Pictured Below: Young friends participate in the summer camp program in Lakewood.
Dear Friends,

This has been a year of lots of changes for the organization. We have increased not only in the quantity of services available for the Asian/Pacific Islander communities in Ohio, but have also been able to bring in a number of new jobs to Northeast Ohio through our staffing structure.

Our Community Health Promotions department has also taken off, having identified Hepatitis B, Type II Diabetes, and Lead Poisoning as issues that are affecting the well-being of our communities. The Self-Sufficiency Services Department has notably increased in its outreach to refugee populations, and has been able to offer new job training opportunities (e.g., residential and commercial cleaning). As families and individuals are settling in, we have found a higher demand as well for immigration legal services.

We would like to thank all of our partners and supporters for their involvement in improving the well-being of API refugees and immigrants. You help us reach those who, because of language and cultural reasons, tend to remain invisible. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael Byun,
Executive Director
The Akron-based Lucky Seniors had successfully expanded their program to include the first and third Wednesdays of every month, and increased enrollment more than 30% from 2008 to 2009. Distribution of monthly schedules ahead of time in order for the seniors to know about upcoming events has helped to increase participation.

This year, the Lucky Seniors volunteered their time and talents, donating more than 100 hand-knit scarves and hats to children. Other seniors donated their talents in healthcare and the arts. For example, Dr. Chen and Mrs. Chi provided flu shots and Mrs. Hu has offered to teach the other seniors Chinese painting. During the Akron Health and Wellness Fair, the seniors held a Tai Ch'i demonstration. At the grand opening of the Confucius Institute, they also provided an origami demonstration. As a result, several of them began to teach origami to high schoolers in Barberton High School for a Chinese summer camp.

In addition to healthy meals, Lucky Seniors program participants are able to make friends and socialize with people they can converse with, as they are far away from their home countries.

Due to space limitations, ASIA contacted Grace Church in Fairlawn. The church has allowed the seniors to use its community room for activities and meals.

- Provided 2,889 meals for seniors over 60 years in Summit County and 200 meals in Cuyahoga County
- Provided 300 hours of informational clinics and 1,040 hours of benefits access for seniors in Cuyahoga County

Pictured Above: The Lucky Seniors created and donated scarves to children in our Akron-based after-school program.
• Partnered with Ohio Domestic Violence Network to convene an Asian Women’s Health Forum in Cleveland, Ohio (September 2008)
• Contracted by the Cuyahoga County Library to conduct focus groups for four Asian communities
• Secured primary contract with the Cuyahoga County Commissioners to address all their departments interpreting and translation services needs (Asian and non-Asian languages)
• Conducted cultural competency trainings with five community-based organizations
• Contracted by the University of Akron’s Confucius Institute and Summit County Education Services Center to provide cultural demonstrations (Tai Ch’I, sword dancing, calligraphy, paper-folding and paper-cutting)

Pictured Below: Executive Director Michael Byun attends the OAAHC Planning Meeting
This year, The Lantern Project on the eastside, ASIA’s service learning program, had conducted a door-knocking campaign in the Asiatown neighborhood of Cleveland to find out what the residents enjoyed about living in their neighborhood, as well as what could have been improved upon. Additionally, the students in the program wrote, submitted, and received a Lead Research Project grant from Neighborhood Connections, which provides funding for grassroots-based activities. From the findings of the door-knocking campaign as well as a previous survey, they decided to create and implement a neighborhood watch club in the area.

During the summer, Community Adult Mentoring Program [CAM] expanded its services into Lakewood, serving those in the area, as well as children and youth living on Cleveland’s near Westside.

This is the second year that CAM program participants and alums also joined other youth from around the county to head to the nation’s capital and meet their legislators.

On August 22, 2009, Cleveland Cavs’ all-star and local sports idol LeBron James held the “King for Kids Bike-A-Thon” downtown Akron, Ohio. Earlier that year, ASIA was contacted to nominate students for this particular event sponsored by various companies and local businesses. These nominations were to be based on good and strong character. From our very own International Community Empowerment Project (ICEP), we nominated Then Lang, El Ser, and MinZawOo of the Karen community, and Bikram Subba, Champha Subba, and Narayan Niroula of the Nepali community. Chaperoned by Kim Helms, Project Coordinator of ICEP, each of these students received a new bike, helmet and t-shirt. It turned out to be a beautiful day for the kids to bike with LeBron James. A special “thank you” to downtown’s Lolly Trolley and its amiable driver, who provided transportation to the students to and from the event. Our six ICEP students are continuing to enjoy their brand new bikes and have ridden them frequently and actively. The same event is being held this year and we hope to have a similar positive experience.
services

children, youth, and family

- Provided 1,890 hours of after-school programming, 168 hours of summer programming, and 156 hours of drug prevention education to Chinese immigrant students (grades K-6) in Cleveland, Ohio
- Provided 816 hours of after-school programming, 288 hours of summer programming, and 284 hours of drug prevention education to Burmese, Ka’ren, and Bhutanese refugee students (grades K-12) in Lakewood, Ohio
- Provided 180 hours of service learning activities and programming for Chinese immigrant students (grades 7-12) in Cleveland, Ohio
- Provided 504 hours of drug prevention and tutoring services for Akron students in grades K-8

