So Thousands Won't Go Hungry

With more than 122,000 visits a year by more than 5,400 clients, the ACRS Food Bank is a vital cultural resource for Puget Sound's most vulnerable

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Asian Counseling and Referral Service is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization providing behavioral health and social services to Asian Pacific Americans in King County and throughout Washington state.

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DEAR FRIENDS,

Every year around this time, compassion springs from the heart of our community and grows legs and feet for our Walk for Rice (WFR) event, which raises funds to feed our most vulnerable community members. WFR co-founders Herb Tsuchiya of Chinese Baptist Church and Sam Mitsui of Blaine United Methodist Church, both in their eighties, continue to fight hunger and share their vision and leadership in organizing this event. They support another generation of community leaders like ACRS Board Member, WFR Chair and former Asian Bar Association President Jeff Liang.

Monica Ng, chair of the Asian Coalition for Equality at the University of Washington, a young Southeast Asian leader, volunteers on the WFR committee to try to ensure that no one in our community goes hungry. That community embraces Yiem, an elderly, vibrant Cambodian refugee who has volunteered at the ACRS Food Bank for more than 20 years and has been recognized in the past by the governor for her outstanding contributions.

Jane Nishita and Sue Anderson promote Walk for Rice with CenturyLink nationally, and we were grateful to hear CenturyLink will again provide a level of match for donations made from June 2th to June 13th [More on pg. 8]. Former ACRS Board officer Rob Harris of PMI continues PMI's sponsorship and team contributions, along with our other generous corporate sponsors.

We have outstanding leadership and support from many generations and communities, but we still need your help to make Walk for Rice as successful as possible. Every person counts when building our community and embracing those who came before us — like the many seniors who rely on the Food Bank for sustenance — and those who come after us, children who could be future leaders and would go hungry without the rice and other staples made possible by the Walk. Every grain counts in the fight against hunger.

Please join us by participating in the 24th Annual *Walk for Rice*. Enjoy lively entertainment, healthy exercise and the great satisfaction that comes from helping your community. Bring family, friends, and co-workers with you for a good time and a great cause. Please visit our website walkforrice.org or contact Stephenie Lock at events@acrs.org to sign up or donate.

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Thank you for all that you do for our community, and I hope to see you on June 28th at Seward Park!

Diane Narasaki **Executive Director**



IT'S COMING: THE 24TH ANNUAL WALK FOR RICE



In addition to social media and posters, you can find 10 beautiful Walk for Rice billboards scattered in and around Seattle.

Some have a roof over their heads. Some are homeless. Some are new to the US, while others have worked for decades but still find it challenging to make ends meet. Or to find their next meal.

But ACRS Food Bank clients have one thing in common: they rely on us to provide food that not only meets basic nutritional needs but provides a level of comfort that only comes from cultural familiarity.

It's hard to believe one double-wide trailer serves more than 5,400 people each year. Our Food Bank does just that, providing hundreds of clients with food appropriate to an Asian Pacific Islander diet. This includes tofu, ramen, fresh produce and, most of all, rice — thousands of pounds of rice.

The staff are few, the building is small, but the mission is huge. An estimated 405,000 Washington households struggle to put food on the table. ACRS does what it can to make sure they can do so.

On June 28th, the 24th Annual *Walk for Rice* aims to raise \$200,000 to support ACRS' fight against by Hannah Hollman

Photo by Owen Lei

hunger. It will again take place at Seward Park, from 8^{am} to noon. This is where you come in.

Please consider dusting off your running shoes, joining a team and helping us make every grain count. WFR relies on the same teamwork that keeps the ACRS Food Bank running day in and day out.

But how do I fundraise, you ask? Well, what are your strengths? Maybe you're a talented chef with great recipes to sell. Can you organize a 30-hour karaoke marathon? In the end, what matters is participation.

All proceeds from the Walk directly benefit clients of one of the most visited food banks in King County. 2.5 miles will feel good when you cross the finish line. Or when your friends see your photos on Facebook and Twitter.

So go ahead. Show us how you #WalkforRice.

Check out page 8 for our CenturyLink Match Days calendar!

FOOD BANK FACELIFT... AND MORE

Comcast Cares 2014 Gives Food Bank a Fresh, Vibrant Look



The ACRS Food Bank with its new color scheme and new ramp.

It's been more than a decade since the ACRS Food Bank got a major overhaul. Over time, countless feet have shuffled in and out of the trailer, down a traffic-worn wooden ramp. Seattle weather faded the sign outside and peeled the paint.

