

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

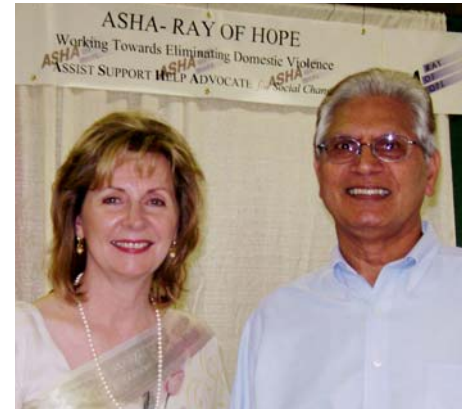
Dear Friends of ASHA:

The year 2008 is almost over and so is my term as President. Aside from serving our clients, our mission also includes outreach programs. We have had many activities and events during the year. I would like to recap them.

The Honorable Carrie E. Gladden, Franklin County Municipal Judge, was our speaker in March. Judge Gladden, an advocate of victims' rights, spoke about her work with the victims of domestic violence. In June, we had our annual fundraiser event. This was an evening of Music and Dance extravaganza. We raised over \$29,000 at the event. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the hard work of all individuals who made the event such a stupendous success.

Dr. Kasturi Rajadhyaksha, one of our Founding Members, was honored and inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame in September for her work in central Ohio for raising awareness and assisting victims of Domestic Violence. Another great honor and recognition came in October for Mira Satiani (a Founding Member, past President, and Counselor for ASHA) when she was selected as recipient of the Susan J. Sears Counselor-of-the-Year Award by the Ohio Counseling Association. Also in October, Debarati Bardhan-Akala, ASHA Board Member, was selected for the Barbara Warner Committee on Workplace Domestic Violence by Governor Ted Strickland. We are so proud of the achievements of Dr. Raja, Mira, and Debarati.

At a workshop in November, Mr. Dennis Muchnicki, Attorney at Law, provided information about the Immigration Laws



Volunteers, Gurbachan and Sandy Chawla, India Festival Booth

affecting the families and victims of Domestic Violence. Ms. Michelle Grizzle, of CHOICES, talked about healthy and unhealthy family relationships.

During the year, we also participated in the India Festival, the Asian Festival, and the International Festival.



Board Members Padmini Ekbote and Deepa Saratchandran at ASHA's India Festival booth.

In December, new and returning Board members and officers were selected for 2009. It has been a great honor to serve ASHA and I wish the organization every success in the future.

Kirit Kapadia  
President, ASHA-Ray of Hope



Mira Satiani and Sujatha Reddy at the Ohio Counselors Association Award.

**ASHA-RAY OF HOPE  
CELEBRATES DR. KASTURI  
RAJADHYAKSHA'S INDUCTION  
INTO 2008 OHIO WOMEN'S HALL**

*By Debarati Bardhan-Akala*

Columbus, OH – On Wednesday, September 17, 2008, Ohio Governor Ted Strickland announced that thirteen (13) Ohio women would be inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame on Thursday, September 18, 2008. Amongst these accomplished women was the first Indian-American and founding member of ASHA-Ray of Hope, Dr. Kasturi Rajadhyaksha.

The Ohio Women's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony was held on Thursday, September 18, 2008, at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium and was attended by the Governor; Frances Strickland, First Lady; Jennifer Brunner, Secretary of State; Hollie Hinton, Director of the Governor's Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach; and distinguished inductees and their friends and families.

Dr. Rajadhyaksha has been involved in Community Relations, Empowerment, and Women's issues for more than forty (40)

years. For the past sixty three (63) years, she has worked in Maternal and Child Health, Family Planning, and Empowerment of Women in the U.S., India, and other countries. Dr. Rajadhyaksha has always been a champion of women's issues and was the founder of the only support group for Indian women in Central Ohio, WISSUG (Women of Indian Subcontinent Support Group). She is also the founding member of the Women-to-Women mentoring program.

In 2003, she led and motivated a group of eight (8) leaders of the Indian community to create ASHA-Ray of Hope, to increase awareness and provide assistance to victims of Domestic Violence in the South Asian communities.

