Letter from the Co-Directors

Dear beloved community,

Thank you for supporting API Chaya’s mission, services, and programs. 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, groceries, meals, and other basic needs to support those who are the most vulnerable. 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.

“We urge communities to stay connected to one another in this time, and create opportunities for potential survivors to seek help and seek connection.”

2022 brought even more changes and challenges for our staff and communities. As we navigate coming back to in person activities, and an end to many government-based supports for our organization and for community members, we are facing new challenges. Since 2018, the federal government has reduced funding for victims of crime by almost 40%, leaving many community-based organizations scrambling to find other sources of funding.

Despite this, API Chaya has been able to expand our staff and increase our direct support to survivors to meet basic needs every year since 2015. It is with you that we can create a robust safety net for all those who experience harm. We are committed to maintaining the highest level of services, and responding to the emergent needs of the people we serve.

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.

The agency’s work would not be sustainable without your support and generosity. Thank you for being a long-standing partner during this remarkable period of unrelenting challenges.

Your generosity helps clients have access to long-term case management with bilingual advocates, and allows us to strengthen the capacity of our community to support them. 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 are grateful to be in this work with you, and for all that we make possible together.

In love and hope for a better world,
Kalayo Pestaño & Priya Rai
API Chaya empowers survivors of gender-based violence and human trafficking to gain safety, connection, and wellness.

We build power by educating and mobilizing South Asian, Asian, Pacific Islander, and all immigrant communities to end exploitation, creating a world where all people thrive.

API Chaya envisions a just and equitable world free of violence and oppression. We partner and engage with community groups, providing education and organizing towards the prevention of domestic and sexual violence, exploitation and human trafficking.

We do our work with an understanding of the cultural norms and stigmas associated with such violence and believe in the inherent strength and potential of our communities to facilitate this change.

Supporting Survivors
Free, confidential, and language-accessible wraparound services for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, & human trafficking

Cultivating Healing
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.

Building Accountable Communities
Building power through leadership and skill development to prevent, intervene in, and end violence in our communities.
2022

AT A GLANCE

SERVED OVER 700 SURVIVORS + FAMILIES
WITH OVER 8,000 HOURS OF DIRECT ADVOCACY + SUPPORT SERVICES

HOSTED OVER 350 COMMUNITY EVENTS
INCLUDING SUPPORT GROUPS, HEALING GATHERINGS, SKILLSHARES, AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENTS
(THAT’S ALMOST ONE EVENT EVERY DAY)

REACHED OVER 3,000 COMMUNITY MEMBERS
AND CLOSE TO 15,000 INCLUDING OUR PRINT AND MEDIA MATERIALS
API Chaya is by survivors, and for survivors.

We know that those closest to the problem are closest to the solution, which is why API Chaya is led by survivors.

Our governing board is 100% people of color.

Our co-directors, 50% of our Board, and more than half of our staff are queer and trans people of color who came to API Chaya as volunteers, participants, or clients.

More than 75% of our staff & board are also survivors, one-third are gender non-conforming, and more than 40% have a disability.

Our management team includes all 7 managers who are all bicultural people of color, 4 who are immigrants, 4 who are LGBTQ, and 3 who are bilingual - two are LGBTQ+ survivor parents.

We deeply value the power and leadership of our communities, and hiring and mentoring those who are the most directly impacted by the issues we seek to address.

Our Co-Directors both started out as interns at API Chaya, both are queer, both are disabled, and both are survivors.
API Chaya advocates walk alongside survivors on their journey from crisis to stability and healing.

Our programs continue to grow in serving survivors to meet their needs around safety, emotional support, housing stability, employment search, mental health, and immigration.

WE OFFERED OVER
8,000
HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICE
HOURS TO SURVIVORS...

- FROM 37 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN
- WITH 44 ETHNIC IDENTITIES
- WHO SPEAK 31 UNIQUE LANGUAGES
- 70% IMMIGRANT/REFUGEE
- 40% LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKERS
- 18% WITH A DISABILITY
- 16% LGBTQIA+
- 60% DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- 30% SEXUAL ASSAULT
- 34% HUMAN TRAFFICKING

“Thank you for all the support and guidance. I am glad to have received it at the most difficult time of my life”
- SURVIVOR CLIENT

Many of our clients are survivors of multiple forms of harm.
**SUPPORTING SURVIVORS**

**THERAPY**

We offered over 1,000 hours of free, trauma-informed, and culturally relevant therapy services, specifically designed for survivors. We have nearly doubled our capacity for therapy since 2020.

