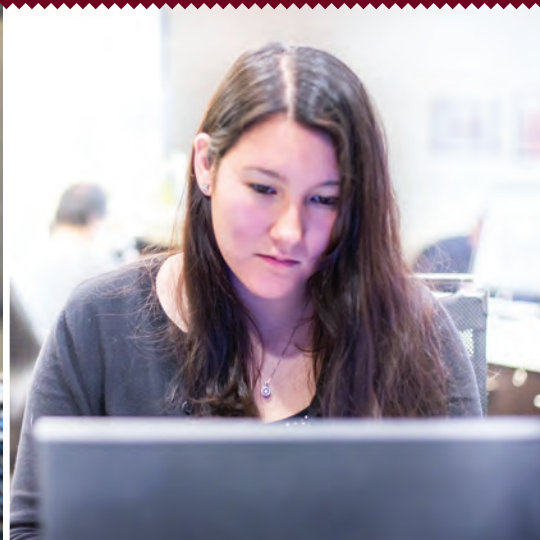




EVERYDAY HEROES:

Helping Immigrant Survivors Of Gender Violence Transform Their Lives

2013/2014 Annual Report



Message From the Board President and Executive Director

Dear Friend,

Each year with your help Apna Ghar conducts advocacy and provides critical, life saving services to women and children in our communities affected by gender violence, a global public health and human rights issue.

Worldwide, one in three women experience gender violence over the course of their lifetime. In the United States, a woman is physically assaulted every seven seconds and more than three women a day are murdered by their intimate partners or spouses. Each day in Illinois thousands of survivors seek services. While these statistics are staggering and our challenge great, together we can make a difference.

At Apna Ghar, our founders envisioned a better more peaceful world. In 2014, Kanta Khipple was honored with the Impact Award from the Chicago Foundation for Women for this vision. Our board treasurer Ramzan Dhanji and his wife Parvin received two awards for their philanthropy and service to the community. Ann Mukherjee, our featured speaker at “Taste for Life,” moved guests by recounting her personal journey of healing and empowerment. Respected public officials, Cindy Hora, assistant attorney general of Illinois, and Theresa Mah, senior policy advisor, Office of Governor Pat Quinn, spoke at our events and discussed strides made by the state.

Most importantly, our program participants expressed the difference our services made for them. “Anita,” who received counseling and case management services, described Apna Ghar as “a wonderful organization that truly made a positive difference in my life.” Another participant, “Farah,” said, “Apna Ghar was with me when no one else was. You offered me genuine warmth, comfort and the services I needed. Thank you.”

In 2014, we responded to more than 1,650 crisis calls and served more than 500 women, children and men through our comprehensive services. Our outreach and training initiatives reached over 3,300 community members through more than 300 events and activities.

We strengthened existing partnerships, created new ones and launched initiatives on gender violence education, immigration issues and language access. We were featured in print media and on the radio; provided input and expertise for articles, reports, conferences and research projects; and provided technical assistance to partner organizations, helping them launch programs and improve service-based responses to survivors.

2015 marks our 25th anniversary! We will add a larger purpose-built safe home to ensure that more women and children survivors will find safety and the services they need to achieve stability and self-sufficiency.

We are deeply thankful for our staff and board who continue to make the difference for our program participants and for the larger community. Each step forward is a step towards ending gender violence.



Saiyed G. Rabbani
Saiyed G. Rabbani
Board President



Neha Gill
Neha Gill
Executive Director

Helping Survivors Thrive

Apna Ghar has been helping immigrant survivors of gender violence transform their lives since 1989.

At Apna Ghar we recognize that immigrant survivors of gender violence in the United States face unique challenges, including limited access to legal, social, protective and support services. Apna Ghar provides a full range of services to survivors as they begin their journeys of healing and empowerment. We also conduct community education and address systemic barriers that immigrant survivors face.



Apna Ghar provides holistic services and conducts advocacy across immigrant communities to end gender violence.

With the help of our skilled staff, our generous donors, and the courage of the survivors who we serve daily, Apna Ghar succeeds yearly in helping more than 1,500 immigrant survivors in the Chicago area, who come to us from more than 50 countries.

Apna Ghar has one of the oldest and longest running visitation and safe exchange centers of its kind in the country. Our legal advocacy and counseling programs also serve as models nationwide. In addition, in 2014, we engaged 3,300 individuals through our outreach and education efforts, a 51% increase over 2013.

