

ACRS NEWS



OUR DEMOCRACY IS STRONGER WHEN ALL CAN PARTICIPATE

The AAPI Democracy Initiative fosters participation in our democracy and builds healthy, thriving communities.



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

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DEAR FRIENDS,

The presidential election campaign this year includes a wide range of views on the direction our country should take. It is a high stakes election for our nation, including our Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities.

Immigration is one of the hottest policy issues being debated. Immigration policy has largely defined our communities, from the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act to later policies designed to allow Asian laborers in when needed, but keep our numbers and political influence small, and prevent communities from forming here by keeping wives and families out. When 35 to 40 million Europeans were entering the country in the early twentieth century, a quota limited the number of Asians to 150 immigrants. Only in the latter half of the twentieth century were these overtly race based, exclusionary policies significantly changed, and family based Asian immigration, and thus our communities, dramatically increased. Asians now lead the world in immigration to the U.S. Almost half the approximately four million people in the visa backlogs, including people in our communities who wait for decades to reunite with their families here, are Asian. Immigration is the reason our communities lead all races in rate of growth in our country.

Our AAPI communities are now large enough to be the margin of victory in close elections in our state and many parts of the country. Yet, the language and cultural barriers that result in disparities in access to healthcare and other services, are also often hurdles to our communities' full participation in our democracy. This is why ACRS and the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC) of Washington State are partnering in the Asian American Pacific Islander Democracy Initiative with other community organizations to reach our communities' hardest to reach citizens and get out the vote. We will help them register, explain ballot measures and organize candidate forums in their languages. They can hear candidates' positions on the issues that matter to them so they can decide how to vote. We will help get the vote out through ethnic and traditional media, phone banking, door knocking, events and ballot parties in many languages. ACRS often acts as a hub for APIC statewide. With our governors and legislators, APIC has created safety net programs for our community and others facing similar conditions. Funding for naturalization services to help people become citizens, and the State Food Assistance program, which provides food stamps for 30,000 immigrants, were among the first created. Thanks to these programs many ACRS clients have naturalized, and many have used the State Food Assistance program to feed their families in hard times.

ACRS' civic engagement efforts in partnership with APIC and others on the policy and legislative levels have helped millions to get the services and jobs they needed to live healthier lives, get on their feet, and give back to the community. Our civic engagement efforts go hand in hand with our community members' generosity as individuals and organizations

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READY TO WORK OFFERS A PATH FORWARD TO NEW AMERICANS



Ittikorn and his classmates take part in digital literacy classes at ACRS.

Photo by Starla Sampaco

Ittikorn Hunsagul was an architect back in Bangkok. He left Thailand last fall and brought his wife and one year-old son to the U.S., "I came to give my son a future," he says. Here in Seattle, Ittikorn works at a Thai restaurant, where he cooks and washes dishes before returning home to his family around midnight each night.

Four mornings each week, Ittikorn comes to ACRS and takes part in a comprehensive new program called Ready to Work (RTW), which helps people with very limited English overcome language barriers, gain digital literacy skills, find meaningful employment and achieve economic self-sufficiency.

In their December 2015 progress report, The White House Task Force on New Americans highlighted RTW in their discussion of similar programs nationwide, and noted that "understanding and communicating in English has a significant impact on the ability of an immigrant or refugee to secure a job consistent with his or her qualifications or work experience, to advance in a career, and to become civically active in the community. Therefore, one of the most effective

ways to help non-English-speaking immigrants and refugees integrate into American society is to support their acquisition of English, while also valuing and recognizing the importance of maintaining native-language proficiency to preserve culture and intergenerational communication and support our global competitiveness."

With funding from Seattle's Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, we partner with HomeSight, South Seattle and Seattle Central Colleges, and Literacy Source to offer English as a Second Language and digital literacy classes, and give participants the opportunity to learn English by focusing on their careers. RTW is built on the belief that English language learners will learn more rapidly if they are actively engaged in their learning process, and will be more motivated to learn when the curriculum is interesting to them and relevant to their lives.