ASHA-Ray of Hope is proud of the selection of her founding member as an inductee into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame, 2008. ASHA thanks the women's division of the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services (now part of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services) and the Governor's Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach for publicly recognizing Dr. Rajadhyaksha's passion and commitment to women's issues. ❖

**UPCOMING EVENTS  
(JANUARY – JUNE, 2009)**

**Sunday, January 18, 2009:**  
Launching / Introduction of  
Advisory Board

**Sunday, February 22, 2009:**  
Board & Volunteer Training  
(open to all members)

**Sunday, March 22, 2009:**  
First Speaker Event featuring  
Hollie R. Hinton, Director,  
Governor's Office for Women's  
Initiatives and Outreach

**Sunday, April 26, 2009:**  
Board Supervision and Oversight

**Last weekend of May, 2009:**  
Asian Festival

**ASHA  
Ray of Hope's  
Vision**

***Eradication of  
domestic violence  
and providing  
support for victims  
through education,  
awareness and  
counseling.***



*"I congratulate these remarkable women on the valuable contributions they have made to their communities and businesses," said Governor Strickland. "It is my hope that these inductees inspire other Ohio women to follow their aspirations and actively pursue their professional, community and civic goals."*

*Governor's office Press Release September 17, 2008*

**THE 2008 ASHA-RAY OF HOPE  
GALA, JUNE 6, 2008  
— A PERSONAL REVIEW**

*By Dr. Bhagwan Satiani*

The target set for the gala fundraiser seemed like a pipe dream and although agreed upon, most committee members probably felt that even half that amount (\$30,000) would be good. What would it be like? Would there be a last-minute disaster? Would enough people show up? Would the performers, all amateurs, be able to come through?

The weeks went by fast, time was a blur, and the day was suddenly here. ASHA members and volunteers came early with their game faces on and ushered in guests dressed in the finest.

A quick turnover by performers and volunteers then got the dance drama, Tagore's Chandalika, on track. What a performance! Four months of rehearsals by an eclectic group of young performers, some of whom did not understand the language (Bengali) and had never danced in a dance drama, resulted in a magnificent portrayal of the pathos and social-justice themes woven through the original drama. Using minimal props and lighting but colorfully dramatic costumes, director and choreographer Joya Barua was able to harness the enthusiasm, talent, and athleticism of the artists to present an emotional, visually rich, and powerful rendering of the play. The crowd was mesmerized by the ending and gave the performers a standing ovation.

*Using minimal props and lighting but colorfully dramatic costumes, director and choreographer Joya Barua was able to harness the enthusiasm, talent, and athleticism of the artists to present an emotional, visually rich, and powerful rendering of the play.*

It was great, no mishaps occurred, enough people showed, and yes the amateurs came through!

The gala started on time, unlike most Indian events! All artists showed up ready to go. The music and dance part was a little long, but despite some minor technical audio glitches, the crowd enjoyed the new and old "filmi" songs.

And yes, the fundraising target was just about reached (\$29,000). The major sponsors (Ohio State University Medical Center, Fifth Third Bank, Taylor Station Anesthesia, and Bayleaf Bistro) sent a message that mainstream America will support causes near and dear to ethnic communities. It goes to show that if the cause is relevant to the community, all it takes is optimists willing to twist a few

**ADVISORY BOARD**

**Manu Bhatt**

**Rajesh Kanumury**

**Rohini Mulchandani**

**Niranjan Patel**

**Shivane Patel,  
ASHA's Legal Counsel**

**Nabil Raazi**

**Dr. Kasturi Rajadhyaksha**

**Nirmal Sinha**

**Dr. Pitambar (Peter) Somani**

**Dr. Janak Wadwa**



arms, albeit with some force! These events are only successful if a few committed people decide to make things happen by sheer will-power and enlist friends and neighbors to join them.

You can be one of these "committed" people. Come work to help ASHA deliver its mission to assist in providing familial safety and wellbeing to all members of OUR community. ❖



## ASHA-RAY OF HOPE CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE IN CENTRAL OHIO

By Debarati Bardhan-Akala

COLUMBUS—On Friday, June 6, 2008, Asha-Ray of Hope, an organization that helps victims of domestic violence, celebrated the anniversary of its fifth year of community service with a magnificent musical extravaganza at the King Arts Complex in downtown Columbus. The evening highlighting Indian music and dance was a stupendous success, with an estimated 300 people in attendance, raising approximately twenty-nine thousand dollars (\$ 29,000) for the cause that Asha supports.

*The program of light Indian music, performed by Jhankar, was melodious, and Tagore's dance drama Chandalika, choreographed by Joya Barua and performed by Amrapali, was delightful.*

The program brought out the South Asian community in unison. It was attended by several dignitaries, including Mark Colopy, Director of Global Relations, and Hollie Hinton, Director of Women's Health and Domestic Violence Issues, representing Governor Ted Strickland and First Lady Frances Strickland. Senator Sharod Brown, Senator George Voinovich, and Mayor Michael Coleman sent congratulatory messages.

Debarati Bardhan-Akala served as the Master of Ceremonies. She was impressive and spoke with dedication and purpose. Kirit Kapadia, President of ASHA-Ray of

Hope, shared with the audience ASHA's activities and accomplishments over the last year. Distinguished guests from the Governor's office spoke highly of the Mission and the Vision of ASHA-Ray of Hope and stressed the importance of such services to the community.

The program of light Indian music, performed by Jhankar, was melodious, and Tagore's dance drama Chandalika, choreographed by Joya Barua and performed by Amrapali, was delightful.

