

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Dear Friends Of ASHA,

Greetings! Hope you all are enjoying your year to the fullest. Here at ASHA we too have been going full throttle in pursuing our goals. In this economically challenging year we made a commitment to look under every rock for that elusive grant money. As we continue to complete grant applications at every opportunity that we find, we were successful in bagging one. This one year Grant starts this September and runs until the end of August, 2010.

The landmark American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. As one of its many elements, the Recovery Act provides funding for grants to assist, state, local and tribal law enforcement (including support for hiring),

to combat violence against women, to fight internet crimes against children, to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system, to assist victims of crime, and to support youth mentoring. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Program funds projects that assist units of local government develop and strengthen law enforcement and prosecution strategies and services to combat crimes against women while also ensuring **job growth and job retention**.

The board is also diligently pursuing a fundraising event for next year and details will be announced once it materializes.

We all thank you for your continued support of ASHA and its mission without which our mission would have been difficult to accomplish.

Amar Pandey  
President, ASHA Ray Of Hope

## SPEAKER EVENT

By Maliba Raazi, Office Coordinator

Asha-Ray of Hope hosted its first Speaker Event of the year at the Upper Arlington Municipal Building on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009. The featured speaker was Ms. Hollie Hinton, Director, Governor's Office for Women Initiatives and Outreach (GOWIO), State Of Ohio.

GOWIO promotes public policy that advances the status of Ohio's women and girls, in the areas of economic development, health, education and personal safety. Ms. Hinton, who serves as the Director of this office, cares deeply about issues that impact women and the unique challenges they encounter. She is a steward for women's issues and works closely with the Governor's office to create, manage and promote programs that aim at improving women's lives.

Ms. Hinton, has been a friend and a long time supporter of Asha-Ray of Hope and spoke eloquently about public policy towards Domestic violence, Women's health and immigration. She outlined the vision that the Governor's office has to improve the lives of women and girls in the State of Ohio and stressed on the importance of Advocacy, Awareness and Education to combat the evils of domestic violence. She introduced "Momentum 2010", Ohio Women's Summit, to be held on March 8, 2010 in Columbus Ohio

Ms. Hinton also presented a Congratulatory message signed by Governor Ted Strickland to Asha-Ray of Hope.

The event was attended by Asha-Ray of Hope members, founding members, Board and Advisory Council members. Other accomplished guests included Honorable Judges Carrie Glaeden and Kim Cocroft ❖



Ms. Hollie Hinton presents a Congratulatory Message signed by Governor Ted Strickland.

## GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTED

By Dr. Bhagwan Satiani, Board Member

A proposal called “**STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA) GRANT PROPOSAL**” has been approved by the Franklin County Office Of Homeland Security & Justice Programs under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT of 2009. The grant was prepared by Dr. Bhagwan Satiani & Amar Pandey with the support of Asha-Ray of Hope Board Members.

Our review of the Asian, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander population in Franklin County indicates over a 100% increase from 1990 to 2004. This group now represents about 3.6% of the population of Franklin County (2004). Our application pointed out the increasing need for us to receive assistance for this underserved population. The grant was submitted to request funding for continued support for part-time office staff and a part-time case worker to maintain and increase services for ASHA clients. ASHA has previously successfully obtained grants from Capacity Building Initiative: Immigrant and Refugee Organizations (United Way) and Job & Family services. ❖

## INNOVATION THROUGH COLLABORATION: BUILDING A COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO FAMILY VIOLENCE

By Maliba Raazi, Office Coordinator

On April 29 - May 1, 2009 the Columbus Coalition against Family Violence held its first National Conference in Columbus, Ohio: *Innovation through Collaboration: Building a Community Response to Family Violence*.

The conference offered sessions and workshops designed to highlight practices, issues, and collaborative efforts in addressing family violence across five key sectors of the communities – Business, Legal Services, Victim Services, Health Care and Faith.

Asha-Ray of Hope was one of the proud exhibitors in the conference. It was a great collective effort by the entire event committee and very well participated by our members and member volunteers.

