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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Helen Choi, Advocate “Emeritus” of the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence, chosen as “Community Pioneer” by the Mayor’s Office of New Bostonians

11/23/2010 - BOSTON, MA: Helen Choi, Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK) Advocate “Emeritus,” has been selected as this year’s winner of the Boston Community Pioneer Award, one of the 2010 We Are Boston Gala Awards by the Mayor’s Office of New Bostonians. Choi was the first Chinese advocate hired in 1993 by the Asian Shelter and Advocacy Project (ASAP), ATASK’s core and flagship program, and is likely to be one of the first Chinese domestic violence advocates in the United States. The award ceremony at We Are Boston Gala 2010 will be held December 10, 2010 at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center.

Originally from Hong Kong, Choi was trained in social work in her native country before she immigrated to the United States. As a New Bostonian, she devoted her energies to helping the Asian community. During her time as the multiservice center coordinator at the Asian American Civic Association in Chinatown, she regularly met with many women who were being abused by their husbands. Choi recognized that there was a need for domestic violence services for the Asian Community and started to work at ATASK’s Asian Shelter and Advocacy Project in 1993 as the first paid Chinese advocate.

“Helen has given hope to thousands of domestic violence survivors and made a difference in so many lives without much financial remuneration nor public acknowledgment,” says Linda Chin, president of ATASK who authored the nomination letter. “She exemplifies the meaning of being a pioneer, one whose leadership and courage helped those who are less fortunate and paved the way for future community leaders to emerge. We want to congratulate her in winning this award.”

We Are Boston Gala 2010 is a celebration of Boston’s immigrant heritage and aims to inspire Bostonians to reclaim and take pride in Boston’s multicultural richness. This year’s honoree is Mrs. Victoria Kennedy, wife of the late Senator Edward Kennedy, for her advocacy work in issues that affects the lives of children, women, and families. Past honorees included world renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma, Celtics Great Bill Russell, Boston Red Sox David Ortiz, and late US Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

The event proceeds help to support the English for New Bostonian Initiative, a partnership program which provide access to English classes and other crucial programs to more than one thousand New Bostonians.

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

Please visit www.atask.org for more information, or join our flock at [Facebook.com/ATASK](https://www.facebook.com/ATASK).

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