

# 2014 AIWA Annual Report Summary

This year, AIWA is especially proud to report on our momentum-building national film tour which highlighted the impact of our leadership work over the past 30 years and the outreach and training accomplishments of our new home care worker leaders!

By taking our film and leadership implementation package on tour, AIWA has moved closer to accomplishing a long term goal of greater recognition and support for grassroots leadership development.



In 2014, AIWA premiered a 25-minute documentary film and then took it on tour around the US and Canada to publicize and promote AIWA's leadership model among community groups, coalitions, university allies, funders, and activists. A trailer for *Becoming Ourselves: How Immigrant Women Transformed Their World* can be found on our website, [www.aiwa.org](http://www.aiwa.org), which was also completely re-designed and updated, with new resources and information.



AIWA worked with ally organizations to present film screenings in Toronto, Portland, San Francisco, Seattle, Santa Barbara, New York City, Oakland and Dallas. Audiences came from all walks of life: community organizers, activists, foundation staff, individual donors, ESL teachers, grassroots leaders, students, academic allies and media. In addition to showing the film, AIWA briefly demonstrated an interactive chart to emphasize the systematic nature of our leadership development work and to lead off the post film discussions.



*"Immigrant women are an important part of the human resources of this country. Through educating and training immigrants to become leaders, we can unite and fight for greater rights and benefits for our communities. We must promote socio-economic justice in our society to ensure our future."* An AIWA leader reflected on her visit to local organizations in New York City. Worker exchange visits were arranged with local allies such as CAAAV (pan-Asian immigrant and refugee organizing mostly around tenant and housing issues), Adhikaar (Nepalese immigrant women home care workers), and CSWA (Chinese immigrant worker organizing) as part of the film tour.



After much discussion, AIWA decided to limit enrollment of our literacy classes in order to prioritize and focus our programs on building up a new base constituency. Two levels of English classes which were reserved specifically for home care workers enrolled 32 students as we outreached to this new sector. The classes focused on strengthening verbal skills -particularly conversational English specific to their work responsibilities, as well as more political content such as minimum wage, worker protections and responses to harassment.

## Peer Training in Action

Senior Trainers trained 14 new Chinese and Korean women leaders to become Peer Trainers on how to recognize and avoid common ergonomic hazards, and to prevent injuries. These new leaders then reached out to and trained over 155 of their peer home care workers!



One new leader commented that the training was an eye-opening experience for her. In her feedback, she said that not only did the materials help her recognize health risks and mitigation strategies, but the leadership portion of the trainings increased her confidence. The consensus among Peer Trainers was that the opportunity to develop bonds of friendship and support among other home care workers was invaluable.



40 women participated in AIWA's Introduction to Leadership training sessions. The trainings provided an opportunity for home care workers to share the intimate and industry-specific challenges they face, as well as to build peer support networks to change the precarious nature of their working conditions. In addition to specific leadership topics, all women leaders engage in current event discussions as part of AIWA's classes and meetings. Discussion topics in 2014 included labor movement history, climate change, religious and racial tolerance, as well as events in Ferguson (police militarization vs. community policing), and have helped to add a broader context and understanding to their leadership development.



During Asian Youth United, youth leaders conducted a total of 11 workshops and engaged 18 participants in community action projects which emphasized non-violent advocacy for community rights through civic demonstrations. Youth leaders also piloted a new workshop about how to prepare for college. They brought in youth program alumni to share their experiences about how to prepare for the SAT, college admissions and financial aid applications, and how to transfer from a community college to a UC campus.

## Year End Community Event



Women leaders welcomed representatives from the Department of Labor -OSHA and StopWaste who gave informative presentations to approximately 300 people at AIWA's annual year-end community event. AIWA leaders were also pleased to collaborate with the Oakland Asian Police Officers Association who generously sponsored a holiday gift give-away to low-income children.