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## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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### Tufts' Experiment in Philanthropy helps victims of domestic violence



Picture 1: Megan Sullivan, Tufts Student, and Linda Chin, ATASK President (from left to right)

May 18, 2009 - BOSTON, MA: Thanks to Tufts student Megan Sullivan, the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK) will be receiving \$1,200 to help Asian victims of domestic violence become self-sufficient.

Contacted by the "Experimenting with Philanthropy" instructor Louise Sawyer, ATASK was invited to participate in the "Learning by Giving Program." Tufts student Megan Sullivan was introduced to the agency and wrote a proposal to support its Life Skills/English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Program. Located in ATASK's Boston office, the program teaches English

and important life skills to clients in a safe and supportive environment, helping clients become self-sufficient and lead violence-free lives. "Thank you to instructor Louise Sawyer, to the Sunshine Lady Foundation, and to Megan for writing the proposal and supporting this program," said ATASK President Linda Chin.

The grant was funded by the Learning by Giving program of the Sunshine Lady Foundation founded by Doris Buffett. This innovative program which began in 2003 provides college students the opportunity to make funding decisions for \$10,000 to local nonprofits as part of their study of philanthropy and nonprofits. Tufts University is one of eight colleges nationwide offering "hands on" philanthropy courses funded by the Sunshine Lady Foundation. In the past three years the Tufts philanthropy class entitled "Experimenting with Philanthropy" has made grants totaling \$30,000 to 17 nonprofits in Medford, Somerville and Chinatown, and has enabled 42 undergraduate students to obtain experience as volunteer grant writers as part of their coursework.

The Tufts philanthropy course is offered through the Tufts Experimental College which for over 45 years has offered innovative, interactive, and interdisciplinary courses to enrich the intellectual experiences of undergraduate students at Tufts. Each semester the Experimental College offers over 40 full credit courses that have been evaluated and selected by faculty and students who also play key roles in the governance of the Experimental College.

### **About the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence**

The mission of the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK) is to prevent domestic violence in Asian families and communities and provide hope to survivors. ATASK is New England's only provider of linguistically and culturally appropriate services and programs for Asian survivors of domestic violence. For domestic violence victims who are unsafe, helpless and hopeless, ATASK offers a safe haven, help and hope over fear.

ATASK offers:

- H**ousing in our emergency shelter
- O**utreach to Asian communities and a 24-hour multi-lingual helpline
- P**rograms and services that support clients and their children and empower them to live independent lives
- E**ducation and training for youth, providers, and the public

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