During class, students talk about jobs they've held in their native countries. They examine their career histories and talk about what they're looking for in

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HELPING AAPI YOUTH BECOME DACAMENTED

Remember when you applied for your first job and needed to hunt down documents proving you're eligible to work in the U.S.?

What if you didn't have those documents, and discovered that it is because you're "undocumented?" How would you react to the news that you're in a country you've known for your whole life, illegally? This is a dilemma that millions of young people across the country are facing because of limitations in our current immigration system.

In his remarks initiating the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program in June 2012, President Obama noted that "it makes no sense to expel talented young people, who, for all intents and purposes, are Americans – they've been raised as Americans; understand themselves to be part of this country – to expel these young people who want to staff our labs, or start new businesses, or defend our country simply because of the actions of their parents – or because of the inaction of politicians."

As of September 2014, the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) estimated that there were approximately 2.1 million undocumented young immigrants living in the United States. As its name suggests, DACA allows these individuals who arrived in the U.S. as children to apply for temporary legal status that is renewable every 2 years, and grants employment authorization and reprieve from deportation. DACA enables these individuals to pursue higher education and explore career options without fear of deportation or exploitation at work.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) are uniquely impacted by DACA. Since its introduction, AAPI youth have been applying to the program at a disproportionately low rate in comparison to other ethnic groups. Out of all eligible youth, MPI estimates that only 21% of AAPIs applied, compared to 77% of Latin Americans. This discrepancy is linked to a number of barriers, including the program's \$465 application fee, fear of drawing attention to undocumented family members and a general lack of knowledge about the program. There's also the prevailing stigma associated with being undocumented. Community leaders and AAPI ethnic media have reported that undocumented AAPI immigrants face a greater level of shame in their communities

because issues surrounding documentation are not widely discussed, and information targeting the AAPI community is sparse and linguistically inaccessible.

ACRS is working to address these barriers. We're collaborating with other immigrant rights organizations including Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, 21Progress and OneAmerica to address the specific needs and barriers in the AAPI undocumented community. ACRS will recruit and train 10 high school youth to serve as community ambassadors who will engage in culturally competent outreach and provide education about DACA to their peers in area high schools including Rainier Beach, Franklin, Garfield, Cleveland, Ballard, West Seattle, Chief Sealth and South Lake.

The goal is to reach and educate youth who could qualify for DACA, and help them understand their immigration options and gain protections they would otherwise lack. ■

To qualify for DACA, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Have arrived in the United States prior to age 16.
- Have continuously resided in the United States without legal status since June 15, 2007.
- Be less than age 31 as of June 15, 2012 and at least age 15 at application (unauthorized immigrants under 15 but in removal proceedings are also eligible to apply).
- Be currently enrolled in school, have graduated from high school or obtained a General Education Development certificate (GED), or be an honorably discharged veteran.
- Have not been convicted of a felony or multiple or serious misdemeanors and not pose a threat to national security or public safety.



Find out more about our work with DACA by contacting Saul Tran Cornwall at (206) 805-8966 or saultc@acrs.org.



ASIAN COUNSELING
and REFERRAL SERVICE



ACRS' 26th annual

WALK FOR RICE

every grain counts

SATURDAY | 8^{AM} - 1^{PM}



JUNE 25, 2016

Seward Park • Seattle, WA



/WalkforRice

An all-ages 2.5 mile walk/run benefiting the ACRS Food Bank.
Cultural performances, food, dogs in costume and fun for the whole family.

