



ASIAN TASK FORCE AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



annual report 2007

letter from Board Chair

February 2008

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to present the 2007 annual report of the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence. On behalf of the board and the staff, I thank you for your longstanding and very generous support of ATASK and of the successful Silk Road Gala in 2007. This, and our continued success is due to the dedication and hard work of our many staff and volunteers.

On January 14, 2008, the *Boston Globe* article “Shelters Can’t Help All Fleeing Abuse” reported that the number of domestic violence victims has increased tremendously and shelters are in great demand. The number of victims turned away from shelters has increased from 1,374 in FY03 to 5,520 in FY05. Our Assistant Director of Advocacy Services said that despite reduced state funding, ATASK has been able to raise funds to continue our important services to our community. The *Globe* also pointed out, and we agree, that besides restoring state funding, work on preventing domestic violence is essential.

ATASK provides services to prevent domestic violence, such as community outreach, education, law enforcement assistance and education, legal assistance, teen dating violence education in schools, and shelter services. In addition, our services have expanded to include work with the Multicultural Immigrant Coalition Against Violence (MICAV) and the Lowell Asian Project. We also offer educational programs for clients, such as classes for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and life skills training, which help create self-sufficiency. Moreover, we have scholarship programs for those who want to go to college or pursue career goals. The everyday efforts of our committed staff make our clients safe, step by step, and increase the awareness of domestic violence issues in our society.

It is a privilege for me to work with this extraordinary organization for more than ten years. I realize that our Asian cultural heritage reinforces the strength and energy we need to support our clients. I am very proud of the professional knowledge and skills of our staff, which help our clients move out of the shadow of isolation and become independent, productive members of the community.

On behalf of the Interim Executive Director, Marsha Morris and myself, thank you again for your continued support of ATASK. If you are not yet a supporter, I invite you to join us in achieving our mission to eliminate family violence and strengthen Asian families and communities. I appreciate your understanding that domestic violence is an issue within our society that needs to be addressed.

Warmest regards,



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Atsuko Toko Fish".

Atsuko Toko Fish
Chair, Board of Directors



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marsha Morris".

Marsha Morris
Interim Executive Director

*She [my advocate] like a friend, like a sister, like my family.
I can say anything I feel to her.*

— an ATASK client

A South Asian woman in her 30's contacted our hotline. She left her husband but returned to him. Shortly later, she thought about leaving again but found out she was pregnant with her second child and decided against it. Although this time she was determined to go, she was primarily concerned about her children and whether or not she would be strong enough to follow through with leaving. Then there were the logistics of being a working single parent. In addition, she needed to plan her secret departure without raising her husband's suspicion.

She met with the ATASK Family Advocate and South Asian Advocate in advance to help plan her safe departure. She also discussed her concerns about her child who witnessed the fighting throughout the years, saw her father taken away by the police, and lived through a previous separation. The client learned what a child that age would be experiencing, how she may react to the news, where her anger would be directed, and most importantly, how to support her daughter.

Her arrival at the shelter took several weeks because each time she planned to go, her departure plan was inadvertently foiled by her husband. When she and her child finally arrived at our shelter, the daughter was very upset, could not stop crying, and wanted to go back home. Our client was visibly upset about the situation, causing her to obviously waver about her decision. We offered our client all the support she needed — both moral and practical. We had endless talks, we babysat so she could talk to her lawyer or have time to “break down” without her child seeing her, and we helped her address her daughter's needs.

Cutting the daughter off completely from her father would have been harmful to her long-term progress, so we devised ways in which they could communicate — through letters and supervised email. The daughter was also feeling cut off from her friends because she had to stop attending the local school. She did not want to miss her school graduation and we helped create a safety plan with the school administration and school parents so she could attend her graduation. Most importantly, we offered her counseling, which helped her understand her situation. We also outlined for her what the next few months would look like, offering concrete ways in which she could best cope with her situation.

