Empower • Engage • Elevate

IMPACT REPORT
From Our Board President and Executive Director

Dear Friend and Supporter,

Each year, with your assistance, Apna Ghar conducts outreach and advocacy and provides critical, comprehensive, and culturally competent services to survivors of gender violence - a global human rights violation and public health concern. We reach more than 5,000 people annually in our area.

More than any other time since our inception, Apna Ghar has grown and amplified its impact significantly over the past few years. We have more than doubled our operating budget and we now offer services out of multiple locations in the city and suburbs. Most recently we added a location on the city’s south side. In 2019, we completed our strategic plan for the next five years targeting not only growth, but also sustainability. In this year’s annual report we want to share with you what your contributions mean to Apna Ghar and the communities we serve.

In early 2020, we pivoted to address the pressing and emerging needs brought on by the global COVID-19 pandemic, and the collective uprising to end deep-seated and structural racism. We responded rapidly to ensure the health, safety and well-being of our program participants and the communities we serve. We reflected deeply on the legacy of systemic inequities and their generational impact. We recommitted ourselves to working towards a fair and just society informed by the experiences and narratives of the people and communities we serve. We did all of this with a clear-eyed understanding that we are in a moment in history that will define us for generations to come.

We received a grant from the US Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) to understand and connect the links between family violence with gun and community violence. Led by the Alliance for Safety and Justice, we formed the Illinois Shared Safety Coalition with our partners to envision a world where everyone can attain safety and take responsibility for ensuring this safety. We provided recommendations to Mayor Lori Lightfoot and the city of Chicago on their violence prevention efforts and to the Cook County Commission on Women’s Issues. We were fortunate to be included in Governor J.B. Pritzker’s Press Briefings to inform his office, the state and the public on the negative impact of the pandemic and of existing inequities in our communities, and to provide our recommendations for short and long term change.

We developed a research-based model for enhanced supervised visitation and safe exchange services and an accompanying psychoeducational curriculum for fathers who want to improve relationships with their children and repair harm. We launched our first group with interested fathers in 2019 and gained insight about the arduous but worthwhile effort to take responsibility to repair harm and restore relationships. We learned that restorative practices that are effective for individuals can also be applied to and be equally effective in community and larger settings.

Globally, 1 in 3 women is affected by gender violence over the course of her lifetime. This is a terrible statistic, but with your support, Apna Ghar continues to empower survivors, engage communities and elevate the issue to engender lasting change. 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 for protection services and the prevention of gender violence. While it reinforced the unfortunate fact that gender violence is a global phenomenon occurring across communities, countries and continents, it also generated incredible ideas for creative collaboration to make change possible.

Our talented board, staff and volunteers, the courageous survivors we are privileged to serve, you, our generous donors, and our extended community propel our work in the movement to end gender violence, and we thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

ALPA JAYANTI PATEL
Board President

NEHA GILL
Executive Director
A global human rights violation and public health concern

Gender violence is rooted in gender and racial inequality

What is Gender Violence?
Violence committed against someone because of their real or perceived gender
- Partner abuse, Child abuse and Elder abuse
- Physical, sexual, emotional, verbal and psychological abuse
- Economic abuse
- Restricting movement, and withholding essentials
- Stalking
- Surveillance and cyber-stalking
- Trafficking, labor and sexual exploitation
- Forced or early marriage
- State sanctioned violence

Immigrant and Refugee Survivors Face Unique Challenges
- LANGUAGE BARRIERS
- ECONOMIC BARRIERS
- IMMIGRATION & LEGAL BARRIERS
- THREATS, INTIMIDATION & ISOLATION
- USING CITIZENSHIP OR RESIDENCY PRIVILEGE
- WITHHOLDING DOCUMENTS & FINANCES
- COMMUNITY & EXTENDED FAMILY NORMS

In all societies, women and girls are subjected to physical, sexual and psychological abuse that cuts across lines of income, class and culture.

24 hours a day 7 days a week 365 days a year
Apna Ghar’s availability for survivors of gender violence from underserved, marginalized and vulnerable communities.

Approximately 1 in 10 Americans aged 60+ have experienced some form of elder abuse.

1 out of 3 women will experience gender-based violence in her lifetime.


