



## From the Desk of Neha Gill



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OCTOBER 2019

**Dear Friends:**

**Thank you all for your sustained support of Apna Ghar!** It makes our work across communities to end gender violence possible. Thank you to everyone who participated, raised funds, donated, sponsored and volunteered at our annual 5K [Stride Against Violence](#) on Sunday, October 6th at Montrose Harbor along Lake Michigan! This year, with your help we surpassed our goals! Your generosity means that we can positively impact the lives of survivors of gender-based violence and work towards long lasting systemic change. Every hour of every day at Apna Ghar is dedicated to our mission.

**Fiscal year 2020 has begun with great promise at Apna Ghar.** We have been steadily increasing our presence in the north and northwest suburbs over the last few years, and are excited to announce that **we have opened a new satellite office in the Ashburn neighborhood in the southwest side of Chicago.** Our fifth and newest location is the result of a creative and collaborative partnership with South Suburban Family Shelter and funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services. Here we will continue our work of serving under-resourced, vulnerable and marginalized communities. In anticipation of

move in November, we have been actively making vital connections and having important conversations with local residents and institutions.

We continue to provide critical, comprehensive and culturally competent programs and services that are trauma informed and strengths-based at Swedish Covenant Hospital and in our locations in Uptown and Skokie. Our nationally recognized holistic services include housing, advocacy, counseling, outreach, policy advocacy as well as training and technical assistance. We advocate for change through meaningful and sustained engagement with local, statewide, national and international coalitions, task-forces and campaigns.

We are also pleased to announce that **Apna Ghar has been selected in the top 25 nonprofits in the Byline Bank It Pays to Bank Local contest** happening right now! Vote now at [PaysToBankLocal.com](https://PaysToBankLocal.com) and every day leading up to October 27th to help us win \$10,000 to help us provide medical assistance to the survivors we serve.

This year's Chicago Marathon may have been just this past weekend, but it's already time to register for the 2020 race! Guarantee your spot by running for **Team Apna Ghar!** More details are below and at [www.apnaghar.org/chicago-marathon](http://www.apnaghar.org/chicago-marathon).

This past Sunday, October 13th, the Indo-American Democratic Organization (IADO) honored me with the **Lifetime Achievement Award for Public Service**. I am deeply privileged to lead Apna Ghar and sincerely touched and humbled by the recognition. Together we must create a better world for young people, and for the generations to come.

The weight of the work we do is not lost on us, as we partner with KAN-WIN and Ascend Justice on October 29, 2019 to host a **candlelight vigil** at the Jefferson Memorial Park Auditorium to honor those we have tragically lost because of gender-based violence and those who bravely continue to endure it. [Join us](#). Chicago's Mayor Lori Lightfoot is scheduled to attend.

Sincerely,

**Neha Gill**  
**Executive Director**

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***Stride Against Violence Fundraising Pages Are Still Open!***



Thank you again to everyone who helped make [Stride Against Violence](#) a success. The funds raised go directly towards our programs and services.

[Keep fundraising and donating](#) throughout October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and help us race past our goal!

A special thank you to Secretary of State Jesse White, Alderman James Cappleman, [Bollywood Groove](#), [The Jesse White Tumblers](#) and the [Chicago Spirit Brigade](#) for ensuring that it was a truly special day.

We could not have done this without our participants, fundraisers and supporters, our generous sponsors, food and beverage donors, volunteers, race management company, photographers, and media!

[DONATE](#)

## ***Vote Now and Help Apna Ghar Win \$10,000!***

Apna Ghar has been selected as a top 25 nonprofit in Byline Bank's "*It Pays to Bank Local*" Contest!

