families and gender roles. Domestic violence is a taboo subject to talk about. However, the use of media is non-threatening and sparks conversation.

Korean families in the United States are not immune from domestic violence. A gathering such as *A Cup of Tea in the Afternoon* allows women to discuss the roles in their own families, as well as the community and society. Through these discussions, participants learn what aspects of family life and society may contribute to, and condone violence within the family.

For example, at the first gathering, participants watched a popular Korean sitcom, “Smooth High-kick.” Participants identified the roles of family members and recognized the violence prevalent in that family unit. At the second gathering, participants watched a documentary on the loss of communication among family members and discussed the consequences and effects on the family, as well as on the society.

The gatherings are slowly changing the ways in which participants view domestic violence as a private matter. In addition, as they continue to participate in these gatherings, it is our hope that each participant will become leaders in their own communities and social networks to end domestic violence.

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.

This publication is funded by the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, through Award Number US/CCU533485 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.