



Monthly Visions

October—Domestic Violence Awareness Month!

Wear Purple Ribbons to show your support!

October is the National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This month, renew your commitment to end domestic violence and to help create safe and healthier families/communities.

Here's how **YOU** can get involved or show your support:

Buying a new cell phone? - Donate your old cell phone to a local domestic violence organization. Donated cell phones help save a life. To learn more, visit National Coalition Against Domestic Violence's website, www.ncadsv.org or call a local organization near you.

Buying a new soap? - Buy a Daisy Soap from the Body Shop. The proceeds from every Daisy Soap you buy will go directly to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Visit www.bodyshop.com

Buying a new pair of shoes? - From Oct. 18 thru 24th, Marshalls will hold its annual *Shop Til It Stops* event. For every pair of shoes purchased, \$1 will be donated to the Family Violence Prevention Fund to support efforts to prevent violence against women and raise awareness about the harmful effects of abuse. For more information, visit www.marshallsonline.com

"12th Annual YWCA Week Without Violence: Oct 14-20th " Visit www.ywca.org to learn about activities for domestic violence awareness and violence prevention.

"Killing Us Softly 3: Advertising's Image of Women" - Brown bag on Oct. 23, 12-1pm @ Novi Police Dept. Training Center, 45125 W, Ten Mile, Novi. Discussion on the documentary by award-winning lecturer and researcher Jean Kilborne. *Killing Us Softly 3* illustrates significant factors that contribute to the continuum of violence—the media. For more information, contact Imani (248-334-1284 ext351) or iwilliams@haven-oakland.org

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."



SafeHouse Center (Washtenaw County): Oct 30th Brown Bag about "Cyber Stalking w/Detective Tom Kolpacki held @ St. Joes Hospital", 11:30-1:30pm. Location @ Ellen Thompson Women's Health Center on the campus of St. Joe's. For more information, contact Amy Merkle(973-0242 ext 208)

Reflection: Capacity Building Institute, Hosted by Manavi

By Elsa George, Arts & Activism Community Action Team Member

From September 20 – 22, I attended the Capacity Building Institute hosted by Manavi in New Jersey. Manavi has been working to end violence against South Asian women since 1985.

This conference brought together agencies that provide services to, or work with, South Asian survivors and communities such as: Chaya (Seattle, Washington); Arizona South Asians for Safe Families (Arizona); Chetna & Daya (Texas); and Asian Women's Self-Help Association & Counselors Helping Asian Indians, Inc. (Maryland). The purpose of this conference was to create a space for agencies to network with each other, and equip them with vital tools to better serve survivors of domestic violence.

Various workshops were conducted and covered such topics as:

- History of South Asian Domestic Violence Movement in the U.S.
- Organizing and Community Engagement
- Legal Advocacy and Laws Affecting South Asian Immigrant Women Facing Abuse
- Supportive Counseling and Advocacy
- Power, Privilege, and Patriarchy

Throughout the conference, activities were conducted that placed participants in similar situations as survivors of domestic violence. In one roleplay, I learned how some women may not have access to a cellphone, and their home phone may be monitored by their husband. Agencies, such as Manavi, provide phone cards for their clients so that they can remain in contact with them, without their husband finding out.



Between 15% and 71% of women around the world experience physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

These activities challenged the areas of gender, socioeconomic status, religion, etc. As a participant, I re-examined the struggle a survivor experiences when seeking help and the impact culture may have on their decisions. The scenarios in the activities reminded me that the answers were not always easy and different factors (such as language barrier & immigration status) can have an impact on decisions.

The conference reaffirmed the importance of knowing the laws in my own state in order to advocate for survivors of domestic violence, especially if they are undocumented. Furthermore, the discussion highlighted the importance of collaborating with other entities (such as travel agents, law enforcement, child protective services, cultural centers, and religious associations).

At one point during our discussion, a participant asked about whether or not agencies should hire male staff. When working with female victims whose perpetrators are predominantly male, the decision of having male staff can be a challenge. I was surprised to discover that there is an organization called Stand-Up Guys, in Rochester, NY, which has men working with male perpetrators. The organization promotes positive male role models educating other men on respecting women.

Overall, attending the conference was a wonderful experience. The workshops equipped me with valuable tools. The participants were passionate and friendly. With the various tools and collaborations, the movement towards preventing and ultimately ending domestic violence seems brighter.

Movie Fest

Join us or create a Small Gathering!

"Bhaji on the Beach"

When: Wed, Oct 24th, 2007, 6 to 9pm

Where: University of Michigan School of Social Work, Room 2733

Directed by award-winning director, Gurinder Chadha, "*Bhaji on the Beach*" features a group of ladies in England, of East Indian origin, who decide to take a day trip to the beach resort Blackpool. As the day unfolds, you find out more about the challenges each woman is facing and how she intends on overcoming them. It's a day every one of them will not soon forget.

RSVP by Monday, Oct 22nd,
to newvisions@umich.edu or 734.615.2106.

YOU can be a part of creating small gatherings in the Punjabi and Korean communities 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 eunjil@umich.edu.



Youth Theater Program

When: Oct. 20th—Dec. 15th, 2007

(Every Saturday except for Thanksgiving Weekend), 10am—2pm

Where: University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

FREE OF CHARGE!

In this program, youth will learn about domestic/dating violence and how to use theater to raise awareness about these sensitive issues impacting our communities. Participants will also obtain valuable knowledge and leadership skills, a certificate of completion, \$200 stipend and an opportunity to meet new people.

We are looking for youth who:

- Are between the ages of **16 to 19**
- Live in one of the following four counties: **Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw or Wayne**
- Are of **Asian/Asian American** heritage
- Will obtain parental/guardian consent if under age of 18
- Submit an application by **Oct. 17, 2007**, download application and consent form(s) at <http://www.ssw.umich.edu/newvisions>
- For more information, please contact **Neel Pandya, 734.615.2123** or nvytp2007@umich.edu

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Call or Email Us Today!!!

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