presented by



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FACES OF THE ACRS FOOD BANK

An Advocate with a Warm Smile

This June, Karen Jackel will have completed 24 years as the ACRS Food Bank Coordinator – she started just two years after the first *Walk for Rice* took place! Karen serves as the geographic chair of the Seattle Food Committee and is an active member on several anti-hunger coalitions including: Northwest Harvest, Food Lifeline, The City of Seattle Human Services Coalition, Washington Food Coalition, Anti-Hunger and Nutrition Coalition and Children’s Alliance. Before ACRS had enough funds to purchase a van, Karen used her own car to pick up food donations. Each day, she catches one of the earliest ferries from Bremerton into Seattle. Karen goes above and beyond to put personal touches on the ACRS Food Bank to make it a welcoming place for all, including bringing in flowers from her personal garden to plant around the facility. She treats everyone with respect, whether they are clients, volunteers or colleagues. She has offered friendship to those who are homeless, and helped them to get into stable housing.

Please join us in thanking Karen for over two decades of dedicated service, and ensuring that the most vulnerable in our community see a friendly, familiar and welcoming face when they make trips to the ACRS Food Bank.



Roast Chicken for All

In 2009, Cordell Lui and Jerry Lee were driving down to get an early lunch in the Chinatown/International District. They saw a big line on King Street and wondered what was going on. “It was 17 degrees that day; it was really cold and we froze just going from the parking lot and into the restaurant,” recalls Jerry. Every Wednesday and Friday, between 300-400 individuals, seniors and families with young children gather patiently in a line that has been known to reach the Wing Luke Museum a couple of blocks away.

Though it was by chance that they drove by the ACRS Food Bank that day, they made a choice to do something about it. Jerry explained that he and Cordell “got on the phone and started calling up friends and said, ‘hey for \$125, we can get 25 Costco chickens – would you be interested in helping out?’ By the time the lunch was over, we

had 300 chickens.” This annual tradition has become a highly anticipated event for food bank clients, and the group now holds two distributions each year – one around Thanksgiving and the other around Christmas. Clients receive toys and clothing for kids and ethnic food items like jok (rice porridge), joong (dumplings) and lap cheong (Chinese sausage). They’ve also received hong bao (lucky red envelopes). “It’s been very gratifying. A lot of these people are from Toishan, that’s my heritage. I get to wish them luck in the upcoming year,” says Jerry.

Thank you, Cordell, Jerry and Charlene Lee, employees from MG2, Rick Rizzs Toys for Kids and all who have volunteered and contributed toward this heartwarming holiday tradition throughout the years.

Young Philanthropists in Training

During their annual Lunar New Year Celebration, the students and PTA at Wedgwood Elementary School in northeast Seattle rallied classmates and families to collect over 430 pounds of food and \$963.99 for the ACRS Food Bank.

These young philanthropists and their parents have been doing this for five years now, and have created posters educating their peers and teachers about the issue of hunger, and how ACRS is addressing this problem through our food bank and community events like *Walk for Rice*. This year, they took it up a notch by helping us load the food they collected into our delivery van!

Many, many thanks to the Wedgwood Associated Student Body and Parent Teacher Association for their leadership and service to the most vulnerable in our communities. ■



ACRS' 26th annual

**WALK
FOR
RICE**

every grain counts

MATCH DAYS

ARE BACK!

GROW YOUR GIFT TO THE ACRS FOOD BANK! ■ ■ ■

All food and funds received June 6-17* will earn a match from CenturyLink.

**Give online starting Monday, June 6 until midnight on Friday, June 17 at walkforrice.org. Mailed donations and food drop-offs must be received at ACRS by noon on Friday, June 17 in order to qualify.*

Special Thanks:



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YOUR VOICE MATTERS by Michael Itti

When you volunteer at the ACRS Food Bank, donate to a favorite charity, or vote in an election, you are working to make a difference in our communities. Making your voice heard in government is another way to participate. Your input will help innovate programs and services to be more inclusive of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, and improve the well-being of all Washingtonians.

Civic engagement includes meeting with your elected representatives, providing feedback to public agencies, or joining a board or commission. At the state level, the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (CAPAA) and our 12-governor appointed members serve as liaisons between our communities and decision-makers in Olympia. CAPAA works with community leaders and organizations, including ACRS and the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC), to advise the governor, state agencies, and lawmakers. Increasing civic participation of AAPIs is a core value we all share.