And the line of clients waiting along the King Street I-5 underpass gets longer and longer every year.

So you can imagine how excited long-time Food Bank coordinator Karen Jackel was when she learned that hundreds of volunteers would be showing up to fix up her pride and joy.

"I felt like I won the makeover lottery," Jackel said. "It's just amazing to see in one day, with everybody together, what a difference and change they could make."

On April 26th, about 600 volunteers spent their Saturday beautifying Seattle's International District as part of the 13th Annual Comcast Cares Day/ID Spring Clean. Fanning out around the historic neighborhood, they tackled 40 projects, like pressure-washing sidewalks, Photo by Owen Lei

painting over graffiti and sprucing up the Danny Woo Garden.

About 50 participants — including 22 ACRS staff, board members, and friends and family — took on the task of renovating the ACRS Food Bank.

The Seattle Chinatown-International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDpda), the Chinatown-International District Business Improvement Area (CIDBIA), Comcast and UW architecture graduate student Ying-Ju Yeh helped ACRS design a new winding gravel path leading up to the building entrance.

Some of the more handy volunteers tore out the old wood ramp and replaced it with newer composite materials. Others gave the Food Bank a beautiful new red and white (agency colors!) paint job.

"It's not just about a fresh coat of paint — a new exit ramp and garden path outside the Food Bank will help create a safer and more comforting environment for the hundreds of hungry people who line up for hours outside our doors," said ACRS Executive Director Diane Narasaki.

The day definitely included some hard labor.

"We spread out some large rocks. For a very long time," said Comcast technician John Garland, smiling.

Garland brought his 16-year-old daughter Hali because he wanted to instill in her a spirit of volunteerism.

"There's some people that are less fortunate than us and it's nice to help others out," he said he told her. "Even when we don't have anything, it's good to help others out so they can have a better life as well."

ACRS board member Daniel Chun agreed. He and his sons Solomon, 10, and William, 9, spent the day raking and carrying rocks along the underpass.

"Cleaning up the ACRS Food Bank provided an excellent opportunity for me to expose my boys in giving back to the community with the resources they currently

Food Bank



have," Chun said. "I figure learning to be generous with your time and energy now would be a gateway to giving financially and loving compassionately as they mature into adulthood."

On top of all these projects, Comcast service centers collected about 2,000 pounds of rice, ramen and other non-perishable goods in a regional food drive leading up to the event.

Jackel says she's already seen an uplift in morale, not just with the clients but with the staff too.

"[Clients] have been using the path, and it's not blocking the sidewalk from normal traffic," Jackel said, "and when they saw the change of color and the new sign, some of the volunteers on their first day back even asked, 'Am I at the right food bank?'"

1 Multi-tasking at its best: ACRS board president Vinod Nazareth shovels gravel while also promoting *Walk for Rice*. 2 The revamp included a brand new ACRS Food Bank sign to replace the faded, rusty one. 3 ACRS board member Juliana Wong and daughters Maya and Ava take a quick break. 4 In only about five hours, volunteers created a new winding path for Food Bank clients. Photos by Owen Lei.

FAMILIES, DREAMS, CULTURE: A JRT SHOWCASE



Literacy through Photography, or LTP, encourages students to explore and express through life imagery.

Art can unlock the door to self-expression. Heritage helps us define who we are. Dreams help us know who we want to be.

On May 14th, Youth Job Readiness Training students used their own artwork to share personal stories with friends, family, agency partners and ACRS staff. The group project included collective art pieces, dream boards and literacy through photography scrapbooks.

At the JRT Showcase, attendees enjoyed an art walk that let them interact with the students up close. Participants, who range from high school- to collegeaged, then gave brief talks about their pieces. But not just in English — these were bilingual presentations! Whether Cantonese, Tagalog or other languages, the students showed off their linguistic aptitude.

The JRT showcase aimed to motivate students to explore meaningful themes in their lives in hopes of inspiring and connecting with their community.

6

"No matter what problem it is...

I know that we can get through it

... because my family is a source of strength."

> Trisha Diego JRT Participant

Photo by Dawn Cheung

TPAP SPEAK UP AND BE SAFE! 2014



Organized by teens, hosted by teens, Speak Up and Be Safe! is an annual sexual assault awareness and prevention conference.

ACRS' Teen Peer Advocate Program (TPAP) recruits and trains high school-aged young women to educate their friends, fellow students and the broader community about the issues of teen dating violence, sexual assault prevention and domestic violence.