“I just have such great gratitude for the amazing work you all do for the community. A year and a half ago, I don’t think I’d be able to imagine to feel as grounded as I do today. I don’t know what life would have looked like these past 9 months without the services that API Chaya has provided me. My future feels brighter.”

- THERAPY PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

**FAMILY REUNIFICATIONS**

Family reunifications were one of the biggest highlights this year from our survivor advocates. We were able to accompany 5 survivors to be reunited with their families after years of separation.

**SURVIVOR GATHERINGS**

Re-entering in-person programming, we hosted multiple survivor gatherings.

Our winter domestic violence/sexual assault survivor gathering distributed hundreds of toys, books, school supplies, and gift bags to survivors and their children. Our human trafficking survivor gathering had a huge turnout! Almost 100 survivors, advocates, and families gathered to build community, network, and celebrate the successes of the year.

**VISAS, PERMITS, AND CITIZENSHIP**

Our advocates supported survivors in obtaining visas, work permits, permanent resident cards, and US citizenship. Each visa represents 3-5 years of working alongside survivors in their immigration journey. For permanent residency and citizenship, the process is even longer!

- 13 T/U VISAS + CP APPROVED
- 4 WORK PERMITS RECEIVED
- 4 GREEN CARDS RECEIVED
- 4 RECEIVED US CITIZENSHIP
- 5 FAMILIES REUNITED

"The biggest highlight this past year has been seeing clients I’ve worked with for several years finally getting their T-Visas. It’s truly a privilege to walk alongside my clients and watch them achieve agency, independence and safety.”

- ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING ADVOCATE
Cultivating Healing

“What is your recipe for community?”
A POEM WRITTEN DURING A RISE EVENT

Hands that hold
Your head up, your hands in the cold,
Your values when you’ve forgotten.
The tea and warm blanket for the Grief.
The Love felt beyond blood.
The bass of elders voices reverberating out of your feet, planting you so firmly in the land have no choice but to know your roots.
The youth teaching you how to dream up the liberation they are owed.
The inhale and exhale taken together.
With you, me, the mountains and the rivers.
The wrinkles at the corner of our eyes,
The ones we put there for each other.

-Kayla Chui

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 to move towards a world where we all can thrive.

RISE PROGRAM

The RISE program continued using the power of art for the purpose of healing and transformation through 58 events with over 150 participants. We hosted many community events to explore boundaries and healthy relationships, develop writing skills, and share recipes for the community. The RISE survivor cookbook zine will be coming out soon!

“I loved connecting with other survivors active in their healing journeys and invested to connect with each other. So appreciated the access and ease that was cultivated in the space. Grateful for all that was shared.”
-RISE PROGRAM PARTICIPANT
HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVOR SUPPORT GROUP

We launched our first human trafficking survivor support group, expanding the reach of our anti-human trafficking program and providing opportunities for healing and empowerment to trafficking survivors.

HINDI SUPPORT GROUP

We launched our first Hindi support group, offering in-language and culturally relevant opportunities for healing for Hindi-speaking survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse.

QUEER NETWORK PROGRAM

The Queer Network Program steadily held many monthly programs and groups, including the continuation of our Parent Survivors Group and the re-launch of DISH (Discussing Intimacy, Sexuality, & Healing).

The care, commitment and support of [API Chaya staff] to curate powerful speakers for our learning and community building. The courage and commitment of cohort members to show up for their own healing and each other’s healing.”

MANA PROGRAM

Our Mana (Pasifika) program organized a cultural dance program, where youth asked community members to teach them traditional dances from Tonga, Samoa, and Hawai‘i. The use of dancing in Oceanic culture has been used to preserve language and stories, and brought a lot of healing for participants.

27TH ANNUAL VIGIL

Our 27th Annual Vigil explored Grief as a Movement Feast, where we gathered community members to honor our grief, cook together, and gather for a movement feast.

CULTIVATING HEALING
Building Accountable Communities

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, their workplace, and neighborhoods.