CAPAA would like to highlight key outcomes from the 2016 legislative session and issues we will continue to work on throughout the year.

Expanding Civil Rights

Law enforcement accountability and its relationship with communities of color has been a leading concern. A task force on the use of deadly force in community policing was created by House Bill 2908, sponsored by Representative Cindy Ryu, and another advisory group will develop policies covering the use of body-worn cameras. CAPAA will appoint members to represent AAPIs on these task forces.

Closing the Educational Opportunity Gaps

A plan to improve educational outcomes for students of color became state law this year. Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos sponsored House Bill 1541, based on recommendations of the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee (EOGOAC), to address structural issues in the education system that disproportionately impact students of color. The bill will:

- Reduce the harmful impact of discipline practices that contribute toward a school-to-prison pipeline;
- Require the collection of disaggregated data by sub-population and ethnic groups such as Vietnamese, Samoan and Somali;

- Raise the cultural competency of educators; and
- Improve the quality of English language learner programs.

The Commission is deeply appreciative of Frieda Takamura and Sili Savusa, who have represented AAPIs on the EOGOAC since its formation in 2009, and grassroots organizations like Our Future Matters and the Southeast Asian Education Coalition for their efforts to pass the bill. The EOGOAC will continue to meet monthly to monitor implementation of the legislation and formulate other recommendations such as development of a framework around family engagement coordinators.

Addressing Health Disparities

A top priority of CAPAA is to improve health equity for the Marshallese community and other Pacific Islanders living in Washington. Despite paying taxes, Congress excluded legal migrants living in the U.S. from the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and Palau from accessing Medicaid coverage beginning in 1996. This injustice is compounded by the continuing health impacts of nuclear tests conducted in the 1940s and 1950s by the U.S. government in the Marshall Islands.

In addition, CAPAA is concerned with other disparities impacting AAPIs such as mental health, substance abuse, chronic diseases, and access to health care coverage. Lawmakers passed legislation to address many of these issues such as diabetes and suicide. The Commission will encourage the development of prevention strategies that specifically target AAPIs.

CAPAA's work continues throughout the year as we examine how new laws and policies will impact AAPIs and engage with state agencies on best practices to deliver services. Your voice matters in our ability to fulfill the mission of CAPAA. Join us at a commission meeting or contact us to get involved in improving the well-being of our communities. ■



Contact CAPAA at (360) 725-5667 (telephone interpretation is available) or visit our website at www.capaa.wa.gov.

Michael Itti is the Executive Director and Brianna Ramos is the Project Coordinator for the Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs.

WHEN IT COMES TO VOTING, 'ASIAN AMERICAN' LABEL MASKS DIVERSITY

While Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) have become the fastest growing minority group in the country, we are lagging behind other racial and ethnic groups in terms of participating in our democracy. In 2014, only 50% of eligible AAPI voters were registered to vote, and only half of those actually voted in 2014, leaving 90,000 AAPIs who had the opportunity to vote but did not. This can contribute to the false notion that AAPIs don't care about civic engagement. So what's the real story behind these numbers?

For someone who comes from a country without the right to vote, explaining the concept of voting, and how it works, takes time and sensitivity. They may have been persecuted for expressing their political beliefs; or where voter intimidation is common, suffered personal trauma. These experiences, in addition to varying systems across municipalities, lack of transportation, or even a postage stamp are barriers to civic participation. Cultural and linguistic barriers exclude AAPIs whose primary language is something other than English from mainstream political conversations. Different AAPI ethnic and language groups rely on dynamic social structures within their own communities for receiving and disseminating information, making traditional channels of mass communication ineffective. This is why ACRS

is undertaking AAPI voter education campaigns in over 20 languages, including Mandarin, Vietnamese, Korean, Nepali, Tagalog, Khmer and Hmong, to name a few.