Once the restraining order was in place and legal proceedings stabilized, the family moved out of the shelter. The family is now living independently in a violence-free environment. ATASK continues to be involved in the lives of both the mother and daughter.

about ATASK

Since 1992, the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK) has been working to eliminate family violence and strengthen Asian families and communities.

ATASK was founded to address the inadequate resources available to Asian survivors of domestic violence — women, men, and children. Since 1994, ATASK has operated New England's only multilingual emergency shelter, advocacy services, and outreach and education programs for families and their children. We are a leader in educating and mobilizing social services organizations and the broader public on domestic violence, specific to Asian communities. Our work has served as a model in Massachusetts, throughout the United States, and across the globe. Advocates and staff from other domestic violence programs in California, Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, Japan, and Taiwan have visited us to better understand our family-centered approach to rendering services.

The following is a sampling of 2007 activities:

- April 24 *Annual advocacy day at the Massachusetts State House sponsored by Jane Doe, Inc.*
- May 2 *6th Annual Business Women's Breakfast*
- September 11 *Launch of the Multicultural Immigrant Coalition Against Violence (MICAV)*
- November 3 *14th Annual Silk Road Gala*

In April 2007 we were successful in working with our state legislators in approving language in the state budget to ensure immigrants receive the services they need. ATASK staff visited legislative offices that represent our clients and educated them about the important work we do with their constituents.

The sixth annual **Business Women's Breakfast** showed the importance of education in the lives of our clients. Past and present recipients of the Seeds of Hope Scholarship shared the impact of the scholarship on their lives. One client said that furthering her education helped her gain the self-confidence she desperately needed to rebuild her life. Another client expressed that her education empowered her to better provide for her children and herself by being able to obtain a well-paying job.

Launched on September 11, 2007, the **Multicultural Immigrant Coalition Against Violence** (MICAV) is a group of domestic violence prevention agencies, social services organizations, and immigrant service providers working together to develop, promote, and enhance prevention and intervention initiatives. The Coalition accomplishes this through assessing community needs, developing tools for service providers, and creating culturally competent trainings, which will reduce the amount of sexual and domestic abuse, family violence, and immigrant discrimination.

This year's Fund for Hope at the 14th Silk Road Gala raised funds for the **Arts Therapy Program**. This program is offered to children and mothers staying at the emergency shelter and uses creative arts therapy sessions to promote healing and foster a positive, nonviolent parent-child relationship. The expressive arts are extremely helpful to children who have been exposed to violence and who may have vocal or language barriers. It provides an opportunity to assist in the healthy development of the youngest survivors of domestic violence.

programs

The **Asian Shelter and Advocacy Project** provides direct services to our clients. It includes the following five programs offered at three main locations:

Community Based Services (CBS)

- Multilingual advocates provide services in over 12 different Asian languages and dialects
- Legal, housing, healthcare, public benefits, employment, and immigration advocacy and referrals
- Mental health referrals
- Life Skills and English for Speakers of Other Languages classes
- Seeds of Hope Scholarship for clients pursuing educational and career goals

Shelter and Shelter Annex

- 24-hour multilingual crisis hotline
- Temporary housing
- Assistance with food, clothing, and transportation
- Support groups and parenting skills groups
- Coordination with CBS advocates to provide clients with coordinated care and referrals

Children's Program

- Child- and parent-focused components
- Mental health and developmental referrals
- Mental health, medical, and school advocacy
- Field trips
- Childcare services
- Mother/child support groups and counseling

Education and Outreach

- Community outreach and education
- Information and referrals
- MICAV (Multicultural Immigrant Coalition Against Violence)
- Toolbox: Domestic Violence 201 curriculum
- Teen Dating Violence curriculum

Lowell Asian Project Against Domestic Violence

- Satellite program in Lowell, Massachusetts, where there is a large concentration of Cambodian and South Asian communities
- Community-based advocacy services in English, Khmer, Hindi, and Punjabi
- Education and outreach
- Community organizing

volunteer program overview

Volunteers are essential in helping ATASK fulfill its mission. They devote valuable time and resources to help us provide quality services to our clients and families. In return for their work, they learn and expand on their skills, create and renew friendships, and help us achieve our mission. Best of all, they contribute to a larger community effort to eliminate violence in the homes of battered families.