Plans are in place to build a new safe home that will double our current capacity and will provide 24-hour emergency assistance in a home-like, culturally sensitive and secure atmosphere. At Apna

In 2014, Apna Ghar reached over

5,000

people through services and outreach.

Apna Ghar we work tirelessly to help transform the lives of the survivors we serve. With your help and ours, they feel supported and empowered to achieve their goals and dreams.

Immigrants, the Underserved Population

Gender Violence

According to the Asian Pacific Islander Institute on Gender Based Violence, in addition to physical, sexual, economic and emotional abuse, “gender violence is about living in a climate of fear, shame, coercive control, and devaluation. It is often experienced in the context of additional oppressions based on race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, type of labor performed, level of education, class position, disability, and immigration or refugee status.” Gender violence is the one of the most prevalent human rights violations in the world as well as a major public health concern. Despite this, according to the United Nations, gender violence remains “shrouded in a culture of silence.”

Challenges to Immigrants

Immigrant survivors face isolation, fear, restrictive immigration laws and language barriers that often prevent them from seeking help.

A recent United Nations special report on domestic violence in the United States noted that: “While low income, minority, and immigrant survivors are among those most in need of governmental support and services, including domestic violence services, these groups are chronically underserved.”

Under-Reported Problem

Many immigrant and refugee survivors fear coming forward due to language barriers, unfamiliarity with available resources and options, as well as perceived and real inequities in their treatment by law enforcement, the court system, the health care system and other governmental and social support systems. Furthermore, abusers can exert power and control by deliberately misrepresenting the law, confiscating immigration documents and threatening victims with deportation or with the removal of their children should they report the abuse.

