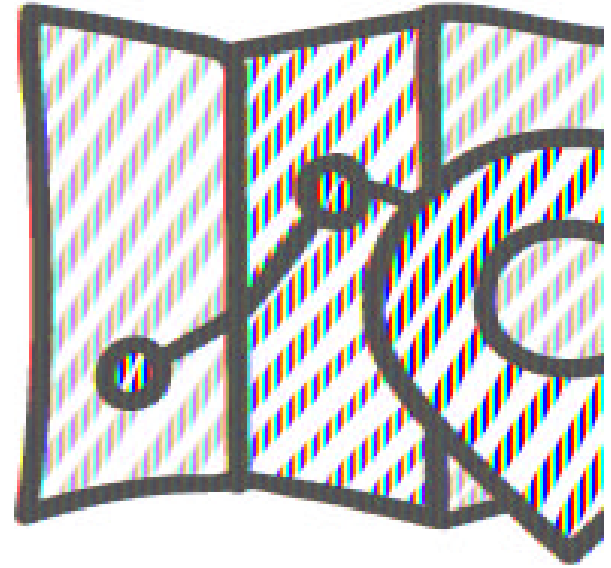


# Re-Defining “Access” by Building the Power of the Margins

Presentation by **Deep Kaur**  
**Jodhka**, Sikh Family Center and  
**Nancy Wan**, Asian Pacific Institute  
on Gender-Based Violence

## The Roadmap

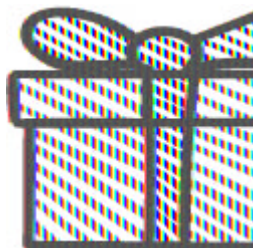
-  The Story of Gathering Strength
-  Sikh Family Center





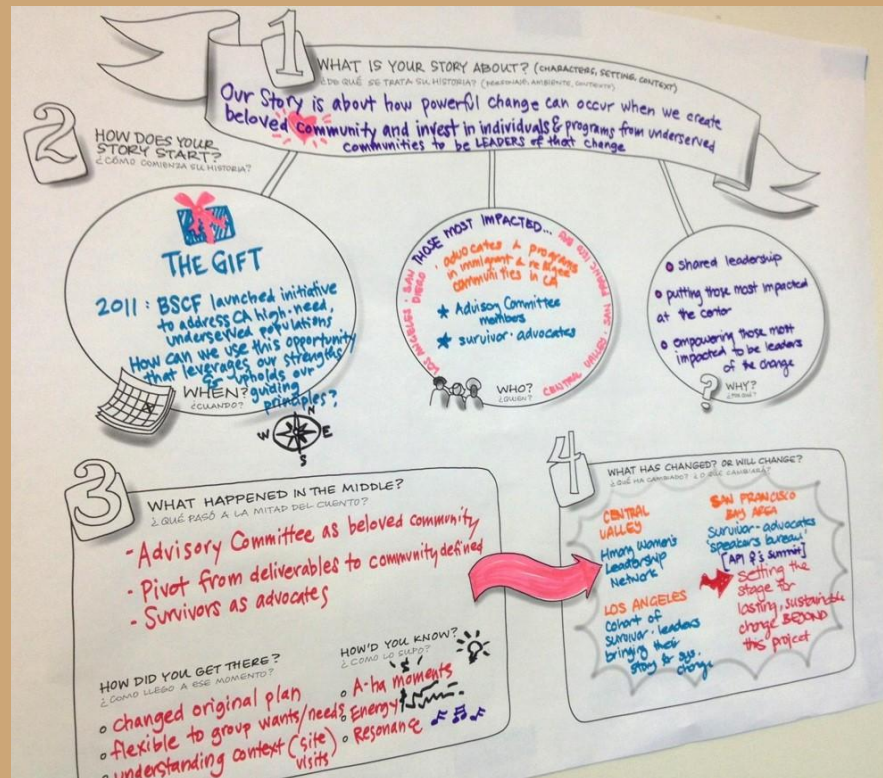
# The Story of “Gathering Strength”