Due to the confidential and sensitive nature of our work, volunteers must complete a thorough application and training process. Based on current needs and capacity, the Direct Services Coordinator will assign volunteers to various projects, as appropriate. It is important that the volunteer assignment is mutually beneficial to both the individual and the involved parties.

Volunteer tasks include administrative work, indirect services that facilitate fundraising activities, as well as program work. These tasks may require a minimum of one hour per week or as much as ten hours per week. They occur during weekdays or on the weekends, during daytime or evening hours. Volunteers may work at the office, in the shelter, or other settings, depending on their interests and skills.

For more information about the Volunteer Program, please contact Koko Oyama, Direct Services Coordinator, at 617-338-2350 x227 or hiroko@atask.org.

I have been volunteering with ATASK since early 2002, and I have enjoyed every moment. I've had various responsibilities, including childcare at the shelter, translations, volunteering at the client holiday parties, and also volunteering at the Silk Road Gala.



I especially enjoy playing with the kids at the home, and seeing them smile and laugh. It feels great to know that I am making a difference, even if it's playing Candy Land! To see their faces light up when we show up, when we read to them, when we play games — it brightens my day and always makes me want to come back the next week. It's so touching when the women are so happy to learn that you speak the same language, and they are so gracious and grateful for the help.

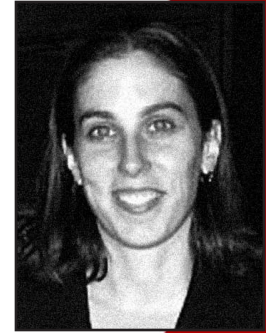
— Szeman Tse

volunteer/intern statistics

(FY2007: July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007)

Task	Number of Volunteers
Office	20
Direct Service	24
Golden Age	2
Silk Road Gala	110
Special Skills	2
Total Number of Volunteer Assignments	158
Total Unduplicated Number of Volunteers	137

When I stopped teaching, I knew that I still wanted children in my life on a very regular basis. Seeking out the opportunity to volunteer at ATASK was motivated in part by that desire and in part by my interest in learning more



about issues around domestic violence. Over the past two and a half years, both of these goals have been fulfilled through my weekly volunteering. Every Wednesday night, regardless of what is going on in my life — how busy I may be at work, whether I am having a good day or a bad day — I look forward to going to the house and spending time with the children. I believe that children have a profound ability to put things in perspective for adults: to remind us of what really matters in life, to show us how to embrace curiosity, joy, and connection. Knowing the realities that the children at ATASK have faced in their very young lives makes these lessons even more poignant.

When I reflect on my nights at the house, I often am reminded of a one-room school house. On a given night there may be from one to ten children aged newborn to 15 years old. It is our responsibility to provide a safe and nurturing space in which each child will feel cared for and stimulated to grow. Even in the short periods of time that some families stay in the house, growth is always evident. Sometimes large, sometimes small, but the children transform in real and meaningful ways before your eyes. A girl that refuses to follow directions at the beginning of the night is joining the group during clean-up after she has learned she can trust that there is consistency and fairness. A child that initially is hesitant to engage and speak in English takes the risk of singing songs — and does so with obvious enthusiasm — only five weeks later. A little boy that is terrified of leaving his mother's side and cries each week when it is time to go to the playroom, finally, after months of patient and sensitive encouragement comes to see playtime as his favorite time of day.

Why do I come every week? I come because I know that the two hours in the playroom is time when childhood can be cherished. Young children who have seen and experienced what no one ever should, can finger paint, read, learn to use a dictionary or tell time, put on a puppet show, or just act silly. It is a joy and privilege to share in that time.

