

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**YWCA of Queens at City Hall for 7<sup>th</sup> Asian Pacific American Advocacy Day**

**FLUSHING, New York (March 9, 2015) – The YWCA of Queens participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> Asian-Pacific American (APA) Advocacy Day held at New York City Hall on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> as part of the 15% & Growing Coalition which brings together over 45 organizations led by or serving APA communities across the city.** The purpose of the event is to call for equitable funding for the APA community which has in the past received less than 3% in City Council discretionary funding.

The event began at 11:00am with a press conference in the snow on the steps of City Hall. YWCA of Queens Executive Director Helen Kim was among the leaders chosen to speak during the press conference. On behalf of the YWCA of Queens, Kim asked for the continuance and increased funding to allocate \$5 million for the Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund, a fund which has awarding capacity building grants to over 80 qualifying organizations from all five boroughs. **“Since its founding in 1978,” Kim said, “the YWCA of Queens has grown to become a trusted leader and provider of choice for the Queens immigrant community, serving over 3,000 families annually. The Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund is the first initiative of its kind that truly invests in the nonprofit sector and recognizes the need for strong organizational capacity so [community-based organizations] like the YWCA of Queens can continue to provide quality services to our communities.”**

Following the press conference, APA organizations met with Council Members to explain their needs and to request the Council Members’ support in order to continue serving their communities. Executive Director Kim thanked Deputy Chief of Staff Elaine Cheung of Council Member Peter Koo’s office for their support and explained that Council Member Koo’s discretionary funding has made it possible for the YWCA of Queens to offer a Level 0 ESL class for immigrants with little to no English ability who are often turned away because they do not meet the requirements to attend a Level 1 class. Additionally, in anticipation of offering High School Equivalency classes in Richmond Hill in collaboration with the Indo-Caribbean Alliance, Kim met with Council Member Daniel Dromm of the 25<sup>th</sup> District in Queens to introduce the YWCA of Queens and inform him of the services that the YWCA will soon be providing his constituents.

The advocacy event is part of the YWCA of Queens’ goals to bring more services to its community as well as to continue offering its current services.

For more information about how to give your time, talent, tenacity and financial support to the YWCA of Queens, please visit [www.ywcaqueens.org](http://www.ywcaqueens.org).

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**About YWCA of Queens**

The YWCA of Queens, founded in 1978, is a multi-tiered community organization with a wide range of education, career services, home health, and social services programs located at the center of one of the most diverse communities in the country. The YWCA of Queens' mission is to eliminate racism and empower women through education and advocacy. Visit [www.ywcaqueens.org](http://www.ywcaqueens.org) for more information.

for every woman