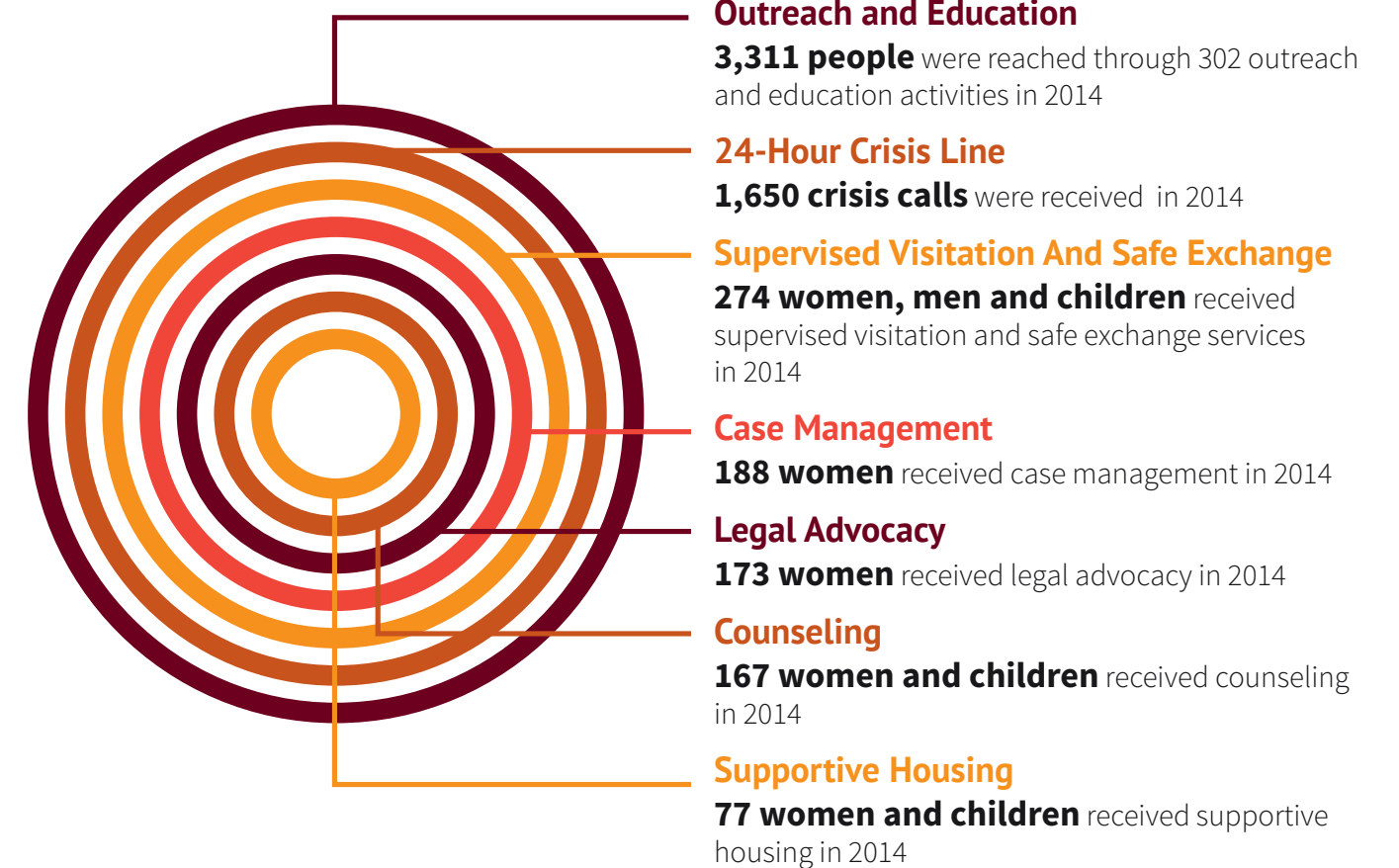
400

unmet requests for service in just one day in Illinois

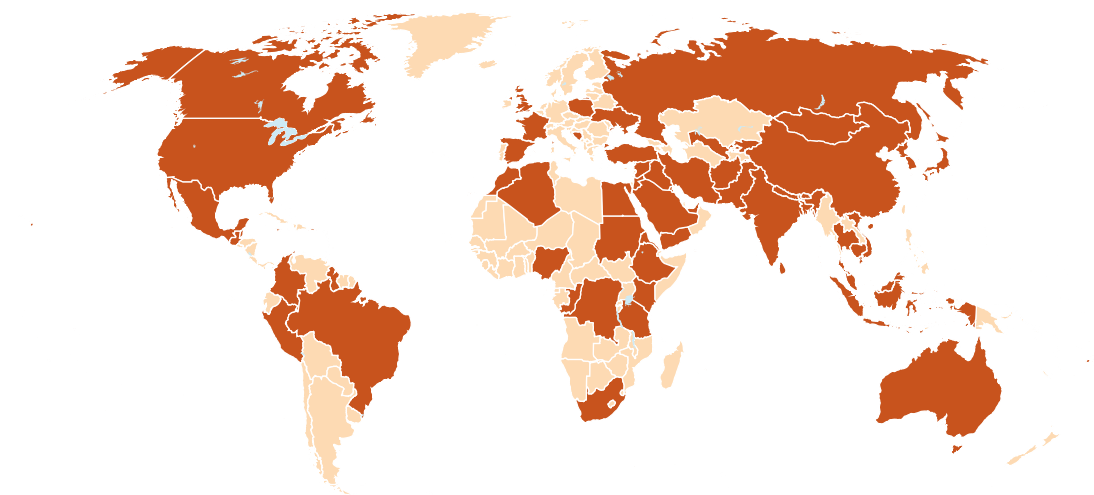
Immigrant survivors face isolation, fear, restrictive immigration laws and language barriers that often prevent them from seeking help.

- At Apna Ghar we provide comprehensive intervention and prevention services aimed at helping survivors achieve safety, stability and self-sufficiency.
- We conduct outreach, provide community education, training and technical assistance in an effort to raise awareness about gender violence while providing resources and information on appropriate responses.
- We conduct systems and policy advocacy in partnership with advocacy groups to improve the overall conditions for the survivors we serve.

How Apna Ghar Provides Services and Conducts Advocacy



Apna Ghar's Diversity



Countries Apna Ghar's program participants are from: **50**

Languages spoken by Apna Ghar's staff: **20**

How We Make a Difference

A Hotline When Time Matters Most

When the need for safety is immediate, survivors experiencing abuse can call our 24-hour hotline. They will find access and connection to our wide range of services, receive referrals to additional programs and acquire information about gender violence and available protective options. The hotline is in operation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; and our staff and volunteers are always available to speak to service seekers.

Emergency Shelter Empowers

Our emergency shelter affords survivors fleeing abuse and violence a home-like, culturally sensitive, safe, secure and healing environment where they can begin their journey of healing and empowerment to regain control of their lives.