Atlas Blueprint was extremely generous to prepare two brilliant exhibits for display, free of cost for us.

Varsha Narayan and Maliha Raazi created a fascinating interactive display called “*Help Priya Rise.*” Priya, a doll depicted an Indian bride who stood in one scale of Justice, heavily burdened by enduring abuse. On the other scale were Support blocks that depicted element of kindness such as Apathy, Sympathy, Benevolence, Compassion etc.

As people stopped by, they placed loose change inside support blocks, making them heavier and heavier each time. With the strength of the community support, bit by bit Priya rose up on her feet. This simple exercise highlighted how small random acts of kindness and support can gradually empower a victim.

The Asha booth and display were an instant hit. ❖

## ROLE OF A COUNSELOR AT ASHA-RAY OF HOPE

By Mira Satiani, LPCC, Founding Member, Past President, Recipient of 2008: Ohio Counselors Association Award

The role of a counselor at ASHA is to provide counseling, education and to coordinate services for clients.

Clients may call the counselor directly on the crisis line or are referred by other agencies or community or ASHA members. The counselor provides an assessment of the clients needs. She educates the clients on domestic violence (DV) and the effects of DV on herself and her children and provides safety planning to keep her family safe. The counselor at the same time connects her client with resources in the community. If the client needs an interpreter and/or transportation she is connected with a trained case manager/volunteer. The counselor continues to provide counseling and works with the client and case manager as a team to ensure that the client's goals are reached. If the case manager or another volunteer are not available the counselor provides interpretation and transportation as needed. She works closely with the client's attorney and Immigration lawyer and provides assessment and other documentation as needed with the client's

permission. The counselor also provides support and communicates with loved ones with the permission of the client.

The counselor has to present her client's case in front of the ASHA Board members to request financial support. It may be for housing, utilities, attorney fees, driving lessons, Immigration health exam, transportation or other emergencies but the Board has to vote on it and decide on the funds they can allocate to this client. The client is informed of this in advance.

Confidentiality is very important in domestic violence cases because the safety of the client depends on it. Also we live in a small community and if enough information gets out about a client, people may be able to identify that person and the client may be subject to gossip. Another important function of the counselor is to provide trainings to the Board, ASHA members and volunteers about domestic violence and the effects of DV on clients, confidentiality and how to work with clients in a safe and effective manner. Lastly, the counselor along with other Board members makes presentations to educate the community and other DV organizations about the specific needs of our clients and the role of Asha-Ray of Hope. ❖

## ADVISORY BOARD

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**Nirmal Sinha**

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**Dr. Janak Wadwa**

The logo for ASHA RAY OF HOPE is located in the bottom right corner of the page. It features the word "ASHA" in a large, bold, sans-serif font. To its right, the words "RAY OF HOPE" are stacked vertically in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a background of several parallel, slanted lines that create a sense of depth and movement.

## MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMEBRS

By *Maliba Raazi*, Office Coordinator

**Dr. Bhagwan Satiani** has resided in Columbus since 1977 and has been a volunteer for ASHA since its inception. He coordinated the first fundraiser for ASHA by providing the entertainment and was in-charge of fundraising at last year's Gala event also. He follows his wife Mira who is a founder and Past President of ASHA on the board. They have two children and a nine month old grandson. He is currently Professor of Surgery in the Division of Vascular Surgery & Medical Director of the Vascular Laboratory at The Ohio State University Heart & Vascular Center. He is also President of Savvy Medicine ([www.savvy-medicine.com](http://www.savvy-medicine.com)) an organization that educates healthcare professionals on business issues in medicine. He plays percussion (tabla, naal and electronic drums) in an Indian music band Jhankar.