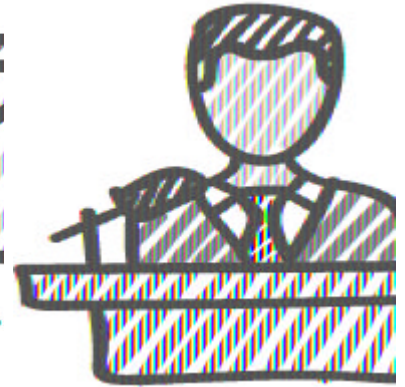
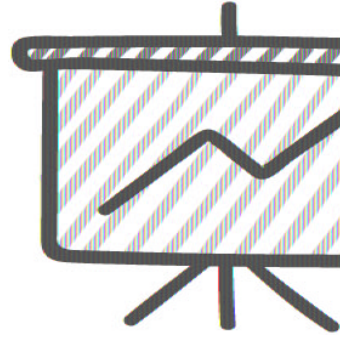
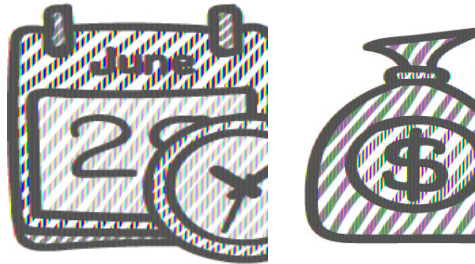
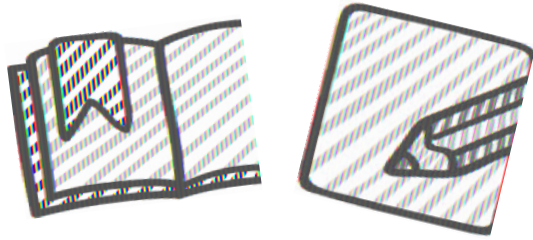


# The Gift

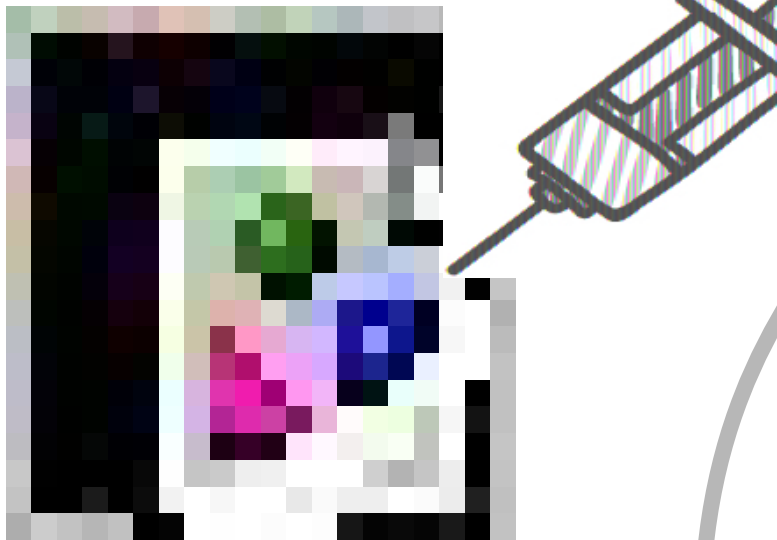
“Strengthening Cultural Competency in California’s Domestic Violence Field for High-Need, Underserved Populations”



