



From the Desk of Neha Gill



February 2016

Greetings!

We hope that this year is off to a great start! At Apna Ghar we continue our work of reaching into communities so that survivors of gender violence who need our services know that we're available. Your support ensures these critical services. We want to be certain that we keep you informed of our activities, and on ways that you and your extended networks can continue to support us.

We were featured in the Chicago Foundation for Women (CFW)'s [2015 annual report](#) as well as in their [30th anniversary video](#). See both by clicking on the links above. CFW has funded Apna Ghar since our inception in 1990 through seed funding and then continued general operating support. We are grateful for their belief in us and for their important advocacy work towards creating meaningful change.

DNAinfo Chicago listed us among 10 deserving Chicago causes working to end gender violence. Read more at <https://www.dnainfo.com/chicago/20160204/rogers-park/here-are-10-chicago-causes-far-more-deserving-than-pro-rape-blog-meetup>.



Our counseling program launched a school based, prevention focused art therapy group for young girls at local elementary schools. We created an open studio at our partner Eugene Field Elementary School to ensure continued support for these young girls.

Our alumni board member, Dr. Shaheen Sayeed currently serves as the president of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and we attended a lecture by Louis Fine, a legal expert to better understand changes in Illinois family law.



We joined HC3 (Health Communities Cook County) to ensure healthcare for all, and the Asian American Trafficking Outreach Project (AATOP) convened by the

International Organization For Adolescents ([IOFA](#)) to combat human trafficking. And we continue our outreach and advocacy efforts to inform young people of their immigration rights particularly under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

We are excited to announce our **annual art show** in March at UIC's Montgomery Ward gallery featuring multimedia artwork from survivors, activists and community members. This year we will explore the theme of gender justice while focusing on issues of incarceration, institutional and structural bias, as well as immigrant and refugee rights. The opening reception is on March 4th! More details forthcoming and on our [website](#)!



We also look forward to seeing you at **Taste for Life** on **May 26th** at the Chicago Cultural Center and at all our other events this year!

This week is **Restaurant Giving Week** in Chicago (February 22 - 28). If you donate to Apna Ghar at foodrescue.io/nonprofit/apna-ghar you will receive a voucher for a special treat at one of the participating restaurants. For more information about how it works and participating restaurants, visit <http://partner.foodrescue.io/rgw/> or check out this great [article](#) about our partner Zero Percent and Restaurant Giving Week.

Sincerely,

Neha Gill
Executive Director

Ways to Support Apna Ghar!

[Donate to Apna Ghar](#) for [Restaurant Giving Week](#) this week (February 22 - 28) and receive a voucher for a special treat at one of the many participating restaurants!

Do you have an IRA? Congress passed an appropriations act that permanently extends several key tax provisions, including the QCD (Qualified Charitable Distributions) that allows certain IRA owners to give IRA funds directly to charity without having to include them in income. [Learn more](#) about this appropriations act and talk to your IRA provider and tax advisor about how to donate to Apna Ghar.

Join us at this year's **Taste for Life** on May 26 at the Chicago Cultural Center. Tickets are available online at <http://www.apnaghar.org/taste-for-life.html>.



[DONATE NOW](#)

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