Apna Ghar is a human rights organization working to end gender violence with an evidence-based model

Apna Ghar was founded in 1989 after hotline calls revealed a high incidence of domestic and family violence, abandonment, trafficking, sexual harassment and violence in the growing populations of immigrants and refugees in the metropolitan Chicago area. The calls revealed that immigrant and refugee survivors were reluctant to seek assistance due to linguistic, cultural and legal barriers.

In these last 30 years Apna Ghar has since grown in size and in scope, operating out of multiple locations and providing critical, comprehensive and culturally competent services, outreach and advocacy that empowers survivors, engages communities and elevates the issue of gender violence.

Our guiding principles are rooted in the belief that gender violence is a rights-based issue, that our programs need to be survivor-centered, trauma-informed, strengths-based and empowerment-focused. We embrace survivor diversity in terms of age, gender expression, sexual orientation, immigration status, ethnicity, nationality, and ability. These principles reflect our core values of human rights, cultural humility, high quality, collaborative, and impactful services, outreach and advocacy.

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Rapid Response while simultaneously assessing Gender and Racial Justice Advocacy and Activism
Transportation Support
Apna Ghar is raising awareness to ensure adequate financial, Telehealth and Virtual Counseling Support
Food and Essential Needs Assistance
Mobile Advocacy and Access to Justice
Providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
Technology and Online Learning Support for Adults
Training and Community Education
Reflection and Institutional Investment
Emergency and Long-Term Housing Assistance

How We Are Helping:
• Rapid Response while simultaneously assessing Emerging Needs
• Emergency and Long-Term Housing Assistance
• Food and Essential Needs Assistance
• Providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
• Access to Healthcare
• Economic and Employment Assistance
• Telehealth and Virtual Counseling Support
• Technology and Online Learning Support for Adults and Children
• Transportation Support
• Mobile Advocacy and Access to Justice
• Gender and Racial Justice Advocacy and Activism
• Training and Community Education
• Reflection and Institutional Investment

Justice, Healing, Empowerment
Apna Ghar helped Rebecca realize her goals and live an empowered life

Rebecca came to Chicago as a young bride from East Africa after an arranged marriage to a man who she had never met. Soon after she arrived in Chicago, Rebecca realized that her husband and his family had deceived her, that he was not who he claimed to be, and that he expected her to submit to him and sacrifice her dreams. He believed this was what a wife was supposed to do. Rebecca did not speak much English and did not know anyone else in Chicago or the United States, so she didn’t know who to reach out to for help. Fortunately, she heard of Apna Ghar at her place of worship when someone that she met there told her about the agency and our legal advocate who spoke her language.

Rebecca reached out to Apna Ghar and reported immediately feeling heard, and she found out about the options available to her. When Rebecca decided she couldn’t take the abuse anymore, she called our legal advocate and together they called the police to accompany Rebecca and her children to our safe home. To make the call, Rebecca had to lock herself in the bathroom. Our advocate on one line and the police were on the other while her spouse yelled and banged on the door and attempted to lock it open. Our advocate stayed on the line comforting Rebecca and guiding the police. Shaken up and traumatized, Rebecca and her children left their home and arrived at our. Our legal and housing advocates were waiting for them and helped the family settle in.

Legal Rights and Remedies
Apna Ghar staff immediately started working with Rebecca on her service plan and our legal advocate started the process of securing custody of her three young children, by helping her connect with a pro bono attorney. The attorney was successful in helping Rebecca file for divorce, gain sole custody of her children, and seek child support from her abusive ex-husband. Apna Ghar’s supervised visitation advocates ensured that the children could meet their father during court-mandated visits. Our legal advocates also helped Rebecca connect with an immigration attorney who helped her self-petition under the Violence Against Women Act, so that she is no longer dependent on her ex-husband for immigration status, and can stay in the United States with her children on her own accord.

Empowerment Focused Care
Apna Ghar’s housing advocates connected Rebecca to our counseling services to help her and her children heal and recover from the trauma they’d experienced. In the beginning, Rebecca would freeze at even the thought of her ex-husband and the abuse she had endured. But with counseling, and by tapping into her own reserves, she was able to face him with confidence in court with our advocate by her side. Rebecca continues to benefit from individual and group therapy sessions, and from working with her case manager on financial empowerment and pursuing her employment and educational goals. Her children have also benefited from counseling, after school support and childcare at Apna Ghar. Rebecca has emerged as an empowered young woman focused on achieving her goals and dreams.

