

Asian Women United of Minnesota at a glance

Asian Women United of Minnesota seeks to end domestic violence by promoting safe and healthy relationships within the Asian-Pacific Islander Community and beyond.

AWUM was founded as a grassroots advocacy organization by a small group of Asian women activists in 1993. In 1996, AWUM earned its 501c3 IRS status and opened an office on University Avenue in St. Paul. The House of Peace Shelter opened its doors in 2001.

House of Peace – 24-bed shelter for women and children. Operates 24/7/365. Serves approximately 200 individuals/families each year. Provides advocacy, support groups, wellness activities, licensed therapist, and children’s programming.

Community Advocacy Project – Strategically imbedded advocates, serving in partnership with government and other nonprofit organizations. CAP advocates serve over 1,000 individuals a year. CAP advocates train community groups from all disciplines (law enforcement, education, healthcare, local companies, and sister nonprofits) on domestic violence in the Asian community. AWUM staff also provide support group facilitation to local schools when requested.

Primary issues:

In the past several years, the percentage of Asian refugees and immigrants receiving emergency shelter has increased from approximately 60 to 95 percent due to concerted outreach efforts and increased need. Barriers facing the communities we serve include: low English proficiency, complicated immigration status, and multilayered abuse (violence perpetrated by in-laws in addition to intimate partners). AWUM has become increasingly well regarded as a service provider to recent refugees from all countries. Thus we have broadened our reach to include Muslim women from Arab and African nations and are working more closely with advocacy organizations supporting those communities.

Annual budget FY15-16: Approximately \$1 million

Primary funders:

State of MN Office of Justice Programs
Hennepin County
City of Minneapolis
Otto Bremer Foundation
WCA Foundation
HRK Foundation