# “Cultural Competency”

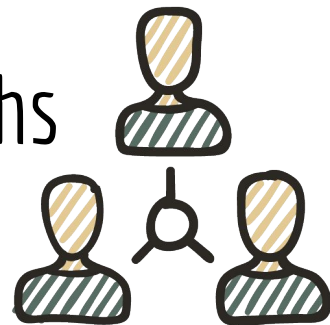


# “Cultural Competency”



Mainstream DV services agency

Strengths

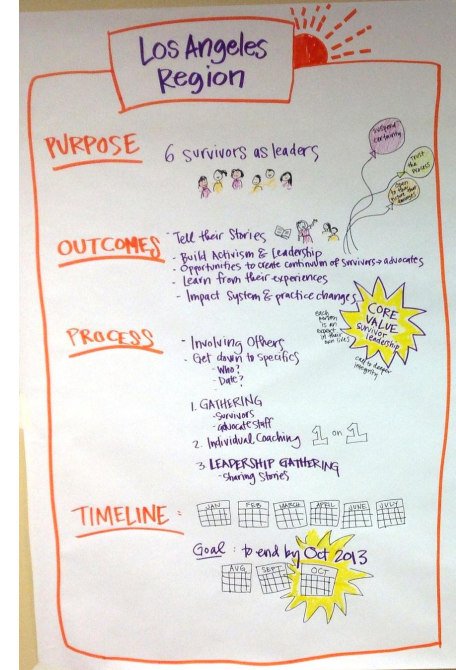
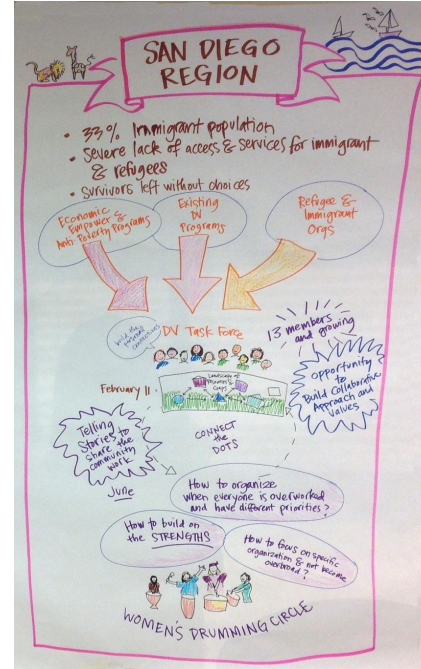
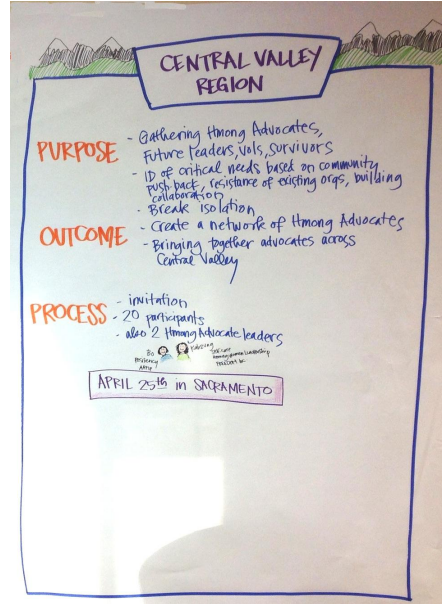
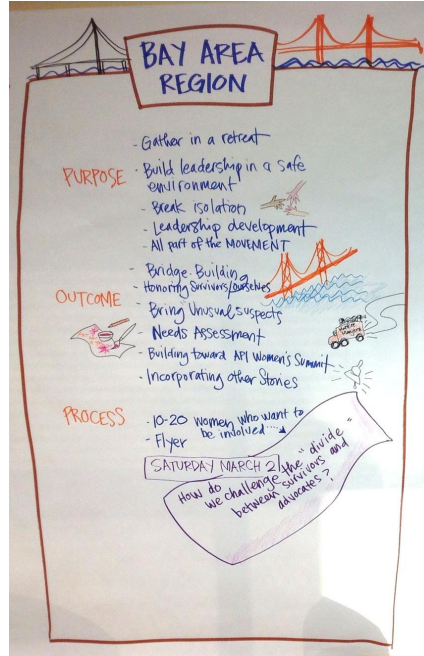


Core Values





# Building the Power of the Margins



# Sikh Family Center







Who are SIKHS?



**POLL:** How many Sikhs do you think live in the U.S.?

- A. 5,000
- B. 75,000
- C. 500,000
- D. 750,000





Who are SIKHS?



# The Vision

A world where each family enjoys  
physical, emotional, and spiritual health  
and each individual is supported to achieve  
their **true potential.**

# → The Mission

The Sikh Family Center helps create healthy, violence-free, more equitable communities by