While primarily focused on meeting the needs of young women from Asian American and Pacific Islander backgrounds, as well as immigrant and refugee communities that have experienced high rates of growth in Seattle and on the Eastside, TPAP is open to all young women at five participating schools (Interlake, Sammamish, Franklin and Garfield High

1 Sifu McVadon teaches teens how to grip (and break the grip of) would-be assailants. 2 About 40 students took part in Speak Up and Be Safe! 2014. 3 Stomp, yell, elbow, gouge! It may be fun among friends, but techniques learned here can be lifesavers in the real world. Photos by Owen Lei.

Schools in Bellevue and Seattle) who are interested in preventing dating violence and promoting healthy relationships.

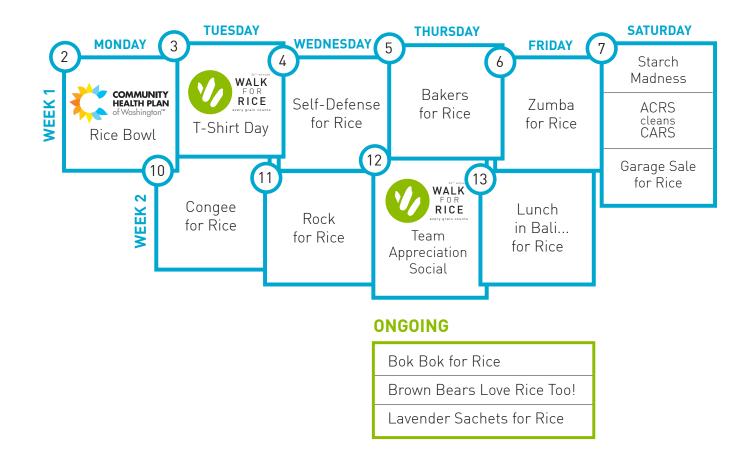
This year's Speak Up conference featured guest speaker Sifu Michelle McVadon of Seven Star Women's Kung Fu, who taught our ACRS Teen Peer Advocates and their friends a variety of self defense techniques. Check out the photos here and on our Facebook page!





This year, CenturyLink is generously giving up to \$1 million to select food banks nationwide, and the portion they give to ACRS is contingent on how much we raise between Monday, June 2nd, and Friday, June 13th. Because of this, dozens of ACRS employees and community members have stepped up to organize "Match Days" fundraisers to help boost Walk for Rice donations during this period.

We'd love for you to join us and help them out! (Note: Some events require RSVPs, so please check the schedule)



Even if you are not able to make any of these events, remember that ANY donation made to www.walkforrice.org from 6/2-6/13 will count towards the CenturyLink match. Thank you.



6/6 **Zumba for Rice** bv Bonnie Wana

6/7

6/7

6/10

Wash away the winter dust and spring pollen! Tran and friends will clean your car in ACRS' parking lot. Suggested donation: \$7 per vehicle

6/7

10^{am}-3^{pm} in Kent

Congee for Rice

WALK FOR RICE SPONSORS



HEALTH PLAN

EMCEES: KIM HOLCOMB, KING-TV & DEREK WING, BASTYR UNIVERSITY CHINN CONSTRUCTION, LLC | DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP PEPSI | PERKINS COIE LLP | SWEDISH MEDICAL CENTER

(→)

WALK FOR RICE (CONT.)

6 pm-7:30 pm @ ACRS Safeco Activity Center

Salsa! Merengue! Get the energy churning and the calories burning with professional Zumba instructor and ACRS staffer Bonnie Suggested donation: \$15 (Please RSVP with bonniew@acrs.org by 6/4)

Starch Madness

by Miguel Saldin & Co.

10 ªm-4 Pm @ ACRS Safeco Activity Center

3-on-3 basketball tournment. Eight teams enter. Will you be the one left standing? Suggested entry fee: \$50 per team. (Contact miguels@acrs.org for ournament rules and to register)

ACRS cleans CARS by Tran Thai, Tracy Nguyen & Co.