Housing and Economic Support
After Rebecca found employment, she and her children moved out of our safe home to a transitional housing apartment that we provided. She pays a portion of her earnings towards rent, and that goes into a savings account and will be returned to her when she moves out. She drives her own car to work before she drops off one child at the neighborhood school, and the other two for childcare at a local center. She is a certified nursing assistant, and works at a hospital while also pursuing further education to become a registered nurse. She takes great pride in her culinary skills and cooks wonderful meals for the friends she made in our housing program. It is a joy to see Rebecca form bonds of friendship with other survivors and support them. She also volunteers her time at her community’s center where she even advocates for other survivors.

Apna Ghar on the frontlines
Apna Ghar is raising awareness to ensure adequate financial, emotional and physical resources, as well as culturally and linguistically appropriate support during this crisis and beyond it

Apna Ghar has been on the frontlines and committed to providing every available resource to the most vulnerable among us, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our staff who are trained in emergency and crisis response ensured that our program participants are safely housed, have access to food and essential needs, as well as relevant, up to date and linguistically appropriate information on the health crisis, and access to testing and healthcare. In addition, we are assisting with technology support, online education support for young people, online parenting support, financial assistance, and access to employment and educational support. We created comprehensive resources and an advisory describing emerging needs and are ensuring wide dissemination.

Research and our experience show that pandemics and large-scale crises exacerbate existing inequities. Those who are already vulnerable and marginalized bear the brunt of the negative impact. Apna Ghar continues to provide an intersectional response to address the socio-economic issues that our communities already face, that are now being further compounded by this public health crisis.

Rebecca’s Journey
Apna Ghar helped Rebecca realize her goals and live an empowered life

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Apna Ghar opens new south side location

On November 1, 2019, we opened our new location in the Ashburn neighborhood to serve the south side of the city of Chicago and surrounding south suburbs. This project in collaboration with the South Suburban Family Shelter (SSFS) is primarily supported by the Illinois Department of Human Services. It is a unique opportunity to engage in asset-based community development while addressing gender violence that is rooted in gender and racial discrimination.

We have already started to have a more visible presence in the area and have formed partnerships through active outreach engagements with nonprofits and community-based organizations, businesses, educational institutions and government officials, that allow us to address interrelated issues including gun and community violence, housing discrimination, health disparities, and civil rights violations, while simultaneously increasing access to services and care.

Scaling Up Our Programs and Services

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, our partnership with Swedish Hospital and our location in Skokie, Illinois.

Our medical advocacy program at Swedish Hospital, now a part of NorthShore University HealthSystem has grown the hospital’s capacity to address gender violence in their patient population. Our specialized trainings to medical personnel on conducting assessments, providing referrals and treatment, coupled with the presence of our staff onsite to provide counseling, medical advocacy and case management services have created an environment of holistic and trauma-informed care.

Our housing program continues to grow. Apna Ghar’s purpose-built, custom-designed safe home has doubled our capacity to serve survivors, and we have added transitional housing apartments and rental assistance support options for our families.

We have scaled up our core programs and services across the agency, increased the number of direct services staff and expanded our service offerings.

We continue to serve survivors from Cook, Lake, DuPage, Will, Kane and McHenry counties, neighboring states and nationally to relocate survivors to Chicago.

In 2019, we provided direct services to 464 adults and 140 children.

Our program participants come from more than 65 countries.

In addition to the United States, our program participants come from countries in South, Southeast and East Asia, the Pacific Islands, the Middle East and North Africa, East, West, Central and Southern Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.

At any given time, we provide services in more than 20 different languages.

Serving survivors and communities impacted by gender violence

Apna Ghar specializes in working with underserved and marginalized populations

Apna Ghar is committed to equity and upholding human rights. Ethnicity, race, immigration status, gender identity, sexual orientation, age and/or ability are no bar. All services are free and voluntary and provided in a participant centered, trauma-informed manner and aligned to the specific needs of each program participant.

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At Apna Ghar we are issue based and community focused. We have developed a three-pronged approach to ending gender violence.

We provide comprehensive intervention and prevention services aimed at helping survivor participants achieve safety, stability and self-sufficiency. In addition, we provide services to those who have caused harm to be accountable and repair the harm.

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 level advocacy in partnership with advocacy groups to improve overall conditions for the survivors we serve.

