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PRESS RELEASE

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Tufts Medical Center/ Asian Health Initiative Awards ATASK with \$35,000 Grant to Further Promote Teen Dating Violence Program

April 3, 2009- Boston, MA. Tufts Medical Center understands the benefits of prevention, is committed to the Asian communities of Boston, and has identified youth as an important priority. In showing continuous support for the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence recently announced their latest contribution: a \$35,000 grant to fund for ATASK's Youth Service Program with special emphasis on Teen Dating Violence. This grant is a direct response to a request to increase awareness about the youth oriented program coordinated by Qing Jian Shi, ATASK's interim director of education and outreach, who outlined a curriculum to increase awareness and educate about the effects of teen dating violence, youth domestic violence, and sexual assault.

Tufts Medical Center's Asian Health Initiative has supported the teen dating violence program since its initial launch in 2003 (This curriculum was the first of its kind and focused on teen dating violence in Asian Youth). This is the second year that Teen Dating Violence Program is receiving funding from Tufts as part of a three year cycle. Tufts also graciously donates to the annual Silk Road Gala, and has been recognizing the agency's efforts throughout the years.

"It means so much to us that such generous and prominent support is coming from our medical leaders. They realize the need to call attention to the subject of domestic violence, and are taking initiative towards making a stand," commented Linda Chin, the president of ATASK. "Tufts Medical Center's Asian Health Initiative has helped us create an outstanding culturally-relevant curriculum. We are in Boston Schools and after school programs and reach hundreds of teens in a manner and communication style they respect. Our community really recognizes Tufts for being a leader in supporting domestic violence and teen dating violence in Boston's Asian American community," also commented Qing Jian Shi, who has been organizing and improving upon the Teen Dating Violence curriculum.

With increasing talk around the issue of domestic violence and dating violence in the media, this grant is another indicator that the community as a whole is taking notice of the issue and turning their awareness into action. Especially in the Asian American

communities where speaking out about domestic violence can be considered culturally taboo, every action taken towards breaking the silence and the cycle of violence is a step forward. As ATASK strengthens its Teen Dating Violence program, the outreach department plans to educate youths about the impact, harm, and injustice of domestic violence, and empower them with the knowledge and resources to spread the message in their communities. As ATASK continues to take innovative initiatives in getting the Asian American communities involved, they are emphasizing their mission to motivate and empower everyone to stand up against domestic violence. ATASK is planning a summer program that teaches youths to be leaders in the movement as well.

About the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence

The mission of the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK) is to provide hope to survivors and prevent domestic violence in Asian families and communities. 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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