Noon-5^{pm} @ ACRS Main Parking Lot

WFR Garage Sale

by Chau Dang, Srey Khov & ACRS Behavioral Health Staff

Our first Walk for Rice garage sale! All proceeds go to the ACRS Food Bank. If you're interested in shopping at or donating something to the sale. please contact chaud@acrs.org.

by Vanthy Ly & Anna Molinaro

Noon-1^{pm} @ ACRS Admin Lounge

Porridge for a good cause: ACRS Admin Services hosts their traditional congee sale here at our main building. Suggested Donation: \$5



Rock for Rice

by David Hiller, Justin Chan & Candace Inag

6 pm-8 pm @ Garden House, 2336 15th Ave S, Seattle WA 98144

A WFR benefit concert featuring Theory of Change, a socially conscious folksy alt-rock ensemble. Suggested entry fee: \$10. Includes light appetizers, beer and wine. (Please RSVP to davidh1570@amail.com bv 6/91



6/13

WFR Team Appreciation Night by the WFR Commi

6^{pm} @ Long Provincial 1901 2nd Ave, Seattle, WA 98101

Tonight we celebrate all that you and your teams have done to support Walk for Rice through the years! Join ACRS Executive Director Diane . Narasaki as we close out Match Days with food and fun! Suggested Donation: \$10. (Please RSVP to jeff@ling-liang.com by 6/9)



Noon-1^{pm} @ Club Bamboo, ACRS gym

Members of Team Food Bank Friends will take you on a journey that ends with an authentic Indonesian feast! Suggested donation: \$8 (Please RSVP to garyt@acrs.org by 6/12)

ONGOING

Bok Bok for Rice

bv Yona Lim

Organic Eggs for Sale, \$15 for a Dozen!

Brown Bears Love Rice Too! bv Karen Jackel

Buy a Bear Essentials Car Wash ticket from Karen at the ACRS Food Bank, redeemable at any Brown Bear! \$7 suggested donation per ticket. (bulk discounts available)

Lavender Sachets for Rice by Karen Jackel

Handmade bags of Pacific Northwest fragrance to spruce up your home and office!

UnitedHealthcare **Community Plan**





SPECIAL THANKS TO

CENTURYLINK

0 Clear Channe Outdoor

by Ling Chua, LMFT

Honoring the Journey of Biculturalism



Many people take for granted the personal journey of acculturation. This is especially true when we look at the Asian American Pacific Islander experience – we talk as if everyone goes through the same process and eventually successfully integrates into society. But acculturation often comes at a price easily overlooked when we adopt too much of a bird's eye view.

Growing up in Singapore, I lived in an area dominated by working class Chinese families. Every day we used Mandarin and other dialects, so I got quite proficient. I'd read Chinese books and even picked up calligraphy.

I never stopped to think about being Chinese, because that identity was all around me.

In seventh grade, I attended a school where most students came from middle- or upper-class families and spoke impeccable English. My self-esteem took a nosedive as I realized how inadequate my English was, how little I knew about Western pop culture, how few American cities I could name. I felt unable to converse with my classmates without fumbling over words. I would slink away to Chinese orchestra practice, secretly yearning to be doing "trendier" extracurriculars like tennis or fencing.

My peers looked like me, but they seemed smarter and more sophisticated because they were "westernized." I even wanted to be Christian like them. When my family yelled at me for betraying their spiritual values — my parents feared I'd refuse to offer them prayers after they passed on — I called them "incorrigible."

I knew my peers were envious of my Chinese proficiency though. The girl I most admired wrote in my journal, "Stay effectively bilingual!" But inside, far from feeling proud, I was screaming, "You don't understand. I just want to be like the rest of you!"

Nearly 30 years on, I can look back with bittersweet amusement. Even so, my experience is not unlike that of many young Asian Americans and Asian immigrants. I see common threads — attempts to fit into defined social circles, self-doubt that comes with feeling like an outsider and often a rejection of our own identity in a desperate quest to be considered "normal."

Psychologists Stanley and Derald Wing Sue tell us acculturation and being bicultural means integrating values and practices of not just one's ethnic culture, but also the dominant one (in this case, a Euro-centric American culture). What seems missing though from scholarly writings are the narratives of hopes gained and dreams lost in that process.

In therapy sessions, young clients share with me their pain of trying desperately to fit into the larger society while struggling with a sense that they've failed their immigrant parents. I'm moved by their resilience as they wrestle with conflict over where they belong and who they ought to be. Some clients feel compelled to keep their struggles secret because others have convinced them they have "the best of both worlds."

As a therapist, I am deeply honored when clients invite me in to witness their challenges and participate in their development of a rich, deeply satisfying life narrative. It's important to let AAPIs know they do not have to suffer ostracism in silence, even those who may be better off from a socioeconomic standpoint.

