

MY SISTER'S HOUSE DONOR SPOTLIGHT: Kathryn E. Doi



Interview with Kathryn E. Doi

Tell us about yourself and how/when you were introduced to My Sister's House and their work.

I was introduced to My Sister's House back in the year 2000. I had just moved from San Francisco to Sacramento. In San Francisco, I was on the Board of the Asian Women's Shelter. A friend of my mom's, Gloria Imagire, was involved in the founding of My Sister's House and she knew of my involvement with the Asian Women's Shelter. Through this connection, I was asked to join the first full board of directors, and was elected President of the board. I was really excited and happy to continue my work on domestic violence issues focusing on the API community in the Sacramento region.

Culturally competent domestic violence services are critically important for the Asian and Pacific Islander community. This is what drew me to the Asian Women's Shelter in San Francisco and I welcomed the opportunity to be involved in a similar program in Sacramento.

What motivates you to give to My Sister's House?

I admire the work of My Sister's House and the passion and commitment of its board and staff. I have so much confidence in My Sister's House after the way that it has grown and flourished over the years, particularly under the leadership of Nilda. They've expanded the number of shelters and expanded the focus to include sexual assault and human trafficking. Unfortunately, 20 years later, there is still a great need for these services, but fortunately, My Sister's House exists to address that need.

Besides making a contribution, how else are you engaged with My Sister's House?

Besides making a contribution and attending the events (i.e., the community book read, the Fun Run, and the High Tea), for many years, I've led and served on the Friends Committee. Nilda had encouraged me to return to My Sister's House leadership through this committee. One of the most significant accomplishments of the Friends Committee during my time as the Chair was spearheading the purchase of the first shelter. Two members of the Friends Committee, Willie Bulda and Gary Kikumoto strongly felt that My Sister's House should have its own brick and mortar shelter and made this happen in the course of a year.

How do you envision your gift commitment supporting/impacting the clients we serve?

My gift is not earmarked for any particular purpose; it's unrestricted. I have confidence in the board and the staff to use the funds in the best way necessary to provide the services that the clients need. As a lawyer, I am very interested in the legal support that My Sister's House can provide. I've been working with the Friends Committee to encourage the legal community to support the 20th Anniversary Campaign as well.

Can you speak to the importance of legal services for survivors?

Access to legal services empowers survivors. If they have access to the justice system, they have the tools to control their own destiny. Whether through family law, immigration, restraining orders, or legal services, it is important for survivors to be able to access the legal system.

Why should others consider giving to My Sister's House?

I hope that everyone who comes into contact with My Sister's House and learns about the amazing work that they are doing in the community will be moved to support their project and their mission. The Women-to-Work program, My Sister's Cafe, and the new My Sister's House Treasures are all efforts to not only help survivors immediately, but to also provide them with long term skills to ultimately segway into being independent and part of the community.

The scope of services that My Sister's House provides is impressive and important to our community. I hope the number of people who are aware of My Sister's House and its amazing work continues to expand and that others will financially contribute to help make survivors' visions of independence and contributing to society become a reality.