



Asian American Federation

Advancing the Civic Voice and Well-Being of Asian Americans

February 2011
Newsletter

Community Focus

From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As federal, state, and city governments are grappling with record budget deficits, many human service agencies are confronted with the imminent, devastating funding loss. Drastic government cutbacks will result in major reduction or even elimination of services vital to the well-being of families trying to make ends meet, new immigrants seeking educational and employment opportunities, children from poor neighborhoods in need of educational and community support for healthy development, as well as seniors who live alone and rely on senior centers for their meals and social activities. Because one in four Asian children and one in three Asian seniors in New York City live in poverty, as a 2008 Federation report reveals, we are very concerned about the potential impact of the anticipated budget cuts on the working-poor families and vulnerable seniors in the Asian American community.

While private philanthropy can never replace public spending on social service programs, strategically invested philanthropic dollars can make a meaningful difference. We are very pleased to share in this newsletter a story of successful collaboration and effective leveraging of resources to pursue an unprecedented domestic violence prevention initiative. As we work with our agencies to respond to community needs with fewer resources, we will continue to seek more opportunities for collaboration and innovation. As the year of the rabbit begins, the Federation is committed to raising more resources for grant-making through our Community Fund. We also encourage donors and philanthropic organizations to consider partnering with the Federation to enable service agencies in the Asian American community sustain critical services in the coming years.

Cao K. O

Social Workers Recognized Executive Director, Cao K.O

On December 2nd, the New York City Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW-NYC) awarded the Federation's Executive Director, Cao O with an award for "Highest Social Work Leadership" at the Grand Harmony Restaurant in Chinatown. This year the NASW-NYC recognized the "Top Leaders in The Profession in New York City" and chose three outstanding individuals that show great leadership and strong impact in the community. One of the three recipients was our Executive Director for his notable work in the Asian American community through the Asian American Federation. Awarded alongside Cao K.O, was Dr. Rosa Gil, the founder & CEO of Communilife, and Dr. Megan McLaughlin, the former Executive Director/CEO of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, Inc.

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Professor Paul Kurzman of the Hunter College School of Social Work presents award to Federation Executive Director, Cao K.O

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Approves Challenge Grant

Last month, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation approved a \$200,000 matching grant for *Project Speak Out*, a joint program of the New York Asian Women's Center in partnership with Garden of Hope, Korean American Family Service Center, and Sakhi for South Asian Women. This national foundation grant will be matched by five local funders that have committed a total of \$150,000. The local funders include the Asian American Federation, the Grace & Mercy Foundation, Korean American Community Foundation, Ong Family Foundation, and Tiger Baron Foundation.

Project Speak Out is the first large scale pan-Asian community education and domestic violence prevention campaign in New York City. With the goal of changing individual and community attitudes and behaviors toward intimate partner violence/domestic violence, the four partner agencies will pool their knowledge and experience working with their constituencies to debunk the culture of silence and to unveil the secrecy of domestic violence. *Speak Out* will challenge cultural prohibitions by:

- 1) increasing awareness of the problem of domestic violence and recalibrating social norms making violence more unacceptable,
- 2) confronting the social conditions and community structures that contribute to violence, and
- 3) building networks of community leaders that can continue the transformative work of eliminating violence against women.

This two-year project is the result of a collaborative effort to respond to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Request for Proposals addressing domestic violence about a year ago. The Foundation required that any proposed project be nominated by a local funder and that the project would also be supported by local matching funds. The Federation convened a meeting with the four member agencies to discuss the funding opportunity and offered to act as a nominating funder. Over a period of several months, with the Federation facilitating the process, the four partner agencies jointly developed *Project Speak Out*, leveraging each other's organizational strengths to reach greater program impact than what each group would be able to accomplish individually. To ease the agencies' fundraising burden, the Federation reached out to the four family/community foundations mentioned above, and they responded quickly with their respective funding commitments toward the project.

The Federation is proud of the successful collaboration of these four domestic violence agencies and of the local funding partners. We are appreciative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's support of this important initiative. Together, we will make a significant difference in changing attitudes and behaviors toward domestic violence in New York's Asian American community.



