THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING API CHAYA’S MISSION, SERVICES, AND PROGRAMS. As we reflect on last year, despite the heartbreaking challenges, we are so grateful for what we make possible together. Our communities have been with us—individuals, foundations, volunteers, faith-based centers, family members, neighbors, businesses, and other organizations. You donated time, you donated money, you donated precious PPE, groceries, meals. From the bottom of our hearts—we thank you. Your financial gifts and volunteerism help us build a community where survivors have access to safety, pathways to healing, and support to thrive.

Throughout the past year, our staff and communities have been devastated by the alarming increase of anti-Asian violence, and the continued epidemic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW). API Chaya’s decades of work taught us we must fight against all forms of violence, including raids of massage parlors, deportations, incarceration, colonization, and acts of war in our home countries. All are connected to the conditions that allow for intimate partner violence, sexual abuse, and labor exploitation to continue in our homes and neighborhoods. Our programs share a bold vision for what our future can be—we must organize to build a world where all peoples’ needs are met, rights are upheld, and where we all have accessible and safe options for our livelihoods. Community is where the seeds we are planting can truly take root.

Today, we are still witnessing increases in domestic violence and are concerned for children and vulnerable adults living at home with abuse. We know that isolation also creates the conditions for human trafficking to persist. When people’s basic needs are not met, violence escalates. We urge communities to stay connected to one another in this time, and create opportunities for potential survivors to seek help and seek connection.

You are a vital part of creating networks of care that we need with increasing urgency, especially for the marginalized survivors that we serve—those incarcerated or facing deportation, those who have gone on to hurt others, survivors whose languages are different from our own, trans survivors, queer survivors, survivors who are not ready yet to name their hurts, survivors in powerful positions, and survivors in vulnerable conditions. As advocates, organizers, and survivors ourselves, we have seen API Chaya’s role in being with survivors from crisis, to moving towards safety, to finding ways to embody joy, and create the lives they want. We keep each other safe, we thrive together. We are grateful to be in this work with you, and know that we can forge a new world—one that is more just and more loving for us all.

With love and hope for a better future,

Priya Rai & Kalayo Pestano
Executive Co-Directors
We are API Chaya.
API CHAYA BELIEVES IN SURVIVORS. We are an organization focused on serving survivors of sexual violence, human trafficking, and domestic violence from Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian, Asian, and South Asian communities. To center those at the margins, we keep young people, faith-based communities, queer and Trans Black, Indigenous, and people of color, people with disabilities, and immigrants at our core.

Culturally specific support services help survivors move from crisis to healing and thriving. Our free and confidential wraparound services include intensive case management, safety planning, emotional support, legal services, and therapy. Our staff work closely with survivors to reach safety and independence.

We know that when survivors face abuse, they first turn to their close networks. We train these networks to prevent and respond to violence through support, leadership and skill building programs that are language and culture specific. This creates supportive environments for all survivors in their daily lives—in their homes, at their places of worship, in their schools and neighborhoods.

Through our support services and intergenerational community organizing, we meet the immediate safety needs of survivors while developing long term leadership to transform conditions that allow harm to happen.

As a survivor-led organization, we value self-determination and create options for healing and accountability. We recognize that our communities have the resources, traditions and legacies we need to build the relationships and families we want for generations to come.

We invite you to be a part of the solution. Together, we can prevent and end violence, and create communities that are more just and more loving for all people.
Supporting Survivors

Highlights

FREE, CONFIDENTIAL, AND LANGUAGE-ACCESSIBLE WIRAPAROUND SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, & HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

API Chaya’s advocates partner with survivors in their long journey of moving from crisis to the many paths of healing. Even with the ongoing global pandemic and increases of violence, we supported hundreds of survivors in moving towards stability and achieving their dreams, including:

- Providing the financial assistance needed for our hundreds of clients to meet their basic needs while working towards safety.
- Staying with clients through the spectrum of emergency, temporary, and finally permanent housing, including one client who lived in shelters for 9 months before finally securing her own apartment, with a landlord who spoke her language.
- Securing visa status, allowing survivors to stay in the United States free from fear of deportation.
  - 12 trafficking survivors secured T-visas in 2021, and 1 received their green card!
  - One client finally got his visa after 3 years of waiting and 2 denials - and we were with him every step of the way.
- Securing temporary, 10-year, and permanent Domestic Violence Protection orders for limited English speaking clients who want that form of security.
- Family reunification, including providing the legal, housing, and financial support needed for 3 different survivors to see their families for the first time in years.

We strive to meet the constellation of needs that might arise for someone moving through a crisis. In 2021, one client received over 150 hours of advocacy services from our team.
After you delivered the groceries and vitamins, I cried because of happiness. I feel blessed to have people like you.