— Elissa Spelman, Wellington Management

direct service volunteer opportunities

- **Shelter Interns** work closely with advocates and clients with daily activities, such as assisting with the children's program, field trips, information and referrals, life skills, hotline coverage, and administrative work.
- **English and Computer Tutors** provide one-on-one tutoring sessions with clients (adults) to improve their English and/or become computer literate.
- **Children's Program Volunteers** run a play group or provide homework tutoring to the children while their parents attend appointments and meetings.

I have been volunteering at ATASK for over a year now. I come to the shelter once a week and interact with both the children and their mothers. I help the children with homework, play games with them, and do other recreational activities with them. For example, a few volunteers and I practiced a dance routine with the children which they performed for last year's annual holiday party. Some of the children were not as confident as I was about their talent. So, I kept encouraging them and telling them they could do it. It was such an incredible feeling to see them light up on stage.

This is precisely the reason why I continue to work with ATASK — the fact that I might be making a difference in someone's life. This might not be obvious all the time, but moments like these make my experience with ATASK immensely valuable. ATASK fuels my desire to work with those in need, and particularly underserved populations. My passion and commitment to help others matches that of ATASK staff members. My experiences with ATASK staff have always been positive. They are very supportive and continue to be receptive to my concerns and feedback about the children. The staff is so welcoming that they make you feel like a vital part of this organization. Thus, I try to get involved with other projects and events, like the Silk Road Gala; I volunteered twice for this annual fundraiser. I strongly believe in ATASK and want to support this organization in every way I can.

— Sarbani Hazra

You get to meet many other passionate volunteers from various backgrounds who are all dedicated to the same cause. You walk away with an upbeat feeling that your efforts have helped make the evening run smoother. The Silk Road Gala volunteering experience has given me many great memories.

— Winnie Hsu, Harvard Medical School Class of 2007

I have volunteered at the Silk Road Gala for the past 4 years. Every year, the event leaves me inspired and energized about the mission of ATASK. As a co-leader of the Asian American Health Association at my medical school, this volunteer opportunity has been an important means for our students to engage in the community and learn about the services provided by ATASK so we can better inform our patients. While working in the hospitals, I have seen firsthand the pervasive and detrimental impact of domestic violence on the physical and mental health of women, children, and families. The services provided by ATASK are unique and vital for the health and well-being of families of diverse backgrounds in the greater Boston area. I look forward to the bright and strong future of ATASK and their commitment to serving the community!

— Cindy Lin, Harvard Medical School Class of 2007

other volunteer opportunities

Administrative Volunteers provide overall administrative support for the office, including organizing files, updating resources, revising forms, maintaining the office environment, helping with mailings, and answering phone calls.

Special-Skills Volunteers contribute in various ways, including the following:

- Website maintenance
- Professional consultation, such as IT, marketing, and legal services
- Haircuts/makeup
- Carpentry
- Arts and crafts
- Wellness, such as yoga, aromatherapy, and acupuncture

Interns have the opportunity to take initiative on independent projects. ATASK has the following internships available:

- Marketing and Communications Intern
- Education and Outreach Intern
- Finance Intern
- Grant Associate Intern
- Administrative Intern
- Shelter Intern
- Lowell Advocacy Assistant Intern

Silk Road Gala Volunteers are the much-needed driving force for ATASK's annual fundraiser, which celebrates the diversity of the Asian communities we serve. Volunteers assist in various aspects of the event, from planning through helping at the gala.

financial information *(FY2007: July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007)*

Assets

Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 412,702
Accounts Receivable	\$ 122,447
Pledges Receivables	\$ 12,070
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 25,311
Property and Equipment Net	\$ 538,948
Deposits	\$ 10,929
Total Assets	\$ 1,122,407

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ 64,310
Accrued Expenses	\$ 38,234
Deferred Revenue	\$ -
Contingent Loan	\$ 210,401
Mortgage Notes Payable	\$ 150,000
Total Liabilities	\$ 462,945

