

September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007

### **Celebrating Emerging Women's Leadership in Queens, NY**

New York, NY—Sept. 14—The New York Women's Foundation® (NYWF®) honors two dynamic and visionary women leaders in Queens at its annual Neighborhood Dinner.

This year's recipients of the Helen LaKelly Hunt Neighborhood Leadership Award are Luna Ranjit and Ana Maria Archila. The Award was established to promote the power of women acting in and for their communities and to honor women who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and committed involvement in neighborhood-based work on behalf of women and girls.

Luna Ranjit, born in Katmandu, is a co-founder and the Executive Director of the Long Island City-based Adhikaar for Human Rights and Social Justice. Adhikaar addresses women's rights, domestic violence and access to reproductive health in the Nepalese community. Currently, Adhikaar is overseeing the first comprehensive research study on New York City's ethnically diverse Nepalese community.

Ana Maria Archila, a native of Colombia, is the Executive Director of the Latin American Integration Center (LAIC) in Woodside, Queens. LAIC promotes the empowerment of immigrants and their participation in the political process. As a new immigrant leader, Ana Maria is a powerful advocate for immigrant rights, healthcare access and education reform in New York City.

"We are a city of immigrants and we celebrate the contributions that Ana Maria and Luna have made to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers," said NYWF® President and CEO Ana L. Oliveira."

The Keynote Speaker for the event is Purvi Shah, the Executive Director of Sakhi for South Asian Women, a community-based organization serving women who have experienced intimate partner violence. While most of the women they work with live in New York City, Sakhi also gives assistance to South Asian women throughout the U.S., and globally. Ms. Shah is also an NYWF® board member.

The event will be held on Thursday, September 20, from 6 to 9p.m. at the Jackson Diner.

To RSVP, please contact Dana Micheli at 212.261.4663 or at [dmicheli@oldnywf.gbtesting.us](mailto:dmicheli@oldnywf.gbtesting.us).

The New York Women's Foundation (NYWF) was established in 1987 as a public philanthropy to be a voice for women and a force for change. We are a cross-cultural alliance of women helping low-income women and girls in the five boroughs to achieve sustained economic security through expanded opportunities. We work together to transform the conditions of poverty and to create an equal and just future for low-income women and girls. For more information go to [www.nywf.org](http://www.nywf.org)