— Survivor Client

API Chaya creates spaces for survivors and our allies to gather, share stories, and envision a new way of being. We invite our community to honor the survivors in your lives by taking a moment to reflect about how you can show support, hold space for vulnerable stories, and take action to stop rape culture and end systemic violence.

API Chaya changed my life. An organization which helps victims of domestic violence from their agony to a better state. They help us regain our self respect and self esteem. They help mend the brokenness and make us whole again.

— Survivor Client
Launched in 2015, the Disability Justice Program seeks to illuminate the brilliance of d/Deaf and disabled people as they break isolation and navigate tensions within gender-based violence and disability in their community.

We translated information about COVID-19 and staying safe in more than 12 languages, as well as provided survivors with financial support to cover missing work, childcare, or any other needs in order to get vaccinated, and stay safe in the pandemic.

We adapted to continued pandemic conditions, and held two separate holiday parties for survivors and their families, distributing hundreds of toys and gift cards to offer celebration of all the power and resilience of the clients we serve. Staff and volunteers danced under gazebos to stave off the cold of mid-December to make this love possible!

We continued our longstanding support group online, an 11-week program that deepens our understandings of sexual violence, and incorporates creative approaches to healing and support through art and expression.
Even in the worst nightmare in my life I feel blessed and grateful to have API Chaya from day one I suffered domestic violence. They helped me from housing, financial, foods and even a good community. **Helped me to make myself whole again.** Thank you API Chaya, I cannot imagine where my life would be right now if it’s without you.

— Survivor Client
Cultivating Healing

Highlights

CULTURALLY RELEVANT SUPPORT GROUPS, COMMUNITY GATHERINGS, AND HOLISTIC PROGRAMMING TO TEND TO OUR WELLNESS, AND INTERRUPT CYCLES OF VIOLENCE IN OUR FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES, AND SYSTEMS.

Staying connected and feeling supported are some of the most crucial needs in prevention and intervention of harm. As an agency primarily composed of people who are survivors ourselves, we seek to nurture resilience, growth, and healing for all our staff and communities. We leverage our resources, practices, and cultural traditions towards healing in a variety of ways:

- Increasing our therapy capacity by 50% again this year, which means a 100% increase from 2019.
- Monthly workshops for adult survivors of child sexual abuse.
- One-on-one weekly check-ins with youth to maintain connection and foster belonging.
- Partnering with local groups to provide drop in support circles for survivors of harm.
- Monthly healing gatherings for queer and trans parents who are also survivors to heal, build skills, and find a path to joy and grounding in their parenting.
- More than 15 grief support sessions for staff and community, to hold the deep impacts of the global pandemic, interpersonal, and systemic violence we all experience everyday.

I have learned to have more grace for myself in my healing as a survivor... It is so liberating to hear the stories of other parents who are also actively working to end cycles of violence for their children.

Thank you for your leadership to create these powerful, transformative and needed healing spaces for parents and families.

—Program Participant
SUPPORTING SURVIVORS HIGHLIGHTS

Digital altar for our annual vigil, honoring all lives lost to gender-based violence, and particularly the lives of Susana Remerata Blackwell, her unborn baby Kristine, Phoebe Dizon and Veronica Laureta.

Mana: Pasefika Survivor Support Group—In the same way mother nature continues to nurture our basic needs for survival, our Pasefika mothers continue to do the same. This series aims to restore and reconnect us back to our ancestral power through the knowledge and making of plant medicine. The first session was lei making, while discussing the cultural meaning of Mana.

Our Filipino Youth Reunite to Elevate (FYRE) group entered its 6th year of programming, and are committed to intergenerational healing and mentorship. They build skills and resources for healthy relationships, boundary setting, and foster safer spaces. This piece is a collage of what “healing” means to the young people in the program.

I felt seen, heard, supported and cared for.

—Program Participant
In 2021, API Chaya’s Queer Network Program hosted over 70 events to build connection and healing. The QNP aims to nurture and empower QTBIPOC communities using storytelling, collective learning and healing, and caring labor to turn towards each other.

RISE centers the experiences of survivors of sexual assault and abuse and is grounded in the power of art for the purpose of healing and transformation. A years-long group, RISE hosts monthly arts and writing workshops, as well as helps guide our organizational vision for what a supportive and healing future looks like for survivors.

DISH invites Black, Indigenous & People of Color to come together over food to have conversations about intimacy, sexuality, and healing. There are writing prompts, small group sharing, and creative opportunities to engage with issues that allow us to reconnect with our bodies, and find our power and joy.
The way the conversation was steered and the environment for the conversation that was created really provided the space and the comfort needed for it to get as in depth as it did. There was definitely some healing that took place as well as some things that needed to be addressed for some of us personally, and it happened in an organic way that encouraged us to be more open.

—API Chaya Youth Participant

We launched a support group for Filipino youth who have experienced the death of a person in their community or family. They built skills to cope with grief through art, Filipino culture, language, and self-expression.