Jhankar took the audience back to the Golden days of Indian Cinema by their renditions of popular songs and ghazals from the 50's, 60's and the 70's, while young



dancers from The Nalanda School of Dance had the audience tapping their feet to today's newest Bollywood hits. Chandalika was perfectly enacted by Amrapali and ensured the evening's success. The costumes were

## INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Amar Pandey

It is an honor to lead this distinguished organization. The year 2009 will be full of challenges for all and we will be right there taking care of our community needs in the area of domestic violence and its prevention. The new board is excited and ready to take on the challenges of elevating ASHA's awareness and its mission within the community. We look forward to all your support. ❖

*Thanks.*



well designed and authentic, the stage settings aptly created, and the performance graceful and moving.

In the words of Dr. J.S. Jindal, ASHA-Ray of Hope Board Member and Community Relations Commissioner, City of Columbus: "It was wonderful event, well organized, well-planned, and touching ASHA's goals." ❖



## CHOICES PEACEMAKER LUNCHEON, OCTOBER 22, 2008

By Padmini Ekbote

The Annual Peacemaker Awards Luncheon was hosted by Choices at the Hyatt, downtown Columbus. The keynote speaker was Actor and Domestic-Violence Victims' Advocate Victor Rivers, himself a victim of domestic violence as a child. It was heart rending to hear his story. He was the son of an immigrant; his mother did not know English, nor did she have any means of asking for help. It was inspiring to see how he used his experience to create awareness of the existence of Domestic Violence and the need to take action against such occurrences. His experience resonates with that of ASHA's clients, some of whom are also immigrants who don't speak English.

Domestic Violence affects not just the spouse but also the family; especially children. In order to ensure that action is taken against Domestic Violence, there is a need to involve men. Victor Rivers is a good role model for this movement. ❖

## CONGRATULATIONS DEBARATI!

By Deepa Saratchandran

Debarati Bardhan-Akala, ASHA Board member, has been appointed to Ohio's prestigious Barbara Warner Committee on Domestic Violence. This committee has been formed by Governor Ted Strickland

## Domestic Violence Resource List

Columbus Police Department.....911 or  
(614) 645-4545

Franklin County  
Sheriff's Department..... (614) 462-3333

CHOICES..... (614) 224-4663

### Batterer's Treatment

Lutheran Social Services..... (614) 261-5580

Mt. Carmel..... (614) 234-2939

Southeast..... (614) 225-0980

Crossroads..... (614) 445-0352

Africentric Personal  
Development ..... (614) 253-4448

### Legal Information

Capital University Family  
Advocacy Center..... (614) 236-6779 or  
(614) 236-6245

Domestic Violence Unit –  
Prosecutors (protection  
orders, filing charges) .... (614) 645-6232

Victims of Crime  
Compensation ..... 1-800-582-2877

VINE (notification of which  
correctional facility defendant  
is housed)..... 1-800-770-0192

Legal Aid Society ..... (614) 241-2001

CRIS (Community Refugee &  
Immigration Services) .... (614) 235-5747

### Other

Adult Protective Services ..... (614) 462-4356

Center for New Direction .... (614) 849-0028

Columbus Literacy  
Council ..... (614) 221-5013

Franklin County  
Children Services..... (614) 229-7000

Franklin County Dept. of Job  
& Family Services ..... (614) 462-4000

Dr. Yung Chen-Lu  
(free medical clinic) ..... (614) 451-3550

National Domestic Violence  
Hotline (24 hours) ..... 1-800-799-7233

Ohio Domestic Violence  
Network ..... (614) 781-9651

to look into policy matters on Domestic Violence and is set to meet quarterly. Debi's appointment opens up a great opportunity to bring the cause of Immigrant Domestic Violence survivors to the forefront of mainstream legislation.

Debi has been a member of ASHA since its inception in 2002 and served as Secretary

in 2005. An active advocate against domestic violence, she has presented at various community events and made a presentation on local Television Channel 3. She is also actively involved in various Business and Community Organizations like the Asian American Commerce Group, Women to Women Mentorship Program and Columbus Area Women's Business Council. ❖



## ASHA-Ray of Hope's Mission

**ASHA-Ray of Hope exists to support and counsel individuals and families affected by domestic violence, especially those of the South Asian community. Through advocacy, collaboration and awareness activities, ASHA will help to educate the greater community and connect individuals and families with the resources they need to achieve self-reliance.**

## ASHA—RAY OF HOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2009

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**President**

*Amar Pandey*

**Past President**

*Kirit Kapadia*

**Vice President**

*Debi Bardhan-Akala*

*Dr. J. S. Jindal*

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*Ruby Jain*

*Deepa Saratchandran*

*Dr. Bhagwan Satiani*

**ASHA**  
**RAY**  
**OF**  
**HOPE**

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