New Visions is a grassroots organization 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 are a partnership of local Asian communities and domestic violence-related agencies dedicated to one vision: “Asian women are safe, and Asian communities are free of violence.”

New Visions Calendar of Upcoming Events:

- Member Recognition Ceremony: December 2006 (Details to be announced)
- Upcoming Training: Domestic Violence 101 Training for new members and volunteers in January 2007
- December 8th—Publication of Monthly Visions: Submit your poetry, artwork, articles, short stories, prose in English or your native language.

International Conference on Violence Against Women

By Aparna Ramakrishnan, Project Coordinator, The Shanti Project

The first International Conference on Violence Against Women: Diversifying Social Responses was held in Montreal, Canada from October 22-24th, 2006. Neel Pandya and I were fortunate to be among the 500 researchers, practitioners, and policymakers who attended from 40 countries. This conference provided a forum to discuss different contexts of violence against women and learn about diverse social responses around the world. Although it was upsetting to think about the depth and scope of gender violence, it was uplifting to meet and hear from our many colleagues who are doing great work to address and end it.

Neel and I had the opportunity to share our work with New Visions and the Shanti Project. We highlighted the use of arts in New Visions and the strategic communications approach in the Shanti Project. Our presentation was well received, and many participants spoke with us after our session to further discuss our process, approach, and innovative strategies.

Arts and Activism Community Action Team Presents at NAASCon 2006

By Marwin Van, AA CAT member

On November 4th, 2006, New Visions’ Arts & Activism Community Action Team presented at NAASCon 2006 (National Asian American Students Conference), an active Asian Pacific American (APA) student political organization formed with the mission of educating, fostering dialogue, and mobilizing students through proactive campaigns across the country on issues of importance facing the APA community. The theme of this year’s conference theme was “Building Bridges, Connecting Movements.”

The use of theater to educate Asian students about the issue of domestic violence sets New Visions apart from the other workshops held during the conference. With strong audience participation, we learned about different perspectives on the issue and how to support survivors. Members of the audience believed our workshop was engaging, powerful, and thought provoking. New Visions’ performance at NAASCon’s 2nd national conference is a great success in that we are creating more awareness about domestic violence and educating youth on how this issue impacts our community.
Community Action Team (CAT) Updates!

- Arts & Activism (AA) CAT:
The AA CAT members are currently working on developing a sketch for the medical students at U of M. We hope to debut this new sketch at a UAAMSA (United Asian American Medical Students Association) event early next year.

We are also moving forward in planning the Youth Camp for the summer '07. If you are interested in participating in this exciting process, please email Neel Pandya at pandyan@umich.edu

- Outreach & Engagement (OE) CAT:
New Visions is working with a Korean community-based organization to plan for the Community Film Showing in January 2007.

- Organizational Accountability (OA) CAT:
Staff has been meeting with OA CAT members to discuss upcoming plans.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence November 25 – December 10, 2006

Adopted from Center for Women’s Global Leadership (http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days/about.html)

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence celebrates its 16th year in campaigning to end all forms of violence against women. The theme of this year’s Campaign is “Celebrate 16 Years of 16 Days: Advance Human Rights — End Violence Against Women.”

The 16 Days Campaign is an international campaign that began in 1991 from the first Women’s Global Leadership Institute sponsored by the Center for Women’s Global Leadership at the Rutgers University. The 16 Days Campaign starts on November 25, International Day Against Violence Against Women and ends on December 10, International Human Rights Day. These two dates link violence against women as a violation of human rights. This 16-Day period also draws attention to other significant dates including, November 29, International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, and December 1, World AIDS Day.

Since 1991, approximately 1,700 organizations in 130 countries have commemorated 16 Days Campaign. Advocates and organizations have developed unique and innovative strategies to increase awareness about violence against women in the local, national, regional, and international arenas. These strategies “demand support services for survivors, enhance prevention efforts, press for legal and judicial reform, and use international human rights instruments to address violence against women as a human rights violation, a public health crisis, and a threat to human security and peace worldwide.”

This year, the 16 Days Campaign celebrates and honors activists and women human rights defenders who have suffered intimidation and violence for their activism and/or given their lives for gender equality.

Join the 16 Days movement! The following are some of the ways YOU can get involved:
- Get involved with violence against women organizations and/or human rights groups such as New Visions
- Use the local media by asking them to highlight issues of violence against women and human rights violation throughout the campaign period
- Ask your school or community libraries and bookshops to use the 16 Days as a time to feature books by female authors, books written about violence against women, or books which focus on key female figures in history, politics, and literature
- Join a listserv discussion to encourage dialogue about violence against women

To learn more about the 16 Days Campaign and how you or your organization can participate, please visit the Center for Women’s Global Leadership website, www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days/about.html

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

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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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