As a society, understanding the bicultural experience cannot stop at an intellectual level. It is not achieved from a safe distance. With technology like the Internet, we now can share ideas quickly with a broad audience and catch a glimpse into very personal stories.

So let's move beyond the goal of successful adapting a broad Asian America and be curious about the unique struggles. As a country, we no longer have an excuse to behave as if we're all "color-blind." It is time we celebrate our cultural diversity not by pretending we treat everyone the same regardless of skin color, but by listening to, honoring and validating the growth journeys of those around us.

ACRS Therapy Associates launched in 2013 to provide culturally competent therapeutic services to individuals, couples and families, through clinicians who are preferred providers with most health insurance companies. For more, visit www.acrstherapy.org.

ACRS Volunteer Receives Prestigious Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Service Award



Volunteering to help others is a full time job for Erlinda Lorenzo.

Each week, ACRS Senior Companion volunteer Erlinda Lorenzo drives five Filipino elders to the food bank, to socialize at ACRS and to shop for groceries. She helps them cook healthy meals. She acts as their interpreter when they visit the doctor. Erlinda has volunteered with King County's Senior

And Erlinda does this all without asking for anything in return.

In April, to commemorate National Volunteer Month and the hard work of volunteers in Washington State, Governor Jay Inslee picked Erlinda as one of a few select individuals to receive the 2014 Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Service Award. This prestigious award recognizes dedicated volunteers who go above and beyond in their service. by Nicole Paladino, Senior Companion Program King County

Photo by Owen Lei

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Erlinda has volunteered with King County's Senior Companion Program since 2010, serving in Seattle's Rainier Valley neighborhood. She assists her clients 35 hours a week, helping them live lives they might not otherwise be able to. We believe she is vital to her clients' ability to gain resources and stay independent in their own homes.

Through recreational activities, home care training and case management, ACRS staff and volunteers strive to help seniors and adults with disabilities lead independent, healthy lives. For more about our programs, please visit www.acrs.org/services.

ACRS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTED TO PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON AAPIS



Commissioners will advise the President on the assets and needs in AAPI communities across the US.

Photo compliments of White House Flickr Account

In May, President Barack Obama picked ACRS Executive Director Diane Narasaki to be one of 14 people to advise him on innovative ways to engage Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) to improve their health, education, environment and well-being.

Appointed to serve on the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Narasaki joins a group that hails from all over the United States, with varied backgrounds and careers.

"The President's Advisory Commission on AAPIs serves as the eyes and ears of the community, relaying issues and recommendations to the Administration," says

Commission Chair Dr. Tung Thanh Nguyen. "We're excited to welcome a new group of Commissioners hailing from all over the nation who represent the diversity and expertise of the AAPI community."

Vice President Joe Biden presided over the swearingin ceremony, which took place at the White House during the AAPI Heritage Month Opening Ceremony on May 6, 2014. Also joining the commission is Michael Byun, former ACRS development director and current executive director of Ohio-based Asian Services in Action, Inc.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ACRS





Children, Youth & Family

• CYF's Southeast Asian Young Men's Film Project was invited to the Seattle Asian American Film Festival (SAAFF) to present a documentary on the Digital Divide — a gap between people with and without easy access to computers and the Internet, a rift that often falls along socioeconomic, ethnic and generational lines.

Employment & Citizenship

• In May, we bid a fond farewell to Employment & Citizenship Director Jeff Wendland, who after six years serving local families in need is now in Guyana with the Peace Corps. We're also happy to introduce you to incoming E&C Director, Alexandra Olin, who brings more than a decade's experience in workforce development, advocacy and training. Olin is a certified

1 Cafe Hope celebrated its 3rd anniversary in March. 2 CYF Film Project presents "Bridging the Divide" at SAAFF. 3 Wedgwood Elementary students celebrated Lunar New Year by donating 300 pounds of food and \$552 to the ACRS Food Bank. Photos by Owen Lei and Andrew Kawahara.



bilingual teacher with a BA from Wesleyan University and a Master's in Public Policy from Harvard University.

Mental Health

• In response to expanding AAPI populations in South King County, especially a growing Bhutanese community, ACRS opened a new office in Kent where case managers meet with clients who have a hard time finding adequate transportation to our main building.

 ACRS Therapy Associates kicked off its monthly Wellness Series in April, where therapists help people tackle topics AAPIs face, like cultural and generational differences, and couples communication.

Recovery Services

• By March 31st, the end of open enrollment mandated by the Affordable Care Act, ACRS' Community Resource Project team had helped 801 people sign up for health care coverage, with a goal to hit 832 by year's end. The team's four staff members are working as in-person assisters on top of their existing jobs at ACRS.