Larry Lee, Cao K.O, Brennan Gang, and Grace Yoon



Left to Right: Hong Shing Lee, Cao K.O, Brennan Gang (Korean American Community Foundation), Nelson Louis (Ong Family Foundation), Kyung Yoon (Korean American Community Foundation), Mark Shaw (Grace & Mercy Foundation), Sethu Nair (Sakhi for South Asian Women), Larry Lee (New York Asian Women's Center), Grace Yoon (Korean American Family Service Center), Tiloma Jayasinghe (Sakhi for South Asian Women), Alyssa Elser (New York Asian Women's Center), and Emily Yuan (Garden of Hope)

The Federation Hosts A Donor Reception on December 7, 2010

The Asian American Federation hosted a donor reception and holiday gathering on Tuesday, December 7th at the Harvard Club to thank friends, supporters, in-kind donors, and board directors. Executive Directors Steven Choi of MinKwon Center for Community Action; Seema Agnani of Chhaya CDC; and Grace Yoon of Korean American Family Services Center, each shared their agencies missions, challenges and needs, and how the Federation has helped support their own communities as well as the Asian American community at large through the recent economic crisis. The Federation deeply appreciates all of the support from our friends and partners over the past 21 years.



Federation Board Director David Chung, Roger Jee, and Executive Director, Cao K. O



Federation Board Directors (left to right): Richard Hsia, Paul Huang, Sunil Wadhwa, Theresa Yoon, David Chung, George Wang, and Jeffrey Chin



Donor Relations Director Michelle Tong, Susan Sohlee, Margaret Jan, and Shujaat Islam



Jim Heston, Joe Cauchi, and gala committee member Wynn Salisch



Board Chair Jeffrey Chin, toasting to the friends and supporters of the Federation



Tracy Fu, Sharon Wee, and Federation Board Director Theresa Yoon



Federation Board Director Richard Hsia, Hal Edelman, and Fang Tao Jiang

The Federation Says Farewell to Fellow Staff Member and Good Friend, Hong Shing Lee

After almost 5 years at the Asian American Federation as Chief Operating Officer, Hong Shing Lee is departing at the end of the month and will be the new Executive Director of Chinatown Manpower Project, a member agency. Hong has been serving the Greater New York City Asian American Community for over 20 years through his work at Chinese-American Planning Council, City Hall Senior Center, Chinatown YMCA, and the Asian American Federation. Although the Federation is sad to see a fellow staff member and good friend go, we wish him the very best in his new endeavors.



Hong Shing Lee

Save the Date: 2011 *Spirit of Asian America* Annual Gala

On **May 5, 2011** the Asian American Federation will be hosting its annual *Spirit of Asian America* gala at **The Pierre** and will be recognizing three outstanding individuals who have made a tremendous impact in our community. This year's honorees are:



Linda Lam
*Managing Partner, Northeast
Sub-Area Assurance,
Ernst & Young LLP*



Yong Hwa Ha
*31st President, Korean American
Association of Greater New York
President, Solomon Agency Corp.*



Judge Judith Sheindlin
*Presiding Judge,
Judge Judy, CBS Television
Distribution*

To learn more about *The Spirit of Asian America Gala*, please visit the Federation's website at www.aafederation.org. For information on corporate sponsorship levels, individual tickets, journal advertisements, or to make a donation, please contact Anne Wang at (212) 344-5878 ext. 27 or at anne.wang@aafederation.org.

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A special Thank You to the following donors
(December 1, 2010-January 31, 2011)

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\$5,000-\$9,999

Jeffrey Chin

\$1,000-\$4,999

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Constance Y. Chung & Maurice R. Povich
Susan S. & Edmund K. Kwan
LiT Solutions Inc.
Tang Family Foundation

\$500-\$999

Kevin Benson
Alex S. Chin & Margaret M. Jan
Angela Fung
Douglas Jung
Linda Lam
Cao K. O

\$100-\$499

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Asian American Federation

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The Asian American Federation's mission is to advance the civic voice and well-being of Asian Americans. We collaboratively foster philanthropy in the community, undertake research to inform policies, and provide support to community service organizations.

Website(s) www.aafederation.org www.asianamericanphilanthropy.org Phone (212) 334-5878 E-Mail info@aafederation.org

Make a Difference

You can make a difference in the well being of Asian Americans by contributing to the Asian American Federation. Your gift may be for general purposes or be designated to specific causes such as the Census 2010 campaign or suicide prevention of Asian elders. Please inquire with your employer to see if the company has a matching gift program.

Yes, I want to help Asian American communities.

- Donation enclosed
- Please send me info on the Asian American Community Fund
- Register me as a volunteer
- Please send me info on how my association / affinity group can partner with the Federation

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

E-Mail:

Volunteer, Bequests, Gift-In-Kind, Pledges, Honorary Gifts