

AIWA's Mission

Founded in 1983, Asian Immigrant Women Advocates empowers low-income, limited English speaking Asian immigrant women and youth to become their own advocates for positive change in the workplace, schools, and broader society. AIWA's education programs and services are organized around a comprehensive grassroots leadership development model that provides knowledge, skills, and opportunities for women and youth to self-organize for dignity and justice, and to work with other communities to build a more just and inclusive society for all.



The end of the year is a good opportunity to reflect, so we've put together some highlights from AIWA's work to celebrate our accomplishments, recognize the work ahead of us, and ask for your support.

Here's a recap of some of AIWA's highlights from 2015:

UC Berkeley AAADS Legacy Award



On Nov 6, AIWA was honored to receive the Legacy Award for Community Service at the UC Berkeley Asian American/Asian Diaspora Studies 50th Anniversary Celebration. AIWA Senior Trainers Bing and Kwei Fong accepted the award on behalf of their fellow grassroots leaders.

Collective Action

On Oct 1st, approximately 30 home care workers met with the advisory board of the Alameda County Public Authority to demand language access and other improvements to their working conditions. The board agreed to work with the women to resolve these issues.



Please support!

With your help we can continue to empower immigrant women and youth, create a supportive community for emerging leaders, and challenge ourselves to reach new goals in the coming year!

Click the link to make an online donation through [Razoo](#) or refer to [AIWA website](#) for information on workplace giving (United Way)

AIWA receives a donation through the search engine [GoodSearch](#), for online searches if you designate AIWA as your recipient charity of choice.

[AmazonSmile](#) will donate a percentage of your purchase to AIWA if you designate us as your charity of choice.

Donations by mail are always appreciated by our staff who love to hear from you. Our mailing address is: 310 8th Street, #301, Oakland, CA 94607.



In June and July, AIWA youth leaders worked with a networking ally the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE) on their transportation justice campaign. The Campaign planned an action in July to demand that Measure BB funds include a transparent implementation that involves a free bus pass for youth that specifically targets low income neighborhoods and transit dependent youth for pilot and testing distribution.

Women's Leadership

AIWA's leadership program emphasizes active, ongoing, and peer-led participant engagement. Peer Trainers and Peer Teachers teach trainings and classes, and committees of women and youth coordinate and evaluate events and trainings. Based on 30 years of grassroots leadership and community organizing, AIWA knows that regardless of their native language or formal educational experiences, immigrant women and youth can become leaders and collectively improve their living and working conditions.



"I learned how to protect myself. I had thought it would be better to withdraw, but I was able to learn how to resolve the problem without hiding." 137 low-wage immigrant workers were trained to recognize and protect themselves from workplace violence incidents. AIWA worked with 21 Peer Trainers to confidently train their co-workers on how to recognize and de-escalate potentially violent situations.

Workplace Literacy Education

"I take care of an old person. I am a homecare worker. She has to take medicine. She asks me to understand for her." A literacy class participant explains why the lessons on reading prescription drug labels are so important to her. 59 limited English speaking immigrant women

home care workers attended AIWA classes in 2015. The curriculum is based on women's real life experiences. In addition to meeting their immediate needs, current event discussions on topics such as marriage equality, gentrification, and racial profiling are built into all programs to add a broader political context to their leadership development and local organizing efforts.



Youth Leadership



16 first-generation immigrant youth completed the Asian Youth United leadership training program. The youth learned the importance of working collectively to address social issues such as racism, sexism, language discrimination and educational equity. Youth also developed important fundraising and campaign research skills.

Cross Cultural Leadership Sharing

AIWA screened the film "Becoming Ourselves: How Immigrant Women Transformed Their World" at public events in Los Angeles and Chicago, as well as at classes at UC Berkeley and UI Chicago. In the past year over 200 people viewed the film and met with AIWA leaders and staff to discuss the value of developing a strong base of leaders to power and sustain grassroots movements.



AIWA also worked with nationally-recognized academic allies to develop a Teacher's Guide and classroom materials to supplement the film. 20 universities have purchased this institutional package to date. If you would like more information on how your institution can acquire a copy of the film and Teacher's Guide, please contact Dennis Yee at dyee@aiwa.org.

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