



**24-hour Multilingual Helpline: 617.338.2355**

Tel: 617.338.2350

Fax: 617.338.2354

[www.atask.org](http://www.atask.org)

P.O. Box 120108

Boston, MA 02112

## **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

Contact: Kozue Sawame

[kozue@atask.org](mailto:kozue@atask.org)

(617) 338-2350 x232

### **Van Chey, Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence Advocate, chosen as a Bank of America “Local Hero”**

12/1/2010 - BOSTON, MA: Ms. Van Chey, a Community Based Advocate at the Lowell office of the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK), was recently named a “Local Hero” by Bank of America through its 2010 Neighborhood Excellence Initiative (NEI). The initiative recognizes individuals and organizations that exemplify the highest standards in community service and create a positive and vital impact in their communities. Van Chey was honored during a special awards ceremony that recognized all of the 2010 Boston NEI recipients on November 30<sup>th</sup> at the Paramount Theatre in Boston.

When ATASK first expanded to the city of Lowell in 1997, Van was one of the original advocates for the office. For over a decade, Van has served as a voice for domestic violence survivors in the Cambodian Community of Lowell and beyond, and she continues to connect families to resources and pathways of success. While navigating through her own personal struggles and family crises, Van continues to empower clients in moving forward with their lives. “Van has shown exemplary courage, passion, and dedication to her work. We want to congratulate her in winning this award; she truly is a respected and inspirational humanitarian,” says Linda Chin, president of ATASK.

The awards committee selected Van Chey from hundreds of nominations.

“Through the Neighborhood Excellence Initiative, Bank of America recognizes individuals like Van Chey who are a catalyst for change in their community and inspire others to engage in community service,” said Bob Gallery, Massachusetts president, Bank of America.

#### **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.

**Bank of America Corporate Philanthropy**

Building on a long-standing tradition of investing in the communities it serves, last year Bank of America embarked on a new, 10-year goal to donate \$2 billion to nonprofit organizations engaged in improving the health and vitality of their neighborhoods. Funded by Bank of America, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation gave more than \$200 million in 2009, making the bank one of the largest corporate cash donors in the United States. Bank of America approaches investing through a national strategy under which it works with local leaders to identify and meet the most pressing needs of individual communities. Reaffirming a commitment to develop and sustain a culture of service, the bank announced the "Million Hour Challenge," a pledge by the company's associates around the world to donate 1 million volunteer hours by the end of 2010. In 2009, bank associate volunteers contributed more than 800,000 hours to enhance the quality of life in their communities nationwide. For more information about Bank of America Corporate Philanthropy, please visit [www.bankofamerica.com/foundation](http://www.bankofamerica.com/foundation).

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

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