THANK YOU 2014 DONORS!

Grants We gratefully acknowledge the following gifts received as of April 25, 2014. Muckleshoot Casino, \$128.026 for Problem Gambling Services Liberty Mutual Foundation, Inc., \$25,000 for Food Bank Seattle Times. \$20,500 for Nutrition Program Seattle Times, \$20,500 for Children, Youth and Family Services The Seattle Foundation. \$15,000 for General Support The Seattle Foundation, \$1.500 for Nutrition Program and Food Bank Community Forums Network. \$500 for General Support Community Donations We thank the organizations and individuals listed below

\$25,000

\$15,000

Richard Berley

Xiangping Chen

Michael Bolasina

Chuck Yoong Chan

for donations received as of April 25, 2014. Anonymous Donors Microsoft Corporation Fred Le \$3,000 - \$7,999 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Matching Gifts Program Fay Shimada Microsoft Matching Gifts Program-The JK Group Inc. \$1,000 - \$2,999 Combined Federal Campaign of King County Steven Dent Linda Gilman Suzanne Hittman Mr. Jeb Parr Eva Moy Russell A. Farrow (U.S.) Inc. Edwin Wong \$100 - \$999 David Aoyama Edwin & Kathleen Ardena David Tetsuo Beer **Benevity Social** Ventures, Inc.

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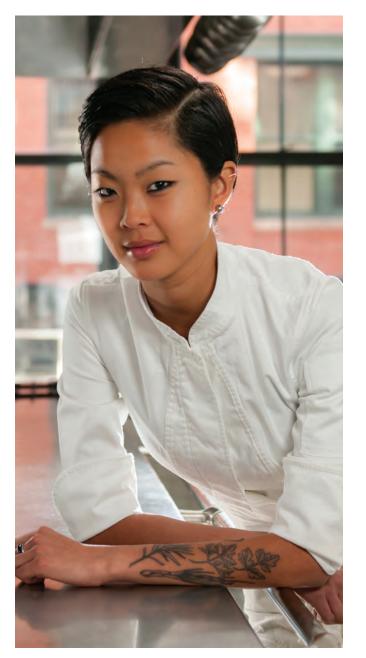
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Truist

TOP CHEF SEATTLE'S KRISTEN KISH TO HEADLINE 2014'S A CULINARY OURNEY GALA



Gala

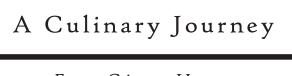
Seattle knows a champion chef when it sees one. And this year, we're excited to announce that Seattle's Top Chef Kristen Kish will be our celebrity quest chef at ACRS' annual benefit gala, A Culinary Journey.

A Culinary Journey, which showcases the recipes and heritage of renowned Asian American and Pacific Islander chefs, takes place on October 4th at The Westin Bellevue. Kish and several local AAPI chefs will design the dinner menu for the evening.

Born in Seoul, South Korea, Kish was adopted at an early age by a family in Michigan. She attended Le Cordon Bleu in Chicago, and later became an instructor at Stir, a culinary demonstration kitchen in Boston, studying under James Beard Award-winning Chef Barbara Lynch. In 2012, Kish competed in and won Bravo's Top Chef season 10, based in Seattle.

So save the date and join Asian Counseling and Referral Service as we enjoy the diverse culinary creations of our honored quests and help raise money to provide hope and opportunity to 25,000 clients a year. Tickets go on sale in July.

ASIAN COUNSELING AND REFERRAL SERVICE'S ANNUAL BENEFIT GALA



Eat · Give · Hope a (d) >



ASIAN COUNSELING and REFERRAL SERVICE

3639 Martin Luther King Jr. Way S Seattle, WA 98144

P 206 695 7600 | WA Relay 800 833 6384 F 206 695 7606 www.acrs.org





GENERAL DONATION FORM

YES! I want to help provide vital services for Asian Pacific American families.

\$ _____

GIFT AMOUNT: \$ _____ for General Operations

to ACRS' – Program Refer to ACRS' Programs at www.acrs.org = Total Contribution

□ MY EMPLOYER WILL MATCH MY GIFT.

My matching gift form is enclosed.

\$ _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

Name

Address

Fmail

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City | State | Zip

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

 \Box Check payable to ACRS \Box Charge my credit card: \bigcirc Visa \bigcirc MasterCard is enclosed, or

Exp. Date

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