Dear Friends of Apna Ghar:

We invite you to be part of the conversations and celebrations as Apna Ghar enters its 30th year in 2020. As a leader in providing critical, comprehensive, culturally competent services, and conducting outreach and advocacy on behalf of survivors of gender-based violence, we are at the forefront of widespread systemic and societal change. With your support and partnership, we look forward to 30 more years of impact!

Your contributions have touched and transformed lives in profoundly meaningful ways over the last three decades. Your trust and confidence in our commitment to ending gender violence propels our work in this movement. In these almost 30 years, Apna Ghar has reached over 100,000 survivors and community members as we strive to turn the spotlight on this most hidden global human rights violation and public health concern.

Your support has kept us focused and motivated throughout this journey, and as we step into 2020, we would like to share our recent achievements as we widen our reach, deepen our efforts, and amplify our call to end gender violence. 85 cents of every dollar donated goes directly to programs that support the families we serve.

In the last few years we have grown the most since our inception! We now have a purpose-built, custom-designed safe home that has doubled our capacity. We provide scattered site transitional housing apartments for the survivors we serve. We have formalized partnerships with the legal and medical communities because survivors of gender violence access these systems the most. We have added text, email and social media options to our 24-hour crisis line to be more responsive to survivors’ needs. We have conducted research, developed curricula and new models to ensure that we are solutions focused and innovative. And, we now operate out of multiple locations. We believe that together we will end gender violence, and we sincerely thank you for your partnership!

Impact:

At Apna Ghar, we reach more than 5,000 survivors and community members annually.

In FY19, Apna Ghar provided more than 1,400 callers with support, information and connection to services on our 24-hour crisis line

In FY19, Apna Ghar reached 4,000 people through 400 outreach events and activities

In FY19, Apna Ghar provided 600 women, children and men with holistic services, including emergency and transitional housing, case management, counseling, legal advocacy and supervised visitation and safe exchange services

In 2019 we worked with Sort Sol Group to develop and implement a five year strategic plan with the goal to increase our impact by reaching 20,000 people annually by 2024. Through this annual appeal, we hope to raise critical funds to grow our impact!

We invite you to make your year-end, tax-deductible donation to help us build the capacity to grow our services, outreach and advocacy, and get us closer to achieving our mission of ending gender violence.
New Locations:

On November 1, 2019, we opened a new location in the Ashburn neighborhood in Chicago supported by the Illinois Department of Human Services to serve the south side of the city and surrounding south suburbs in collaboration with South Suburban Family Shelter. It will allow us to have a more visible presence in an area from where we do already serve survivors, and allow us to address interrelated issues facing the survivors we serve, including civil rights concerns, gun and community violence, housing discrimination, health disparities, and community development, while increasing access to primary services and care.

We continue to grow our presence and impact on the north side of the city and in the north and northwest suburbs through our main location in Uptown, housing on the north side of the city, at Swedish Covenant Hospital and in Skokie, Illinois! We now operate out of 5 separate locations and provide scattered site housing for the families we serve across the city and suburbs!

Innovative Programming:

We have developed a language advocacy training and curriculum to help staff, volunteers and advocates utilize their language skills to effectively support survivors. We have developed economic empowerment programming and a curriculum to assist survivors with financial skills, and have utilized a similar approach to employment readiness. The youth curriculum project undertaken by staff at Apna Ghar is in response to a need for further support and personal development for young people affected by gender-based violence. We have also developed programming and a curriculum to help fathers who have caused harm to their families take accountability, repair the harm, and rebuild those relationships as part of the evidence-based model for enhanced supervised visitation and safe exchange services that we developed in partnership with Inspire Action for Social Change. Apna Ghar is the only organization in the country implementing this model.

Awards and Honors:

2019 was another rewarding and humbling year for me personally and for Apna Ghar. I was honored to receive the Woman of Excellence Award for Community Service from the Women’s Empowerment Campaign and the Lifetime Achievement Award for Public Service from the Indo-American Democratic Organization (IADO). It was validation of Apna Ghar’s impact and its role as a leader. I am also a 2019 Leadership Greater Chicago (LGC) Fellow. LGC fosters civic engagement and it provides Apna Ghar the invaluable opportunity to positively impact Chicago’s landscape and future. My thanks to Voyage Chicago for the profile in their Trailblazers section! And we are grateful to United Way for profiling Apna Ghar’s work in April during sexual assault awareness month in the United States. Positive media attention is key to shifting societal norms.

It was a privilege to represent Apna Ghar in Taiwan at the 4th World Conference of Women’s Shelters, the largest and most diverse global gathering on protection services and prevention of gender violence. While it reinforced the unfortunate fact that gender violence occurs globally across communities, countries and continents, it also generated incredible opportunities to creatively collaborate to make change possible.

30th Anniversary Celebration!

We look forward to celebrating 30 years of impact with you on Saturday, May 2, 2020 at Venue West! Details to follow, but please save the date.

Sincerely,

Neha Gill
Executive Director
Apna Ghar, Inc. (Our Home)