### Serving families

We provide comprehensive intervention and prevention services.

**351 adults and 71 children**

We offer resources, guidance, and support through in-depth case management. We help survivors identify and connect to community resources for health care, public benefits, financial, employment, and educational goals, housing and other critical needs.

**59 adults and 30 children**

We provide safe and welcoming housing. The safe home/emergency shelter provides survivors fleeing abuse a home-like healing environment where they can regain control of their lives.

**184 adults**

We guide survivors through the legal system and help access available legal remedies. Legal advocates assist survivors in obtaining orders of protection, pressing criminal charges, crime victims’ compensation, filing for divorce, custody and support, as well as acquiring legal immigration status through protective statuses such as the Violence Against Women Act.

**231 adults and 56 children**

We work with adult and child survivors to process and heal from the trauma of abuse. This is achieved through individual, group and family services using psycho-social education, narrative therapy, support groups, expressive therapy and conflict management.

**21 adults and 9 children**

We provide second stage housing aimed to provide stable and permanent housing through ten scattered site independent apartments across Chicago. Transitional housing gives survivors an opportunity to live rent and utility free, empowering them to create robust savings plans to move towards stable and permanent housing.

**151 adults and 86 children**

We help create a safe and healing environment for children to interact with visiting parents who have typically caused harm to the family. Our advocates work with parents to create appropriate plans to repair and build relationships with children in order to ensure that the children’s lives continue to be free from violence.

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Charting our future

Apna Ghar has a new Strategic Plan for the next five years

In April 2019, Apna Ghar completed its strategic planning process with Sort Sol Group to develop and implement a five-year strategic plan.

The strategic plan prioritized a sustainable business model, robust board governance, marketing to communicate our identity and growth, resource development and strategic partnerships, and organizational structure as priority areas. Our implementation process has begun, and we have already made progress in these areas.

Apna Ghar’s Strategic Plan 2019 - 2023

Strategic Goal
Impactful and Sustainable Growth

Strategic Priorities
Governance
Business Model
Communication
Organization Structure

Deepening our relationships

We engage communities and our partners to inform policies and shift norms

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS: 2019 was yet another year of forging new relationships, engaging with policy makers, community and business leaders, healthcare professionals, university students, faculty and administrators, and so many others through our outreach, education and training efforts. We participated in taskforces, press conferences and listening sessions, presented at conferences and community events, and trained new volunteers, staff and members of partner organizations. We participated in a PSA for the city of Chicago to inform immigrants and refugees about their rights during the COVID-19 pandemic.

PARTNERSHIPS: Apna Ghar’s in-house services are complemented by strong community partnerships and collaborations that help the agency leverage resources for additional client services, shared funding, and joint advocacy for systemic changes that result in programs and policies sensitive to the needs of immigrant victims and survivors of gender violence. We are part of an innovative partnership – the Illinois Coalition for Shared Safety led by the Alliance for Safety and Justice to envision a world where everyone can attain safety and everyone takes responsibility for fostering it based in principles of community accountability.

TASKFORCES: Our membership in taskforces, committees and coalitions allow us to impact systems change. In 2019 and 2020 some of these included the City of Chicago’s Violence Prevention Committee, the Lawyering Project’s Advisory Committee, the Language Justice Coalition, Cook County’s Human Trafficking Taskforce, the Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Prevention Workgroup, the Tahirih Justice Center led Forced Marriage Initiative, as well as memberships with Forefront, the Newwork: Advocating to End Domestic Violence, the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and the Global Network of Women’s Shelters.

SITE VISITS: In 2019 we hosted Shabana Azmi, celebrated personality, actor, activist and Global Leadership Ambassador for Women in Public Service, noted artists Jenny Vyas and Yasmine Diaz, Sujatha Baliga, MacArthur Fellow and Director of the Restorative Justice Project at Impact Justice, and other notable people, academics, interns, fellows, partners, funders, donors, supporters and volunteers.

In April 2019, Apna Ghar completed its strategic planning process with Sort Sol Group to develop and implement a five-year strategic plan.
Recognized for thought leadership

Apna Ghar was recognized and highlighted for our leadership and impact

We were honored that our partner the Center for Advancing Domestic Peace recognized Apna Ghar’s culturally competent, trauma-informed and strengths-based services addressing the unique needs of immigrant, refugee and marginalized populations at their 40th Annual Gala in February 2020.