**Mrs. Tahira Aziz** has lived in Columbus Ohio since 1977 with her husband Dr. Haroon Aziz and 3 Children. Tahira has worked tirelessly with ASHA-Ray of Hope for the last four years. She worked as a dedicated volunteer for the families. Tahira Aziz graduated from Punjab University Lahore in 1971. She has worked with 6 On Your Side ABC News, and with the Board of Columbus Academy, and also Grant Hospital Women's board. She loves gardening and enjoys playing bridge with her friends. ❖

## MOMENTUM 2010: OHIO WOMEN'S SUMMIT

By *Debarati Bardhan-Akala*, Board Member,  
Momentum 2010 Host Committee Member

Momentum 2010: Ohio Women's Summit is a statewide summit to be held on International Women's Day, Monday, March 8, 2010 in Columbus, OH.

The *mission* of the summit is: to strengthen our families and communities by promoting the advancement of women through education, economics and health. The *vision* of the summit is: an Ohio where women and men work together to achieve gender equity. The *purpose* of the summit is to gather women of diverse backgrounds to learn, network, advance their careers and be inspired to create change for themselves, their families and whole communities.

The *Goals* of the Summit are:

- Bring together women of diverse backgrounds
- Celebrate the potential of girls and honor the accomplishments of women
- Increase awareness of resources available to women in Ohio
- Inform women about how to lead healthy, safe and financially stable lives
- Encourage women to choose careers in science, technology, engineering and math
- Advocate enhanced collaboration among women and across women's organizations
- Foster networking opportunities among women
- Partner with men to accomplish our mission
- Foster and environment that allows for women to strive for and succeed in leadership roles

Violence against Women is a topic that will be discussed and addressed in great detail as a part of this summit under Women's Health initiatives. To get more information about Momentum 2010, please visit <http://governor.ohio.gov/women/Summit/tabid/1010/Default.aspx>. ❖

## CLIENT SERVICE STATUS REPORT

By *Maliba Raazi*, Office Coordinator

Asha Ray of hope has helped 16 DV victims from January 2009 to August 2009.

Our dedicated Counselor and devoted Volunteers have spent over 90 hours helping and supporting our clients. ❖



## VOLUNTEER TRAINING

By *Padmini Ekbote*, Board Member

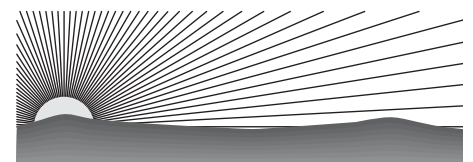
A volunteer training and orientation session was held on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 at the Westerville Library. Mrs. Sujatha Reddy, LPC, organized and conducted the event.

Utilizing visual aids and a powerful multimedia presentation, Mrs. Reddy provided a "Intimate Partner Violence 101" training for all attendees. She made a powerful presentation that covered salient features of what Domestic Violence or Intimate Partner Violence really is, what the warning signs are, how a potential victim can recognize these signs early on and seek help, what options are available not only for the victim but for the perpetrator as well and how family, friends and the larger community can help. Ms. Reddy also presented statistics that showed clearly how wide -spread this epidemic really is and how it affects everyone, across all ages, races, social standing, educational background, economic differences and religions.

She praised the intention of all volunteers who wished to make a positive impact in the life of a victim suffering domestic violence. But she stressed that intent by itself was not enough. Proper training and knowledge of regulation and legal resources were imperative in determining how effective a volunteer is in making a positive difference in a victim's life. She helped volunteers identify areas of their particular strength and interest and encouraged them to assist victims in those specific areas.

Mrs. Reddy and Mrs. Satiani presented a powerful skit. With attendee participation, they highlighted how community support and understanding is crucial to a survivor of domestic violence. The skit also showed how different members of a victim's family and friends can help her overcome her fears and become more self-confident and self reliant.

The training was well attended with favorable feedback from all attendees. ❖



2009

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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*Debi Bardhan-Akala*

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*Tabira Aziz*

*Dr. J. S. Jindal*

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**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

**Contact Us at:**  
**Office Phone: (614) 326-2121**  
**Crisis Line: (614) 565-2918**  
**asharayohope@sbcglobal.net**  
**www.asharayohope.org**

ASHA-Ray of Hope  
1505 Bethel Road, Suite 103  
Columbus, Ohio 43220