While at the shelter, survivors take part in counseling, legal advocacy, support groups, art therapy and parent-child interaction classes as well as cultural and recreational activities.

Counseling Makes an Impact

Apna Ghar provides individual and group counseling as well as art therapy for adult and children survivors of gender violence who are residents of our shelter and for nonresidential program participants.

Counseling helps survivors overcome the trauma associated with gender violence and helps them in their journeys towards stability and self-sufficiency.



The journey of healing begins with the intake process where a personalized, holistic service plan is created with each survivor.

1,650
calls for assistance
on our crisis line

247
adults and children received
housing, advocacy, counseling and
case management services

274
adults and children received
supervised visitation and safe
exchange services

Legal Advocacy Provides New Options

Research shows that newly arrived immigrant women suffer higher rates of battering because they have less access to legal, social and support services. In Chicago, research indicates that legal status is a leading barrier for immigrant women in addressing their own and their children's safety needs.

At Apna Ghar, we guide clients through the legal system. Our advocates help immigrant survivors understand their rights under local and federal law, as well as legal remedies and options available to them. Advocates support survivors in obtaining legal representation for legal remedies such as orders of protection, child support, custody and divorce, as well as immigration relief via protective legal statutes such as the Violence Against Women Act

Case Management Identifies Goals

Apna Ghar's case management services are offered to residents in our emergency shelter as well as to our nonresidential program participants. Case management helps survivors identify personal goals and connect to community resources to meet health care, educational, employment, permanent housing and other critical needs, to ensure long term stability and self sufficiency.

Visitation & Safe Exchange Provides Stability

Our Supervised Visitation & Safe Exchange program, started in 1991, provides a safe place where children can interact with their non-custodial parent in the presence of a trained facilitator. The visiting parent and the child or children relax, play together and strengthen family bonds. It is an opportunity for a relationship to form and develop in a comfortable, non-threatening and conflict-free environment.

Apna Ghar maintains one of the oldest and longest-running visitation and safe exchange programs of its kind in the country. It is one of only three free sites that are supported by the city of Chicago. Apna Ghar's Supervised Visitation & Safe Exchange service affords each visiting parent the privacy of an individualized family visitation session.

Outreach and Advocacy

Providing Community Education

In 2014, Apna Ghar reached over 3,300 people and organizations through more than 300 outreach events and activities. We continually educate community groups, health professionals, law enforcement, religious leaders and high school and university students on gender violence and the resources available to combat it.

Outreach and advocacy form the foundation to make positive and impactful shifts in community attitudes and systemic responses. The diverse alliances we built in 2014 through education and advocacy continue to make Apna Ghar a leading voice in the movement to end the gender violence in immigrant communities.

Building Partners to End Gender Violence

In March 2014, Apna Ghar trained more than 60 human services providers in conjunction with the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, extending its reach to hundreds of immigrants suffering partner violence in the home and workplace and providing them with new resources for aid. Areas covered included legal recourse for immigrants and refugees, shelters available across the state and better understanding of gender violence in immigrant communities.

Developing Health Care Initiatives

Apna Ghar advanced its outreach in 2014 to include training of health care professionals in both hospital and community clinic settings. Training encompassed recognizing when gender violence is behind injuries, chronic illnesses and how clinicians play a vital role in referring patients for appropriate social services. Apna Ghar worked closely with Heartland Health Outreach, St. Elizabeth and St. Mary's hospitals and with the Weiss Hospital Internal Medicine Residents Program to train new health care advocates in the movement to end gender violence.

A Voice for Immigrant Survivors: 2014

Apna Ghar Highlights

- Founder Kanta Khipple awarded the Chicago Foundation for Women's Impact Award
- Board Treasurer Ramzan Dhanji and his wife, Parvin, honored by BMO Harris Bank and Loyola University for their entrepreneurship and philanthropy
- Executive Director Neha Gill recognized by the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum's (NAPAWF) Chicago Chapter as an "everyday shero"
- Apna Ghar named in a proclamation from Governor Quinn declaring October Domestic Violence Month in Illinois
- Apna Ghar consulted on shelter policies adopted by the Kurdish Regional Government of Northern Iraq
- Apna Ghar credited with helping the Polish American Association start a supervised visitation and safe exchange program
- Apna Ghar conducted two state certified 40-hour domestic violence trainings for volunteers and professionals
- Apna Ghar developed an instructional DVD for service providers on the legal issues faced by immigrant survivors of gender violence
- Apna Ghar staff cited and acknowledged in a report on U-Visas by DePaul University and co-authored a paper for a national conference
- Apna Ghar featured in print media and on the radio. Our "Vocalo" interview on Chicago Public Radio was featured in NewCity magazine in its "Best of Chicago" section for "Best Execution of Media Activism."
- Apna Ghar achieved record attendance at our annual events and 51% increase in outreach efforts
- Hosted and exchanged ideas for systems change with international delegations