Executive Director Neha Gill was appointed to the Cook County Commission on Women’s Issues representing the 10th District in January 2020. She is deeply honored to receive the Chicago Foundation for Women’s 2020 Impact Award for her commitment to improving the lives of women and girls in our area.

Our Education and Outreach Manager, Radhika Sharma Gordon was recognized as a #FavoriteAsianAmericanLeader by the Asian American Caucus in May 2020 for more than 30 years of service and advocacy.

Executive Director Neha Gill is a 2019 Leadership Greater Chicago (LGC) Fellow and Board President Alpa Jayanti Patel is a LGC Fellow since 2015. In April 2020, they were both highlighted by LGC for their leadership and work on the frontlines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Executive Director Neha Gill was honored with the Woman of Excellence Award for Community Service from the Women’s Empowerment Campaign in March 2019 during Women’s History Month.

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We are grateful to United Way for profiling Executive Director Neha Gill and lifting up Apna Ghar’s work in April 2019 during sexual assault awareness month in the United States.

The Indo-American Democratic Organization (IADO) honored Executive Director Neha Gill with the Lifetime Achievement Award for Public Service at their 40th Annual Gala in October 2019. The event’s keynote address was made by Chicago’s Mayor Lori Lightfoot, and the event was attended by US Senator Dick Durbin, US Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, Cook County State’s Attorney Kim Foxx, State Representative Theresa Mah and many other public officials and community leaders.

Our sincere thanks to Mayor Lori Lightfoot and her team for highlighting Apna Ghar’s work at the first annual women’s spotlight luncheon on Giving Tuesday, December 3, 2019.

In 2019 Apna Ghar developed a language advocacy curriculum to create language equity and ensure access to quality care and advocacy despite language barriers for our program participants and community members. We launched our training series based on the curriculum, first for our own staff, and then for staff of our partner agencies to effectively utilize their language skills to support vulnerable populations. Apna Ghar’s Program Manager Meher Rehman and Community Liaison Kavita D’Souza presented about the curriculum and the training at Northwestern University’s Center for Human Rights Conference on Language and Human Rights.

Apna Ghar contributed to an important report entitled Trauma, Dignity and Restoration: How the State’s Crime Victim Compensation Program Can Help Heal Crime Survivors and Communities. Executive Director Neha Gill wrote about the importance of empathic listening, healthy, positive and culturally and linguistically appropriate interventions. The report was published in December 2019 and covered by WBEZ.

Executive Director Neha Gill’s article on trauma-informed design which is about integrating the principles of trauma informed care into design with the goal of creating physical spaces that promote safety, well-being and healing was published by the Forbes Nonprofits Council in December 2019.

Designs for Dignity’s Executive Director Jennifer Sobecki and Apna Ghar’s Executive Director Neha Gill led a national webinar on trauma informed design for grantees of the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) serving underserved populations.

Apna Ghar’s Programs Supervisor Sara Ogawa Heidbreder presented at the Integrated Creative Arts Therapy Conference on the benefits of creative arts therapeutic interventions.

Apna Ghar’s Education and Outreach Manager Radhika Sharma Gordon co-led a workshop on serving immigrant and refugee survivors of gender violence at a conference organized by the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

Apna Ghar’s supervised visitation and safe exchange advocates Emily Prisuta and Sheila Shankar presented about our research-based model for enhanced supervised visitation and safe exchange services that we developed in partnership with Inspire Action for Social Change at the National Association of Community and Restorative Justice (NACRJ) conference in Denver, Colorado.

Executive Director Neha Gill represented Apna Ghar at the 4th World Conference of Women’s Shelters held in Taiwan. It is the largest and most diverse global gathering on protection services and the prevention of gender violence.

Apna Ghar’s Program Manager Meher Rehman, Development Manager Ashley Tsuruda and Executive Director Neha Gill represented Apna Ghar at the new grantee orientation in New Orleans, Louisiana organized by the Office of Violence Against Women at the US Department of Justice.

Apna Ghar staff were selected to present on several issue areas at the National Conference on Health and Domestic Violence (NCHDV) scheduled for April 2020 which was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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At the forefront of widespread individual, community and systemic change

At Apna Ghar, we are dedicated to amplifying the voices of survivors of gender violence, raising awareness about the issue, and providing our perspective.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Apna Ghar provided insight on the experiences and needs of survivors of gender violence. We were featured in international, national and local print, television and radio including on CNN, Al Jazeera, Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun Times, WBEZ, SELF Magazine, Chicago Block Club, and others.

