



From the Desk of Neha Gill



April 2016

Greetings!

The first quarter of 2016 has been a busy one at Apna Ghar. Since we last communicated, we held our annual art show - **Collective Voices: Shared Journeys** showcasing artwork by survivors, community members and activists at the University of Illinois at Chicago's Montgomery Ward gallery in March. The show included opening and closing receptions as well as events hosted by partner agencies. The theme was gender violence and incarceration and it was all covered by the Medill News from Northwestern University. Read the article [here](#).



Founder Prem Sharma and Board Member Usha Wasan at the ground breaking for our new safe home

In March we also **broke ground to begin construction of our new safe home** which when constructed will double our current capacity. Our founder Prem Sharma, longtime supporter and board member Usha Wasan, board treasurer Ramzan Dhanji and board president Saiyed Rabbani were all present at the site for the ground breaking. We're also excited to partner with [Designs for Dignity](#) who are helping us create a beautiful, functional and healing interior space in the new safe home.

We co-sponsored the film screening and panel discussion of [The Mask You Live In](#), a groundbreaking film that examines negative masculine socialization and how that damages men and boys, at the Chicago Public Library. We also joined our partners [Swedish Covenant Hospital](#), [Between Friends](#) and [KAN-WIN](#) to lead a training for medical residents on screening for domestic violence.

Later this month, on April 26th we are co-sponsoring and participating in an event [Drawing Resistance: Using Comics for Social Change](#) at Women & Children First Bookstore in Andersonville. Join us for a discussion about the benefits of using comic books for social justice.

Supporters are organizing an event highlighting South Asian music and dance, [Apna Ghar, Apni Kala](#) on Saturday, May 7 at 6:30 PM at Filament Theatre in Chicago. The proceeds from the event will be donated to Apna Ghar.

Our sincere thanks to students at Sutherland Elementary School for raising money for Apna Ghar for their service learning project. We are so honored they picked Apna Ghar!



Apna Ghar staff with students from Sutherland Elementary School

Our **eighth annual Taste for Life** event is on **Thursday, May 26, 2016** at the Chicago Cultural Center. Tickets are on sale now at apnaghar.org/taste-for-life. This year our Featured Chef is Uzma Sharif of Choclat Uzma Sharif, and entertainment



includes comedian Paul Varghese, and music by DJ Taz. The evening also includes enjoyable treats from our participating restaurants, complimentary wine and beer, the chance to win some great raffle prizes, and network with other like-minded guests who support our work to end gender violence.

Stay tuned for more information about Taste for Life and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Neha Gill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Neha" and last name "Gill" clearly distinguishable.

Neha Gill
Executive Director

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