Net Assets

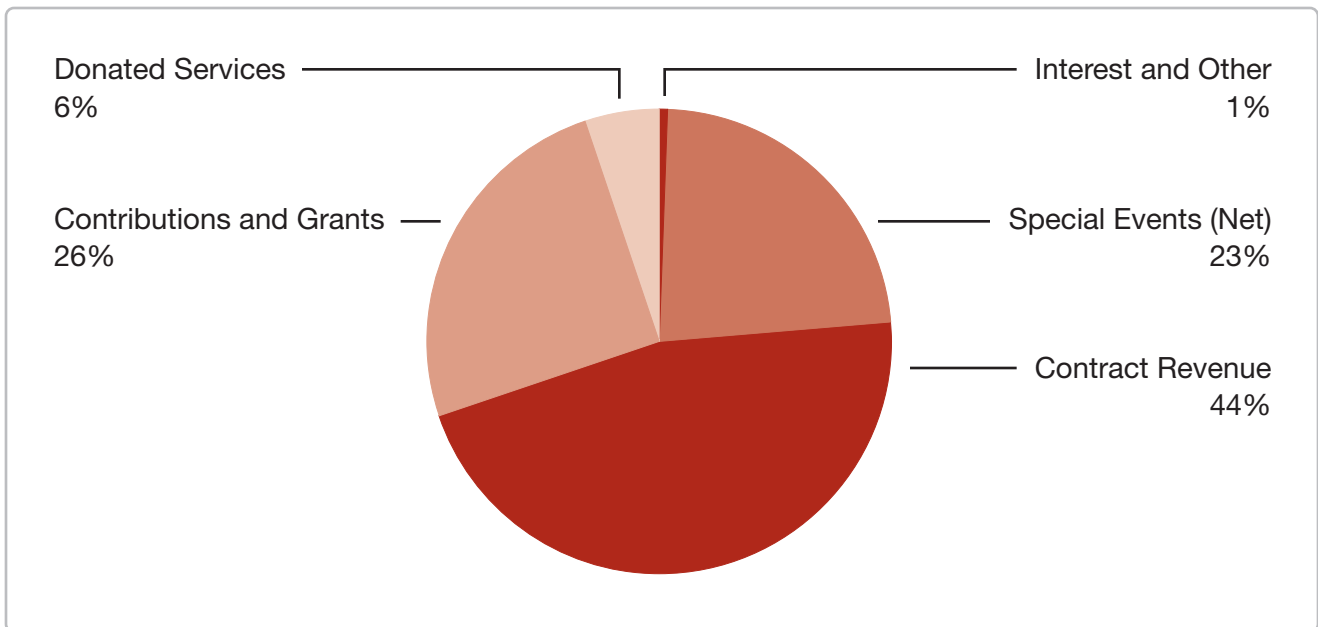
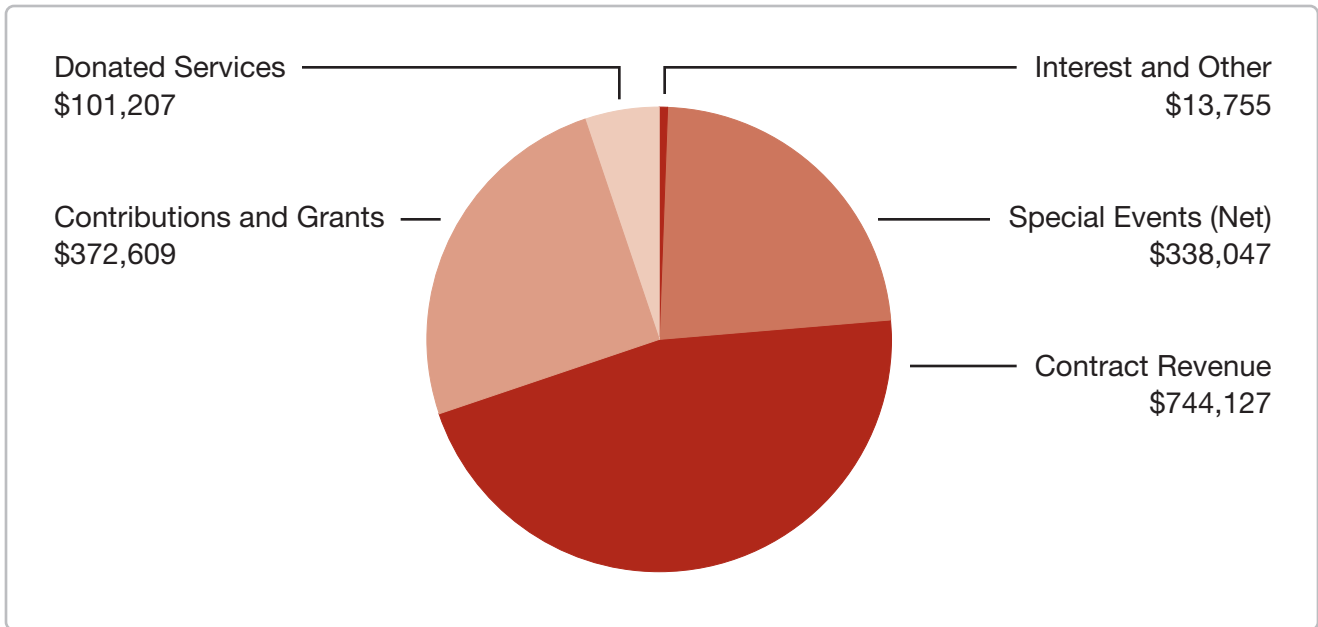
Unrestricted	\$ 327,853
Board Designated	\$ 182,513
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 510,366