These barriers create a need for specific and targeted civic engagement strategies that are inclusive, accessible and reflect the diversity of languages and cultures that make up the AAPI population. In short, there is no such thing as a "one size fits all" approach to "court the Asian American vote." Grouping AAPIs into single voting block masks the rich diversity of experiences and approaches toward sustainable civic engagement and participation.

Historically, the Mien community's literacy rate is very low, so oral communication is the most effective way to engage the community. In previous years, a team of ACRS staff has held informal ballot parties. During these ballot parties, staff translated the voter pamphlet into Mien, and explained the ballot. With additional tools and support from the AAPI Democracy Initiative, their ballot party went more smoothly in 2015, and 80% of their class turned in completed ballots.

■ *Continues on page 10* |

Community members from across the state meet with Washington State Senator Pramila Jayapal during APA Legislative Day in 2015.

Photo by Dean Wong



▪ Continued from pg. 9

ACRS is partnering with the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC) on the AAPI Democracy Initiative. Together, we are addressing the complex history of AAPI civic engagement, and disparities in civic knowledge and participation. We're focusing our efforts on consistent and long term strategies to meaningfully connect with AAPIs to overcome barriers. In the last half of 2015, we reached thousands of people across Washington State. We worked with ethnic and mainstream media to reach 1.5 million individuals across the state, focusing on the geographic areas with the highest concentration of AAPI communities. We also partnered with 293 community leaders who received specialized training, so that they can take knowledge back to their own communities. This group of community leaders represent over 24 AAPI ethnicities, speak 32 different languages and range in age from 18-85 years old.

The 2016 presidential elections will be a critical time for encouraging civic engagement. Using the lessons learned in 2015, there are seven key areas where the Initiative will strengthen its efforts:

- Year-round engagement
- Deepening leadership development
- Education on issues
- Culturally competent get out the vote efforts
- Organizing around the presidential election
- Continuing to focus on structural changes
- Capturing emerging voters ■



Contact Monica Ng at (206) 774-2436 or monican@acrs.org to learn more about the AAPI Democracy Initiative.

AAPI voters who were contacted by a nonprofit had higher voter turnout rates than other AAPI voters – 48% vs. 33%.

ACRS staff held ballot parties at many local community centers.

Photo by Hong Chhuor



HELP GET OUT THE AAPI VOTE!

You can help ACRS make sure that AAPI voices are heard by joining us in:

- Registering someone to vote, or helping them confirm their address with the WA Secretary of State. Go to www.sos.wa.gov/elections/myvote/.
- Getting voter materials in Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Spanish (for King County residents). If someone prefers materials in one of these languages, go to: www.kingcounty.gov/depts/elections.aspx.
- Gathering community members and co-workers to host a phone bank in partnership with ACRS.
- Inviting ACRS to host an outreach booth or table at your next event.
- Translating “Get Out the Vote” messages into different languages.
- Joining the statewide Asian Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC) Statewide Civic Engagement Summit and Gubernatorial Candidate Forum on September 15, or helping with other local candidate forums happening across the state.
- Sharing civic engagement information in places where your community gathers. Let us know if you need any resources.
- Gathering your family and friends before an election by hosting a ballot party and casting your ballots.
- **Share your story on why voting matters to you and your community! ■**



Contact Monica Ng: monican@acrs.org for more information about how you can be involved. Check out key dates to the right.

Key 2016 Dates

May 24

Last day to vote for the Washington State Presidential Primary.

July 4

Deadline to register to vote in the State Primary Election.

August 2

Last day to vote for the Washington State Primary.

August 12

Presidential Candidate Town Hall Live Casting *(to be determined)*
Location: Asian Counseling and Referral Service – Seattle, WA

September 15

APIC Statewide Civic Engagement
and Gubernatorial Candidate Summit
Location: Tacoma Dome – Tacoma, WA

October *(to be determined)*

AAPI Candidate Forum
Location: Asian Counseling and Referral Service – Seattle, WA

October 10

Deadline to register to vote in the General Election.