API Chaya’s PI Organizers partnered with WA Samoan Fit Sistership to do a hike as a way to connect with mother nature and Mana, while having a conversation around physical wellness in relationship to sexual violence. We are honoring our cultural traditions while making real a liberatory world.
Building Accountable Communities Highlights

BUILDING POWER THROUGH LEADERSHIP AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT TO PREVENT, INTERVENE IN, AND END VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

API Chaya’s power building programs are nationally recognized, centering innovative and cultural practices towards a world where we all have the skills needed to create the world we want. Our community power-building work is grounded in our Natural Helpers program, comprised of people already in survivors’ lives, who we nurture to take action towards healing and accountability. API Chaya is particularly a leader around our strategic priorities: (1) community-based responses to harm; (2) disability justice and access for all; and (3) creative ways to find healing from harm, with a focus on intergenerational connection. Some highlights include:

• Engaging community members in over 21,000 hours of education relating to healthy relationships for youth.
• Our Peaceful Families Taskforce program hosting 125 events—more than 2 events per week!
• Hosting a 54-hour advanced training course for our Natural Helpers building concrete skills and deep relationships.
• Continuing to support the Massage Parlor Outreach Project, including distributing basic needs like tents, blankets, and PPE as requested by the workers.
• Hosting our 4th annual Generations Fest, focused on different API Chaya programs, each hosting their own weekend retreats to reflect, vision, and build with our base.
• Participating in King County’s Safer Metro campaign, soliciting brilliance and knowledge from many community members and survivors on the intersections of city infrastructure and safety.
• The Human Trafficking Survivor Leadership team facilitating numerous community workshops on the dynamics of human trafficking and the needs of survivors, and advocating for policy change that centers those most directly impacted.
We expanded our Multilingual Worker outreach and leadership programs, providing know-your-rights workshops for a variety of some of the hardest to reach workers, as well as train-the-trainer sessions for people in non-English speaking communities. We all deserve to feel safe and supported at our places of work.

Concerns about mandatory reporting can prevent survivors from seeking the support they need to avoid triggering a report or being involved in the criminal legal system. API Chaya is a key member of the WA state Mandatory Reporting is Not Neutral Campaign, providing education, base building, and policy advocacy to shift systems that are causing our communities harm.

We host monthly community justice skills labs to develop leadership in responding to harm within communities. If we are going to defund police and prisons, we need to cultivate our own systems to intervene in violence that center healing and dignity. This series was created and facilitated by Natural Helpers, offering a holistic model of survivor support and violence intervention.
API Chaya is one of the leaders in the nonprofit anti-violence movement in highlighting the intersections of gender-based violence and state violence. We are also greatly concerned and taking action about the epidemic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous women. To that end, we were coordinating members of the campaign to Free Maddesyn George, an indigenous survivor charged when defending herself against violence.

[API Chaya] has given me an insight into how to provide community education for folks around the dynamics of domestic violence, care, and how to create safer communities together.

— Program Participant

The resources and knowledge provided in this training have been really helpful to see how we can start restructuring our society to make it more accepting, inclusive and safe for everyone.

— Program Participant

In partnership with other local organizations, we coordinated the Pacific Islander Health Fair in Seatac, WA. We distributed first aid items, shared information, shared COVID safety materials, and created space for conversations around health.
With the long-term vision of creating a world that better supports survivors, our Natural Helper program is a leadership development and education program that supports community members in learning about human trafficking, domestic and sexual violence, the societal forces that create conditions for violence. It centers skill building around how to respond to harm, injustice, and support survivors.

Natural helpers has been a transformative experience for me in my healing journey. I feel empowered and free to lead and support in community transformation, especially in my experience as a survivor.

— Natural Helper

FYRE’s Lupang Ipamana Garden - “Land of Your Legacy” promoted safety and healing by being a way of connecting with the land, ancestral Filipino traditions, and the elders in the community. FYRE youth grow culturally relevant fruits and vegetables and share them with the community.

Our Peaceful Families Taskforce builds knowledge, skills, and leadership for Muslim community members to intervene in gender-based violence in culturally specific and faith-based ways, grounded in lesson from the Quran. Annual groups include A New Beginning for divorced people, another version for elementary school youth, and multi-day regional Imam training in how to respond to disclosure to family violence in supportive ways.
API Chaya in the News & Media