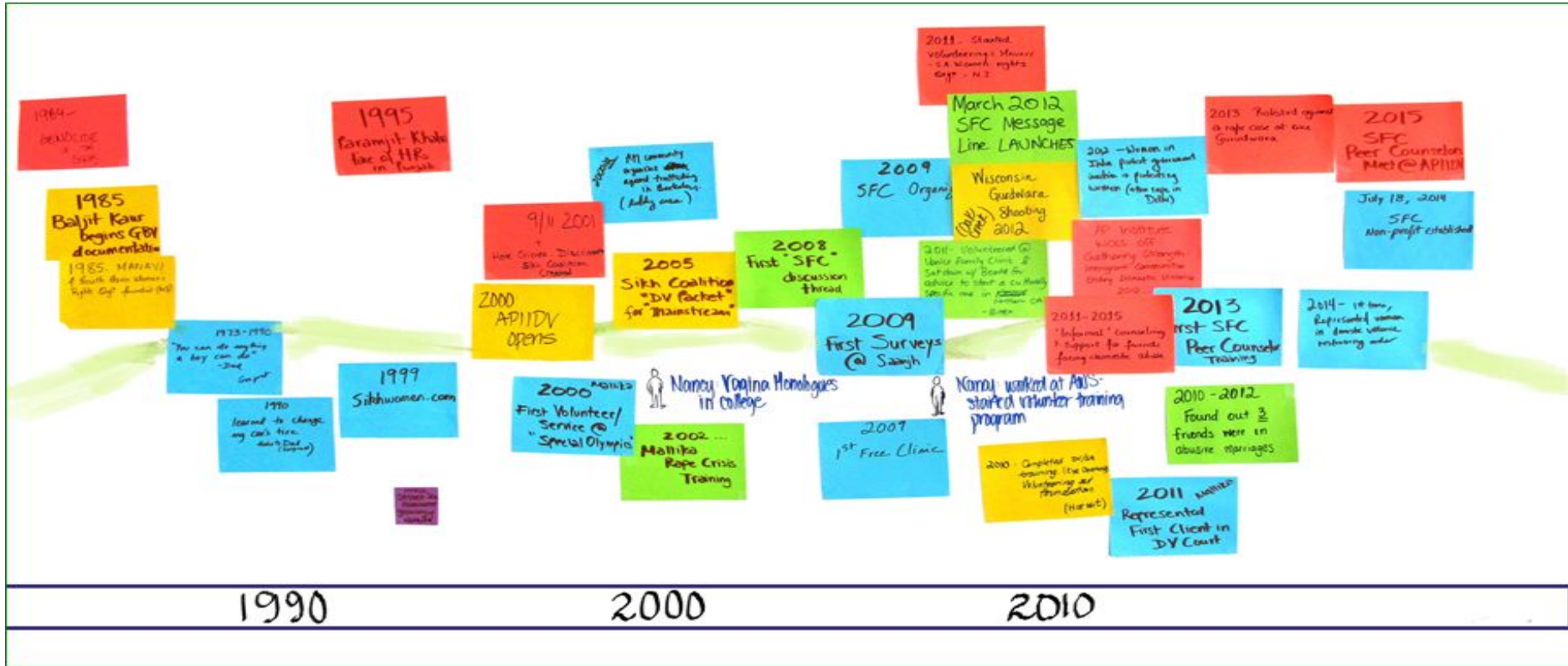
- ✓ **bridging gaps** in access to public resources and social services
- ✓ providing **education and direct support** to community members using an empowerment approach that attends to cultural tradition, immigration experiences, and language access.



Principle #1: Resist cultural and gender essentialism\*.

\*Essentialism: the idea that certain categories of people have an underlying/unchanging 'essence'

# Working from a position of STRENGTH



Principle #2: Learn from the community.

# Assessing the Need

In 2009, 73 Sikh Americans, who had gathered for an event from across the U.S., participated in a brief **needs assessment survey**.

The results of this needs assessment reflected the need for a Sikh social services organization and motivated the **creation of the Sikh Family Center**.

# Survey says...

- 18% of the respondents did not speak English and identified Punjabi as first language.
- 1-in-13 respondents reported having survived family, partner, or domestic violence.
- 22% of respondents reported having no medical insurance.



# SFC Services:

Data Collection (Continued Needs Assessment survey)

Education & Activism (teen workshops, resource creation, health awareness)

Social Services (crisis counseling, domestic violence prevention & response, peer support)

Creative Expression (art/music/poetry spotlights, community art events)

## A multilateral approach

# Message Line

(408-800-SEVA)

A peer-based, confidential phone line that individuals can call for crisis intervention, local resource information and non-emergency assistance.

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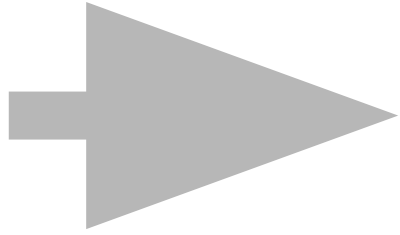
**COMMUNITY MEMBERS** (including physicians, school teachers, attorneys, and domestic violence advocates from mainstream agencies) who undergo extensive training, many bi-lingual in Punjabi and/or Hindi.

Who are the Message Line **RESPONDERS?**

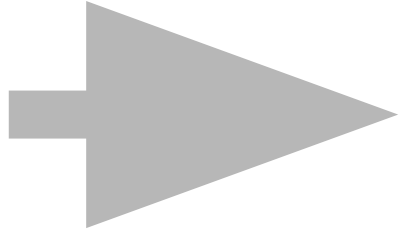
# Case Study: “Rani”

Principle #3: Provide services for all members of the community.





Turning **Inwards**, without  
Turning Anyone Away.



Non-judgmental **SUPPORT**

“Resiliency is the capability of individuals to cope successfully in the face of significant change, adversity, or risk. The capacity changes over time and is enhanced by protective factors in the individual and environment.”



The kaur and singh family

## What's Next for SFC?

- Continue data collection/analysis
- Increase outreach
- Expand programming
  - Punjabi-English Toastmasters, Theater workshops
- Build capacity
  - Helpline coordinator, physical home for SFC

Questions?