November 8

Last day to vote in the General Election.

THANK YOU DONORS!

ACRS is only able to offer hope and opportunity to thousands across our region with support from our donors. Thank you from the bottoms of our hearts! The following gifts were received between November 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016.

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CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE, ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT

by Ling Chua, LMFT



THERAPY ASSOCIATES

A good friend of mine who emigrated from China came over on the eve of Lunar New Year for dinner. Over modest homemade fare, her four-year-old daughter unabashedly belted out a traditional Chinese song she had learned in preschool that day. This got us talking about festive songs we heard growing up in our home countries – the ones that filled the air in shopping malls and on the radio for an entire month – like Christmas music does in December, here in the States.

I suddenly felt an ache in my heart. It dawned on me that I was missing the very songs I used to loathe. Long after dinner, I found myself still singing some of these songs under my breath. I even discovered for the first time how beautifully poetic they are. I was transported back to my childhood: the excitement of donning new clothes on the first day of Chinese New Year, the anticipation of receiving hong bao (red envelopes) from the relatives I would visit that day, the glitter of an array of candy sitting on the coffee table and the smell of incense sticks burning on my ancestors' altar. And yes, the sound of cheesy, over-played Chinese songs blasting from my family's stereo set.

As I reflected deeper, I realized I was not merely being nostalgic. I was sorely missing a part of my cultural identity. I was missing the narratives that define who I am: the things my family did to ring in the new year and honor the dead, the folktales that captured my imagination, the idioms I had to memorize, the ancient poems I recited about filial piety, war, love, and other trials and tribulations of life. I wonder if this is a common experience among Asian immigrants in the U.S. Does moving away from one's home country necessarily spell doom for one's cultural identity?

I do not believe so. We can do much to help pass our heritage to our next generation, and in the process, stay connected with our cultural roots ourselves. I sometimes hear Chinese parents of American-born children lament that their children resist going to Chinese classes on Saturdays. In a predominantly English-speaking society, children may find learning their mother tongue tedious and pointless. They may see little utility of mastering a second language aside from being able to communicate with their grandparents.

I reckon parents of other Asian cultures face similar challenges imparting their languages to their children.

It certainly behooves us to start teaching our children our heritage from a young age. Yet our language is not the only thing we can pass on to our offspring. Children are drawn to good stories. Themes of good versus evil abound in folklore of various cultures, as do narratives of heroism, kinship, and loyalty. Perhaps we can look into legends for stories of magic and adventure that also embody the values our parents, and their parents before them, held dear. Among Chinese families, for example, children can learn the tragic story of one man's self-sacrifice 2,000 years ago that people now commemorate every year with dragon boat races and rice dumplings. Or the beautiful, mythical origins of the Milky Way and the Big Dipper.

The public library houses colorfully illustrated books on tales such as these that you can read along with your children at bedtime. The Internet is another good resource for obtaining information – use search terms such as “folktales” or “myths and legends” along with your culture. You can even download anthologies of children's tales for the tablet.

Teach your children songs your parents used to sing to you, games you used to play in school, rhymes you used to chant with your peers. With older children, teach them how to make ethnic dishes. Pass along your grandma's recipes. Tell them stories of how you came to this country, and the hardships you endured. Show them pictures of your family of origin. If it is within your means, take them to your hometown and show them where you went to school or first learned to ride a bike. If you were American-born yourself, make this a process of joint discovery with your children as you trace back the footsteps of generations before you.

My friend's four-year-old daughter may be delighted today to have learned a Chinese song, but she has only just begun her journey to developing a cultural identity. And I am glad my friend knows that. ■



Community workshops and individual or family counseling appointments are available. For more information or to schedule a consultation, please call ACRS Therapy Associates at (206) 695-7511.