- API Chaya’s Filipino Youth Grief Support Gatherings highlighted in the South Seattle Emerald
- Panadda Mccoe’s 12 Years Ago I Was Trafficked, Now I Have Hope, published in the South Seattle Emerald
- Kalayo Pestaño’s Movement Maker Profile, as part of their journey as a member of the final cycle of NoVo Foundation’s Movement to End Violence capacity building program.
- Divya Chand’s Locating Caste in Carceral Logics in Raiot, a Bengali magazine.
- Priya Rai and Kalayo Pestaño, Co-Directors’ Sustainable Survivor Leadership through Shared Power in the International Examiner
- Lourdez Velasco, Queer Network Program Coordinator’s Collective Queer and Trans Black, Indigenous, People of Color (QTBIPOC) Healing in the International Examiner
- Kalayo Pestaño interviewed for the Seattle Times’ The Hidden Stories that Give Rise to Violence Against Asian American Women
- Derek Dizon, Community Organizing Program Manager’s Kapwa: Remembering the self, remembering each other during API Chaya’s 26th Annual Vigil in the International Examiner
- API Chaya’s statement in response to the Atlanta shootings at a massage parlor, published in the South Seattle Emerald
- Natural Helpers’ We have what we need: Centering survivors in mutual aid in the International Examiner
- Hao Nguyen, Anti-Trafficking Program Manager in the King County CSEC Taskforce Podcast discussing children forced into sex work
- Angeli Bhatt & DeAnn Alcantara Thompson, Community Organizers’ Mandatory reporting is not serving our needs in the International Examiner
- Nica Sy, Organizing Intern’s Wifi is a Lifeline: Community Ownership of Internet in the International Examiner
- Vigil at Hing Hay Park honors victims of Atlanta massage parlor shootings highlights some of API Chaya’s role in grieving massage parlor workers facing violence in the International Examiner
- DeAnn Alcantara Thompson shares her personal opinion based on her work at API Chaya in Abolition is Survivor Centered Justice in the South Seattle Emerald
- Founding mother, former staff, former board member Norma Timbang reflecting on What We Can No Long Accept in the South Seattle Emerald
- Founding mother Emma Catague quoted in the Seattle Times on Standing Up to anti-Asian Hatred, Misogyny, and Violence
- Board Chair Tarul Kode Tripathi spoke as part of Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal’s Virtual Rally and Roundtable to mark the National Day to speak out against Asian American and Pacific Islander Hate
- API Chaya was further put forth as a trusted resource in countless publications, including from King County, the City of Seattle, The Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, The Seattle Times, KUOW, Crosscut, the South Seattle Emerald, Project NIA, the Movement for Black Lives, and more.
API CHAYA IN THE NEWS & MEDIA

Unity comes Full Circle

AT API CHAYA

Cover art by Daychelle Dukas and Angela Franco and pays homage to API Chaya’s Annual Candlelight vigil, 2021.
Dear survivor,

You have survived so far to get to where you are now. Even if the world around us feels chaotic and hard, you create space to be in the comfort of your own presence. You can make a world of yourself, when no one else understands, when words bring no comfort.

Your grief and loss will live alongside you, and will mostly lay in a quiet place, undisturbed. There will be times when it will rise like an ocean, swallowing you without warning. Without doubt, it will shape you to hold fast and dearly to all that you find precious. Cry when you need to. No one can offer their best all of the time, especially these days. However you are in this moment is enough. It’s ok if all you did today was survive.

And when you see the moon, take comfort knowing she sees you. From the very beginning, she has been witness to your pain, and your victories, big and small. She understands that in order to shine, we must find solace in our shadow.

Keep writing, keep doodling, keep shit talking, keep going. It is a brilliant and fruitful thing to do. You are so, so good, even on the worst days. It takes a lot of energy to fight everyday, but remember—each day you’re here is a victory. We will always be here to cheer you on.

Thank you for the rigor that is required for showing up for you. Thank you for the thousand and two tries. Thank you for striving for something else. Thank you for dreaming of something else.

Even when it feels like there’s no one and nothing else, remember that the sun’s rays will keep returning to you, the rain drops will always come back to visit, the air will keep journeying through and with you, and the soil will keep holding you up. Even if you don’t know it, there’s a ladybug or a honeybee or some other piece of the world out there that once saw you in passing and thought you were glorious. Just like the universe moves you, your breath moves the universe.

With all our love,

API Chaya
Financial Highlights

Your support is what makes these critical services possible. API Chaya uses individual donations to directly support our fund for client assistance, community assistance, and our ability to maintain essential services, like our free and confidential helpline, advocacy program, and outreach efforts. It is this flexible, unrestricted money that can truly respond to the many needs of the survivors that we serve.

Including $324,000 in direct survivor support payments for basic needs.

100% of survivors & communities accessed our services for free.
We are committed to ending the cycle of violence in our communities, and with your support, we can make that a reality.

The impossible is the least one can demand.

—James Baldwin

API CHAYA
PO Box 14047
Seattle, WA 98114

Helpline 1-877-922-4292 (Toll-Free) | 206-325-0325
Helpline Hours Monday – Friday 10am – 4pm
Office Email info@apichaya.org
Office Phone 206-467-9976
Office Hours Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm

www.apichaya.org