

ISABEL KANG



Isabel Kang represents Shimtuh (literally, “resting place” in Korean), the first Korean domestic violence program in the Bay Area. It is a joint project of Asian Women’s Shelter and Korean Community Center of East Bay. Of Korean descent, her life path took her from Brazil, then to the United States, where she has raised two beautiful children.

“When I first heard about DataCenter, I thought, ‘wow, finally, we have an organization that is savvy on data collection with the social justice framework!’”

DataCenter’s existence is very important, says Isabel, because communities should control their research

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as a part of achieving justice and liberation. “It is of utmost importance that such a process stays within our own communities, and that we have control over the outcome, and the application of such data, and that work is reinvested in the communities that the information comes from!”

DataCenter’s grassroots research model inspires hope for Isabel and her colleagues. “Many of us activists have felt reluctant to share what we know through research. For a population that already carries trauma and fear, dealing with both local and federal systems, being mistreated in welfare lines, and denied access to services and rights due to language and cultural hostility of the mainstream world – inequitable research can bring irreparable harm.”

At Shimtuh, says Isabel, “we wholeheartedly support the DataCenter for the vital work they do! Our mission is one and the same: justice and the liberation of all our peoples at the end of the day!”

“I’M NOT ALONE!”

National Domestic Worker Project Continues to Empower

By Anne Ryan | Communications Associate



DataCenter’s National Domestic Worker Survey continues to elevate the voices of working women everywhere! In 2011, workers in 14 cities across the U.S. interviewed each other about their working conditions. In early 2012, DataCenter will lead domestic workers in data analysis training. They will examine the data they collected, take their rightful position as experts in their field and develop a national campaign to advocate for fair labor standards.

DataCenter is also helping the workers document successful survey participant outreach practices.

In addition to traditional methods like approaching women supervising children in parks, domestic workers used innovative new methods like social media and tracing public transportation routes to wealthy neighborhoods. These practices will be a powerful tool for domestic worker organizations to broaden and communicate with the communities they serve.

Individual domestic workers are also empowered on a personal level, and your support of DataCenter makes that empowerment possible. One worker, did not realize the unjust conditions she faced until she was asked about them in the survey. By the end of the survey, she was so passionate about the issue that she volunteered to support her local domestic worker organization. She discovered she was not alone and that there was a place where her voice could be heard.

An isolated worker finds a community to join to advocate for her rights...now that’s what we call Research Justice!