Expanding Suburban Programming

In 2014, Apna Ghar worked with the Domestic Violence Liaison of the 3rd Municipal Court of Cook County to discuss issues faced by immigrant survivors of gender based violence. Additionally, through the North Suburban Domestic Violence Forum, we provided materials in eight different languages on how to work with immigrant survivors, expanding our educational and training efforts with suburban advocates.

University Action to Help Curb Violence

Apna Ghar works with universities to educate students and administrators on the critical need to address gender violence on campus. In 2014, to help students confront this growing problem, we hosted symposia, lectures and other forms of outreach to address gender and partner violence. This outreach included seminars at the University of Illinois, Circle Campus, University of Chicago, Northeastern Illinois University, and Truman and Oakton Community Colleges.

Survivor Stories



Immigrant survivors confront a complex intersection of gender, race, ethnicity, culture, class, patriarchy, bias and prejudice that exists in various interlocking U.S. systems. Apna Ghar helps survivors overcome these barriers so that they can live lives free from violence.

Maryah

Maryah is of Pakistani origin and was born and raised in a northern European country. Her parents arranged a marriage with a United States citizen of Pakistani origin when Maryah finished college. Maryah's family were traditional and observant. She was married in Europe and then moved with her husband, Rahman, to the United States. In the United States, Rahman became increasingly abusive, and though Maryah's parents were supportive when she told them about the abuse, they also urged her to try to make things work. They told her that for the sake of their family honor, she should try to make sure

that things worked out. Maryah did what she could, but Rahman continued to be verbally, physically and sexually abusive. Maryah did not know many people in the metro Chicago area, but she had an aunt in California. She called her aunt, who helped her find assistance at Apna Ghar. Maryah did not tell her parents that the abuse had escalated and that she had decided to leave Rahman as a result.

Apna Ghar's culturally competent services and our advocates and counselors provided support and assistance to Maryah in navigating various systems, including helping her get an order of protection and

file for divorce. Staff also helped Maryah heal from her trauma by providing counseling and emotional support. Apna Ghar further aided Maryah in the pursuit of her educational and employment goals so that she could ultimately be self-sufficient. Maryah completed courses in software development and landed a position with a large company. She moved out of the shelter to her own apartment with a roommate, another survivor she met while at the shelter. In this way Apna Ghar also helped Maryah create a community for herself beyond the shelter walls and to form new friendships.

Mary

A thirteen-year-old schoolgirl in the Congo when civil war broke out, Mary survived by hiding in a church. Her parents were killed and Mary was placed in a home for adolescent girls. Despite her trauma, Mary, a gifted and hard-working student, focused on her education. In her sophomore year, a guest teacher, a middle-aged American man, took Mary under his wing and said he could help her get a scholarship to college. He assured her it would be easier for her to go to college in the United States if she finished high school in the States.

At first Mary was skeptical, saying she had no friends or family in the U.S. and did not expect him to take responsibility for her. He assuaged her doubts and offered her a place in his "large" home

in Chicago, assistance in finding a part-time job and help in enrolling in school. He said he could get her a visa to the U.S. and once in the States she needn't worry about her immigration status—which was, of course, untrue. Mary believed him and, with no family to turn to, accepted his assistance.

Once in the U.S., Mary found herself a virtual prisoner in the man's house in the far reaches of a Midwestern

city—with no phone or computer access. The man exploited her, forcing her to cook and clean. He also raped her repeatedly. He locked her in whenever he left the house. Mary finally escaped to a nearby convenience store where the clerk called police, who escorted her to a nearby domestic violence shelter. The man, however, abducted her from outside the shelter and re-imprisoned her.