Total Temporary Restricted	\$ 149,096
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Total Net Assets	\$ 659,462
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Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 1,122,407
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revenue and support



donors

The board and staff of the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence thank all of our donors for their generous financial support in 2007 (January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007).

Grants

Anna B. Stearns Charitable Foundation
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Annie Yen
Sandy Yeung
Laura Zimmerman
Rya Zobel

2007 accomplishments

- **4,668** multilingual hotline and advocacy calls
- **362** total clients served through community based services
- **93** clients (53 adults, 40 children) received emergency shelter and shelter annex services
- **1900+** community members reached through outreach events
- **700+** community members, government and social service provider staff and students reached through ATASK workshops and trainings
- **10,000** resource materials distributed at events, conferences, and festivals

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Staff*

Sivaing An
Dolly Arjun
Van Chey
Helen Choi
Sarah Ciriello
Netra Darai
Nicole Fallarme
Amy Farmer
Kanha Hak
Eun Kim
Denise Lau
Cristina Lee
Jennifer Lee
Sima Mazzu
Jeannine Matthews
Marsha Morris
Anh Nguyen
Hiroko Oyama
Bishnu Pariyar
Lucille Persing
Jamie Ramola
Majagamy Ramos
Kozue Sawame
Qingjian Shi
Tseyun Sun
Carmen Tung
Chanthy Uy
Denise Viscio
Elizabeth Vittum
Kitty Sau Yip

Cambodian Advocate
South Asian Advocate
Cambodian Advocate
Chinese Advocate
Executive Assistant
Coalition & Outreach Coordinator
Shelter Coordinator
Lowell Program Assistant
Outreach Coordinator
Korean Advocate
Interim Director of Development
Assistant Director of Advocacy Services
Family Program Coordinator
South Asian Advocate
Overnight/Weekend Staff
Interim Executive Director
Vietnamese Advocate
Direct Services Coordinator
Overnight/Weekend Staff
Director of Advocacy Services
Director of Education & Outreach
Overnight/Weekend Staff
Development & Communications Associate
Education & Outreach Coordinator
Chinese Advocate
On-Call Overnight/Weekend Staff
Administrative Assistant
Manager of Finance & Administration
Senior Grant Writer
Overnight/Weekend Staff

*Board and staff listings are current through December 31, 2007

The lives of our clients were touched by violence. They face multi-layered issues stemming from linguistic and cultural barriers. The support of our volunteers and financial contributors allows us to continue our work to break the cycle of violence and improve the quality of life for our clients and their children, enabling them to become self-sufficient members of society.



Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence

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