Natural Helpers
Our Natural Helpers program held a 6 month leadership development program to train 60 community leaders to understand the dynamics of violence, support people experiencing harm, and support people causing harm to change. We are thankful to have Natural Helpers as our frontline in violence prevention and intervention!

Disability Justice Pod
Our Disability Justice pod is going strong since its start in 2021—after more than a year together, the pod has built intentional relationships and shared experiences navigating the world as d/deaf and disabled people.

Youth Pod
Our youth community organizers faced violence amongst young people’s relationships head-on; we accompanied youth and leaders in responding to instances of harm between youth in the community. To build accountable communities, our youth pod understands violence intervention as intertwined with violence prevention.

Youth Pod participant say, “The DJ Pod has made me feel more comfortable in expressing my needs as well as my challenges and the ways in which I could use help. The conversations around labor rights helped me to see my challenges around disability within a bigger picture and that made me feel more confident with my job search and focus on my abilities, not mainly my limitations.”
BUILDING ACCOUNTABLE COMMUNITIES

5TH ANNUAL GENERATIONS FEST

We hosted our 5th Annual Generations Fest, strengthening our community partnerships and building skills of community leaders to grow youth leadership, transform intergenerational trauma into intergenerational power, and mobilize young people to address systems of oppression.

FYRE

Our Filipino Youth Reunite to Elevate (FYRE) program continued to gather Filipino youth together to build leadership and community organizing skills.

“FYRE helps turn our dreams into reality.”
- FYRE PARTICIPANT

MANA PROGRAM

In 2022, our Mana (Pasifika) program grew tremendously! We began hosting weekly Kava Talanoa (Kava talks) in collaboration with other Pasifika organizations and, by the end of the year, were hosting weekly cohort meetings to learn about social justice issues.

Kava is a drink that is made from the kava root. The oceanic community traditionally uses it to facilitate important discussions and solidify agreements amongst leaders and its people. We were able to repurpose the use of Kava as a way to hold spaces of connection between youth and elders. PI families would come together and start with a prayer before they moved into singing and then into themed discussions around harm.

PEACEFUL FAMILIES TASKFORCE

The Peaceful Families Taskforce (PFT) hosted 75 events within the greater Seattle Muslim community to raise awareness about domestic violence and mobilize communities in order to support community structures and systems that contribute to peaceful families.

PFT’s violence prevention work continued to grow through the Bonds of Kinship program, a series of workshops that explores the creation of positive family relationships within a religious framework.

LANGUAGE JUSTICE

Continuing to live into our strategic priority to bring equal access for all, our language justice work thrived in 2022.

Our disability justice pod led our language justice work, hosting 4 disability justice trainings conducted fully in American Sign Language.

13 participants attended our first Domestic Violence 101 workshop in Japanese, expanding our Japanese-language violence prevention efforts.

We continued training multilingual Natural Helpers, who can go on to train others in their own languages. This helps create expanding networks that can prevent and intervene in harm.

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Thank you for being part of creating this safety net.

Your support is what makes these critical services possible.

Your generosity allows us to assist individuals to flee abusive landlords, intimate partners, and traffickers. It helps clients have access to long-term case management, bilingual advocates, interpreters, and legal assistance. At API Chaya, we have increased assistance to the most economically vulnerable families we serve.

This year, our expenses included $487,000 in direct financial assistance to survivors and community members — 100% of our programs are free and confidential.

**Income**
- 73% Government Grants and Contracts
- 15% Foundations
- 9% Individual Giving
- 3% Other

**Expenses**
- 51% Direct Services
- 31% Organizing
- 16% General + Admin
- 1% Fundraising
- 1% Other

Thank you for being part of creating this safety net.
Thank you for supporting API Chaya!

With your help, we can continue to support survivors, cultivate healing, and build accountable communities in 2023.

GET INVOLVED

CONNECT WITH US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM · VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME · BECOME A NATURAL HELPER · PROVIDE PRO-BONO SERVICES · MAKE A DONATION TO HELP US CONTINUE PROVIDING CRITICAL SERVICES AND PREVENTING VIOLENCE

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Monday – Friday 10am – 4pm
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206-467-9976

WE BELIEVE SURVIVORS