Luckily, the shelter had given Mary a cell phone. She secretly called the shelter, which contacted

Apna Ghar. Apna Ghar relocated Mary out of state. Although terrified that the "teacher" would find her, Mary eventually was able to start GED classes and secure a part-time job. With the help of advocates, she initiated her immigration case, obtained therapy and participated in wellness activities. Mary made social connections and found an apartment with another woman shelter resident. Today Mary continues to live independently and pursue her immigration case.

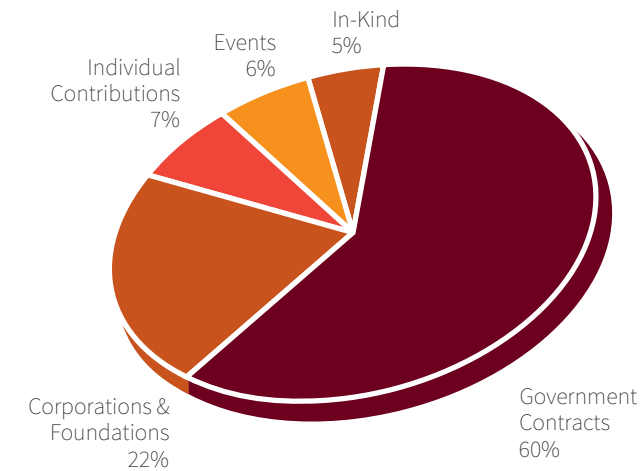
The "triple trauma" of many immigrant and refugee women — torture/political upheaval, migration and resettlement — can make their situations particularly difficult. Apna Ghar's sensitive and experienced staff work effectively to help survivors heal from this trauma.

Financials for Fiscal Year 2014

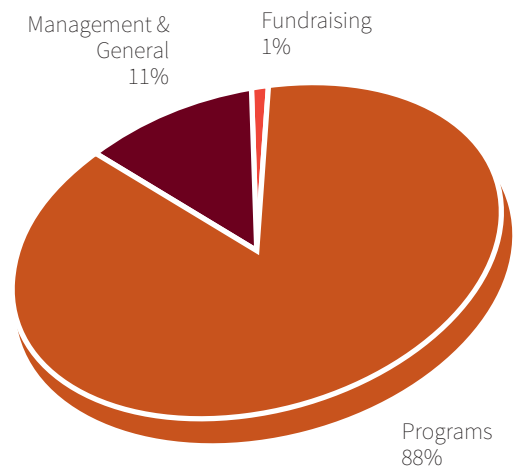
(JULY 1, 2013–JUNE 30, 2014)

Statement of Activities

TOTAL REVENUES FY 2014
\$1,527,348



TOTAL EXPENSES FY 2014
\$1,298,419



Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS

Current assets

Cash and cash equivalents	316,391
Investments	1,421
Grant and contract receivables	330,244
Pledges receivables	65,000
Prepaid and deposits	7,434
Other receivables	3,534

Total current assets **724,024**

Fixed assets (net of depreciation) **1,248,557**

Total assets **\$1,972,581**

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	59,995
Mortgage payable - current portion	<u>32,164</u>

Total current liabilities **92,159**

Long-term liabilities

Mortgage payable - non current portion	<u>857,283</u>
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Total Long-term liabilities **857,283**

Total liabilities **949,442**

Net Assets

Temporary restricted	155,879
Unrestricted	863,009
Board designated	<u>4,251</u>

Total net assets **1,023,139**

Total liabilities and net assets **\$1,972,581**

You Make a Difference

Your contributions make an impact. The support we receive from you enables us to provide critical services to those most in need. It also allows us to reach new communities and institutions through our outreach and advocacy efforts.

With the help of our dedicated staff, our generous donors and the new alliances we form daily, Apna Ghar will continue to transform the lives of its clients—from victims and survivors of gender violence—to individuals who have become empowered and self-sufficient heroes of their own lives.



Future Plans

With your help, Apna Ghar will continue its work in the movement to end gender violence among Chicago's underserved immigrant communities. The next few years will bring several exciting developments.

New Safe Home

In Chicago today there are only 112 shelter beds for victims of gender violence, with only 8 to 12 beds dedicated to victims of trafficking. Apna Ghar's new double-capacity safe home will directly address the city's pressing shortage of adequate emergency shelter.

Serving New Communities

In 2015 and 2016, we plan to enhance current Apna Ghar programs and services to serve broader age demographics, new communities and new geographic areas. We will continue providing crucial crisis intervention, legal advocacy, counseling, case management, and supervised visitation and safe exchange services to immigrant survivors of gender violence, while continuing to conduct outreach, community education and advocacy.