Ling is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist with ACRS Therapy Associates.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK (CONT.)

▪ *Continued from pg. 2* ▪

give back to our community through events like our *Walk for Rice* to support the ACRS Food Bank and the 5,136 clients we serve.

Please join us in our civic engagement efforts by registering to vote if you are eligible, and voting if you are registered, because your vote counts, and it strengthens our community. Please get on your feet

for our *Walk for Rice*, because your gift counts for the most vulnerable members of our community!

Thank you so very much for all that you do for our community, ■



Diane Narasaki
Executive Director

READY TO WORK OFFERS A PATH (CONT.) FORWARD TO NEW AMERICANS

▪ *Continued from pg. 3* ▪

future jobs and dream careers. They talk about how they will move from one goal to the next, while practicing English pronunciation, verb tenses, grammar and new vocabulary along the way. They learn how to use a computer, set up an email account, send and reply to email, and search the Internet and apply for jobs online. The students also go on field trips to the local library to get library cards, or South Seattle College, to learn about pursuing careers in construction, auto-repair and aviation with additional training in Washington State's I-BEST program.

What makes RTW unique is its focus on helping students overcome barriers toward achieving their full potential. This could be as simple as providing an ORCA

pass, so they have a way to get to class. "Each student works with a dedicated case manager to identify individual needs, and develop a resume and individual employment plan," says Alexandra Olins, Director of Employment and Citizenship programs at ACRS. Some students need a first job now; others like Ittikorn already have a job, but need help mapping out and navigating the steps toward family-supporting jobs and careers. ■



Learn more about Ready to Work by contacting Alexandra Olins at (206) 695-7566 or alexandraol@acrs.org.

IN MEMORIAM

The ACRS family fondly remembers the beloved individuals listed below, who have served as ACRS staff and/or members of our board. They were community leaders and their contributions have made a better and more just world.



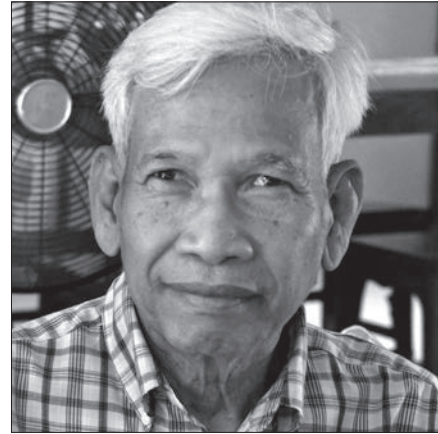
Cornell Cebrian

Filipino mental health counselor; served from 1977- 2000. ACRS Board of Directors (2000-2006) and Board President (2004-2006).



Quynh Thuc Nguyen

ACRS' first Vietnamese mental health counselor and Consultation & Education (C&E) specialist on AAPI cultural competency; served from 1975-2012.



Kan You

ACRS' first Cambodian mental health counselor and C&E specialist; served from 1979-1991.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE

You may have noticed that **www.acrs.org** has a different look and feel – we hope you enjoy discovering our new home on the web and that you find it easy to navigate and find information you're looking for.

Over the next several months, we'll continue making improvements and adding new content, so visit us often and bear with us as we put in the final touches.

So, what do you think? What are your first impressions? We're hoping you love it! If you experience any problems – maybe one or two things don't work as you might expect – let us know and we'll take a look. Get in touch with Hong Chhuor at hongc@acrs.org or (206) 774-2460. ■



Stay current on all things ACRS, like upcoming events and volunteer opportunities when you sign-up for our email list – it only takes two minutes! www.acrs.org



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ACRS' MISSION STATEMENT

ACRS promotes social justice and the well-being and empowerment of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other underserved communities – including immigrants, refugees, and American-born – by developing, providing and advocating for innovative, effective and efficient community-based multilingual and multicultural services.

If you would no longer like to receive ACRS News or if you have an address correction, please email info@acrs.org with your name, mailing address and request.