Executive Director Neha Gill was featured on a panel discussing alternatives to policing on WTTW’s nightly news show Chicago Tonight. Executive Director Neha Gill spoke about the needs of survivors of gender violence from culturally and linguistically specific communities at the Governor’s press briefing on Saturday, May 2, 2020 which was carried live by most Illinois media outlets.

In 2019, we were featured in some of Chicago’s best and most respected media outlets.

The Chicago Reader featured our work along with that of our partners in an article entitled, “Chicago organizations that support survivors and work to prevent sexual violence.”

We are so proud that one of our program participants, Mercy is a founding member and owner of the innovative sewing cooperative Blue Tin Production that has received so much positive media attention including by WBEZ, and the Chicago Sun Times, Block Club Chicago, CSMonitor and by many others.

Taylor Media featured the Indo-American Democratic Organization’s 40th Anniversary Gala where Executive Director Neha Gill received the Lifetime Achievement Award for Public Service, and the Chicago Tribune’s suburban edition featured the Women’s Empowerment Campaign’s gala where she received the Woman of Excellence award for Community Service.

Our purpose-built safe home was featured by Sophisticated Living Magazine Chicago in an article about the work and mission of Apna Ghar and our partnership with Designs for Dignity.

APNA GHAR IN THE NEWS

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Celebrating 30 years of realizing gender justice

11th Annual Taste for Life Benefit

On May 2, 2019, our 11th Annual Taste for Life was attended by leaders, activists, supporters, influencers and top restaurants from the Chicago area’s vibrant communities. More than 300 invested stakeholders came together at the Chicago Cultural Center to support our work to end gender violence. The program was hosted by Sameena Mustafa, co-founder of Illinois for All. Chef Mansa of Mango Pickle joined us as our featured chef.

Hoda Katebi and Mercy, Apna Ghar’s program participant and founding member of Blue Tin Production Co-Op, a fashion sewing cooperative run by refugee and immigrant women were our keynote speakers.

Funkadesi led by longtime supporter Rahul Sharma who is also our Education and Outreach Manager Radhika Sharma Gordon’s younger brother gave a rousing and uplifting performance.

Art of Dosa won the Guest’s Choice Award the second year in a row!

Our sincere thanks to all the guests, our event sponsors, and the more than fifteen amazing restaurant, dessert and beverage sponsors for a wonderful celebration and fundraising event in support of our programs and services.

Apna Ghar’s 30th Anniversary Gala

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Apna Ghar’s anniversary gala celebrating 30 years of realizing gender justice was scheduled for Saturday, May 2, 2020 but it has been postponed to April 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the last three decades, we have reached more than 100,000 survivors of gender violence and community members. We look forward to celebrating this important milestone and recognizing those who made it possible.

Niles North and Niles West High Schools Dance Marathon

Apna Ghar was selected as the year-long Dance Marathon beneficiary by Niles North and Niles West High Schools for the 2019-2020 academic year. The students held multiple events including a 5K run, canning, bake sales, and telephone fundraising to benefit Apna Ghar’s programs and services. The 8-hour dance marathon event was scheduled for May 2020 but was unfortunately canceled due to the pandemic. We are thankful to the students for their innovative and successful fundraising efforts.

13th Annual Stride Against Violence

On October 6, 2019, more than 500 runners, walkers, and volunteers joined us at our 13th annual 5K, Stride Against Violence to help us commemorate National Domestic Violence Awareness Month on a glorious fall day at the picturesque Montrose Park. Bollywood Groove got everyone warmed up, and the Chicago Spirit Brigade cheered our runners on. 46th Ward Alderman James Cappleman spoke about his personal experience and the lasting impact of family violence. Secretary of State Jesse White called for inclusiveness and an end to all kinds of violence, and we were awed by the exhilarating performance of the Jesse White Tumbling Team.

Our thanks to the event sponsors and all the guests for another successful Stride Against Violence 5K.
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Chicago Bears
Chicago Botanic Garden
Chicago Cityens
Chicago Police Department and Chicago Pizza Tours
Chicago Botanic Garden
Chicago Bears
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