For additional information, Apna Ghar's audited financial statements and 990 are available on our website at www.apnaghar.org.



Apna Ghar, Inc. (Our Home) Thanks Its Government and Foundation Partners and Grantors

Government

City of Chicago, Department of Family and Support Services
 Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program
 Illinois Department of Human Services
 Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
 Office of the Illinois Attorney General
 U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women

Foundations

Albert Pick, Jr. Fund	Polk Bros. Foundation
Allstate Foundation	Ramzan and Parvin Dhanji Family Foundation
Anonymous Foundation	Ravenswood Health Care Foundation
Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation	Robert R. McCormick Foundation
Bright Promises	Taproot Foundation
Chicago Community Trust	The Thomas M. and Mary M. Owens Foundation
Chicago Foundation for Women	Thorek Memorial Foundation
Designs for Dignity	TJX Foundation
Eileen Fisher	United Way of Metropolitan Chicago
Greer Foundation	Vidyaranya Kannada Kuta Charitable Fund
Kamala Lakshmi Foundation	VNA Foundation
Michael Reese Health Trust	

Apna Ghar, Inc. (Our Home) Expresses Its Deep Gratitude to the Donors Who Gave in 2014

\$10,000 and above

Allstate Insurance Company
 Anonymous Donor
 BMO Harris Bank
 Ramzan and Parvin Dhanji

\$5,000 – \$9,999

Alok and Shanthi Gaur
 ASG Foundation
 Rafiq and Michelle Mohammadi
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\$1,000 – \$4,999

Louis Agosta
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 Virendra and Bala Bisla
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 Tyler Cerami
 Krishna Chakrabarty

Donors Who Gave in 2014, continued

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Manu and Manisha Chander
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Sharmeen Khan
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Jennifer Sheahan
Ash Luthra
Praveen Chathappuram

ALUMNI BOARD

Kanta Khipple
Prem Sharma
Zainab Ekbal
Shaheen Sayeed
Ranjana Khipple-Khan
Sabrina Hans
Danial Noorani

ASSOCIATE BOARD

Chandan Bhagia, Chair
Priti Trivedi
Scheila Kassam
Bidisha Sinha
Bilal Rathore
Archana Potters
Nachi Das

Staff listed as of April 2015

Staff

Neha Gill, Executive Director

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Haroon M. Ahmed, Accounting Manager
Hina Amer, Office Administrator

DEVELOPMENT

Ashley Tsuruda, Development Manager

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Radhika Sharma-Gordon, Manager, Outreach and Education

LEGAL ADVOCACY

Hajira Mahdi, Manager, Advocacy Services
Fauzia Mohammad, Legal Advocate
Julia Spiegel, Legal Advocate

COUNSELING

Sangeetha Ravichandran, Manager, Counseling Services
Ruchi Ray, Counselor
Allison Ancel, Children's Counselor
Mie Tamura, Art Therapist

SUPERVISED VISITATION AND SAFE EXCHANGE (SVSE)

Tiffany San Jose, Manager, SVSE
Andrea Pacheco, SVSE Facilitator
Fatimah Abioye, SVSE Facilitator
Kelsie Stanhope, SVSE Facilitator
Abby Brown, SVSE Facilitator and Shelter Advocate

SHELTER

Sameera Mirza, Shelter Advocate
Samina Kausar, Shelter Advocate
Kishwer Zaidi, Shelter Advocate
Tegest Tesfaw, Shelter Advocate
Verda Bhatti, Shelter Advocate
Riddhi Joshi, Shelter Advocate /Intern
Rebecca Rosenberg, Relief Staff



Thank You

2014 was a productive year at Apna Ghar! We are grateful for your financial support and because of it we feel confident as we look ahead at 2015. Ninety cents of every dollar donated to Apna Ghar goes directly towards programs that sustain survivors of gender violence. Your support is very meaningful to these survivors as they embark on their journeys of empowerment and self-sufficiency.

Amar who received services as a child said, "Coming to Apna Ghar changed the course of my life. I now give back to people in need every chance I get. I attribute this to the manner in which you treated my family. I thank you for all of your efforts." He further encouraged us by saying, "On days that seem tough, remember that your investment is long-term, and though the fruits of your labor might take time, they will come."

Together we will make a difference!



APNA GHAR

OUR HOME



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