Help us win the first round! It is a one-click vote. Simply select Apna Ghar and cast the vote! The online voting runs from October 14 – 27 and **there is no limit to how many times you can vote. So vote as many times as you can, then share with friends and family to do the same! You can help make us the winner!**

Online voting is at: [www.PaysToBankLocal.com](http://www.PaysToBankLocal.com)

- Hit Select under Apna Ghar's logo
- Scroll to the bottom and hit Cast Your Vote

After the first round of voting ends on October 27, Byline Bank will narrow it down to 10 charities. The final round of voting will run from November 11 - 17 and will feature the shortlisted charities. The winner gets \$10,000 with the runner ups at \$7,500 and \$5,000.

OCT 14-27

APNA GHAR  
OUR HOME

It pays to do good.

**VOTE FOR APNA GHAR!**

It pays to do good. Your mission, backed by us.

Cast your vote by Sunday, October 27 to help your favorite nonprofit move forward to the Top 10.

Read the official rules, here.

Find your favorite business, click select, and then click cast your vote.

BYLINEBANK.COM/  
VOTE-25-NFP

Apna Ghar will utilize award money to support the medical needs of survivors.

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## ***Secure Your Spot in the 2020 Chicago Marathon!***

**GUARANTEE YOUR  
SPOT IN THE 2020  
CHICAGO MARATHON  
BY REGISTERING TO RUN  
FOR APNA GHAR FROM  
OCT 21 - DEC 3, 2019.**  
[www.apnaghar.org/chicago-marathon](http://www.apnaghar.org/chicago-marathon)



Have you ever thought about running a marathon? Chicago's is one of the best! You get to run through more than 29 of Chicago's diverse neighborhoods. Guarantee your spot in the 2020 race by signing up to run for Team Apna Ghar!

Apna Ghar has a limited number of entries, so visit [www.apnaghar.org/chicago-marathon](http://www.apnaghar.org/chicago-marathon) for more details and to complete the [2020 Interest Form](#). We'll review form entries and contact you with further details on completing the registration with the Chicago Marathon.

As a charity runner, you agree to fundraise at least \$1,250 for Apna Ghar and we'll provide you with Apna Ghar t-shirts and exciting swag to represent the organization while you're training. Don't worry, we'll provide support by creating a fundraising page and meeting your goal! We'll also throw in a free registration to our Stride Against Violence 5K!

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## ***Apna Ghar Opens New Satellite Office in South Side Chicago!***

Apna Ghar is excited to announce the opening of our new satellite office in the Ashburn neighborhood on the southwest side of the city of Chicago. We will now be able to expand and increase our reach into the south side of Chicago and the south suburbs. Thanks to the Illinois Department of Human Services for the support and South Suburban Family Shelter for the partnership.

In preparation for the opening of our office this month, our staff have been actively conducting outreach. They have been forming relationships by building connections with local stakeholders.

We hosted a group of first year University of Chicago undergraduate students in September during their orientation to discuss our work, and opportunities for student engagement including giving back to the communities on the south side in particular.



## ***Lifetime Achievement Award for Public Service!***



[Indo-American Democratic Organization \(IADO\)](#) honored Neha Gill, our Executive Director with the Lifetime Achievement Award for Public Service this past weekend at their 40th Annual Banquet.

The honor is a powerful endorsement of our leadership and the impact of our solutions focused services, outreach and advocacy. We are deeply grateful! As we enter our 30th year, we are proud of what we have built, grateful for the support, and enthusiastic about facing the future with visionaries creating lasting impact.

The event was attended by Chicago's Mayor Lori Lightfoot, 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 servants and community leaders. State Senator Ram Villivalam and Susan Patel (pictured) are IADO's board president and vice-president.

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## ***Join Us For a Candlelight Vigil on October 29***

Join KAN-WIN, Apna Ghar and Ascend Justice to memorialize those impacted by domestic violence and shine awareness on how we can support survivors, their families, friends and communities.

There will be music performances and speakers. Light refreshments will be provided.



Jefferson Memorial Park  
Auditorium  
4822 N. Long Ave  
Chicago, IL 60630

**DONATE**



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