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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**APICHA HONORS “WOMEN & GIRLS HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY” WITH
WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOP SERIES**

Done in Partnership with New York Asian Women’s Center

New York, NY – In honor of Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day 2013, APICHA Community Health Center partnered with New York Asian Women’s Center (NYAWC) for a series of workshops on women’s health and empowerment. The workshops, which target victims of domestic violence and trafficking, took place at NYAWC’s shelters throughout the city on March 3, 5, 10, and 12.

“These workshops primarily explore what it means to be a strong woman,” explains Melanie Dulfo, APICHA’s Women and Youth Program Manager, who planned the series. “They examine how women’s perceptions of themselves affect their health decisions, including their decision whether or not to negotiate condom use.”

At the workshops, led by Dulfo and Fronthy Nguyen, APICHA’s Women’s Project Coordinator, participants read poems by prominent women’s rights advocates and reflected on the role that strong women had had on their lives.

“The women we work with responded really positively,” explains Dulfo. “We had a participant say, ‘If I think about women in my life that are strong, I want to think of myself as strong.’ Hearing things like this is exciting because it shows that our message of empowerment is really getting through.”

The workshop series is a continuation of a similar collaboration between APICHA and NYWAC from 2012, also in recognition of Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. For that partnership, APICHA’s Women and Youth Program spoke with women arrested for prostitution about HIV and other STIs, and also provided free HIV, gonorrhea, and Chlamydia screening for at-risk women in the community.

“We’re really thankful that the New York Asian Women’s Center opens up their space for us to conduct these workshops for the past two years,” says Nguyen. “It’s a partnership that we strongly believe improves the health and well-being of the populations we serve.”

NYAWC helps women and their children overcome domestic violence and other forms of abuse by empowering them to govern their own lives, and by providing multi-lingual support and shelter services.



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The Center also raises public awareness about violence against women and advocates for the rights of survivors.

For information on APICHA's Women and Youth Program or the Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day workshops, contact Melanie Dulfo at mdulfo@apicha.org or 646-774-0992. For more information on NYAWC, visit them at nyawc.org.

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ABOUT APICHA

Founded in 1989, APICHA provides comprehensive primary care and other medical services including mental health, STD, Hepatitis, and enabling services targeted to Asian & Pacific Islanders, the LGBT community, and individuals living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Over the last twenty two years, APICHA has grown from a grassroots HIV prevention-focused organization into a patient-centered medical home which has been recognized with the highest level 3 Patient-Centered Medical Home qualification by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). Last year, APICHA has served over 2,600 patients, mostly people of color, LGBTQ and low income individuals in New York City. APICHA is staffed with a multi-lingual, multi-cultural staff fluent in 21 languages including various Asian languages, Spanish, Romanian, Italian and American Sign Language. It has recently opened its doors to a Trans Health clinic, which addresses the specific medical needs of people of the trans experience, including individuals who identify as transgender, gender variant, gender queer, or gender non-conforming.

For more information, please visit www.apicha.org