- Organized statewide World Hepatitis B Day (May 2009) and secured endorsements from mayors in all the major metropolitan areas across the state
- Conducted 702 health screenings (hepatitis B, cholesterol, BMI, glucose)
- Launched Hepatitis B PSA in partnership with Organization of Chinese American’s Image TV
- Provided health program development consultation to sister agencies in Maryland, Atlanta, Minneapolis, and Houston
- Provided resources and assistance to the Fourth Statewide Asian American Health Conference (Cincinnati, OH), drawing over 200 researchers, community members, and service providers
- Conducted first Learning Call with Dr. Tom Chung from the Biomedical Research Institute in Cincinnati to state researchers, academics, and health policymakers
- Organized the first statewide Asian Americans and HIV/AIDS training and planning in partnership with the Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum
- Facilitated first strategic planning retreat for the Ohio Asian American Health Coalition
- Advocated at the state and federal level for greater access to hepatitis B screenings and vaccination for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
- Engaged with the National Office of Minority Health for the National Partnership for Action, a multi-year strategic planning process to address health disparities among minority populations
- Provided 45 Hepatitis B screenings to Columbus-area restaurant workers
- Provided 291 Hepatitis B screenings to health fair and Asian Festival attendees in Columbus

picted Above: Parents participate in a wellness program held at St. Luke Catholic Church

community health promotion
Programming under the Self-Sufficiency Services Department doubled and, along with this increase, there are twice the amount of clients served. More than 80% of these clients were eligible for benefits assistance.

During this year, ASIA, Inc. was able to outreach to refugee groups that may benefit from the Individual Development Accounts [IDA] program, a financial assistance program. 21 individuals participated in the program and over 50 people attended the financial literacy courses, even those who had not been eligible to open IDAs. Meetings and outreach events were coordinated with south Asian, Laotian, Bhutanese, Burmese, and Ka’ren communities.

During the financial literacy sessions, a majority of the participants started to realize that understanding the financial system is a critical challenge for them. The training sessions cover general information such as the banking system, the difference between credit and debit cards, saving, and budgeting. For participants who have been in the U.S. longer, the training helped them to improve their knowledge about how their credit history will affect their ability to apply for a mortgage or loan in the future.
Seven participants received financial support for purchasing their first automobile. Transportation is an issue for refugee and immigrant populations, as it affects members’ abilities to travel to their workplaces. After receiving financial support to purchase a vehicle, they are able to save time traveling to work.

For first time homebuyers, ASIA refers them to a partner agency so that they can complete their training sessions.

- **Immigration Legal Services (as of 12/18):**
  - 91 clients
  - 22 cases approved
- **ESL and Civic Education**
  - Provided 10 hours of ESL and Civic Education for Akron-area refugee and immigrant adults
  - Provided 120 hours of ESOL Education and 120 hours of Civic Education for Cuyahoga County adult refugee and immigrant residents
- **Benefits Access**
  - Provided 3,000 hours of intake and 3,000 hours of benefits access for individuals and families in Cuyahoga County
  - Provided 180 hours of homeownership, postsecondary education, and car purchase education and Individual Development Account consultation in Cuyahoga County
  - 26 Individual Development Accounts were opened in Cleveland
  - 7 automobiles were purchased by low-income individuals through the Individual Development Account program
- **Voter Mobilization**
  - Reached 1,924 AAPIs across the state and 26 ethnic business for non-partisan Get Out The Vote for 2008 Presidential Election
  - Utilized 10 volunteers
  - Reached an additional 5,000 people electronically to encourage all registered voters to vote
  - Developed local voter fraud prevention materials in Korean, Vietnamese, and Chinese, and distributed materials door-to-door to 300 households, businesses and groups
- **Technical assistance to Asian ethnic voluntary organizations**
  - Assisted five ethnic organizations in securing grants worth nearly $10,000
  - Provided 3,120 hours of capacity-building support to groups (both administrative and programmatic)
- **Community Engagement**
  - Worked with Midtown Community Development Corporation and Cleveland City Councilperson Joe Cimperman to provide advocacy and language access for Chinese residents with regards to changes in residential neighborhood zoning to accommodate additional parking for commercial business
  - Advocated for linguistic- and culturally-appropriate foreclosure and financial education materials and resources for Asian Americans
  - Secured funding from the University Park Alliance (Akron, OH) to launch streetlight monitoring program focused on grassroots community-building
1995-1998
- Four founding women develop plans to establish ASIA to serve as a “resource center to provide information about and services to Asian Pacific Islanders in Northeast Ohio.”

1999
- ASIA incorporates and receives approval for non-profit status with the major goal of increasing the visibility of Asian Americans in Northeast Ohio.
- ASIA becomes the lead agency for after-school and mentoring programs for immigrant youth.
- The organization is positioned in a leadership role to address tobacco control in Ohio.

2000
- ASIA triples its operating budget and staff, with support from grants through the Ohio Department of Health, Summit County Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio Department of Education, and Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment and Leadership.
- An older adult nutritional/congregate meal program is initiated in Summit County.

2001
- ASIA expands its after-school program in Cleveland. Youth employment readiness is added to its family of services.

2002
- ASIA addresses tobacco control statewide and releases its first report on adult and youth tobacco use.
- ASIA develops a pilot demonstration project for cardiovascular health and launches its first health interpreting training.

2003
- ASIA sponsors its first major fundraiser, Taste of ASIA, at the National Inventor’s Hall of Fame

2004
- ASIA conducts a needs assessment in Cuyahoga County.
- ASIA joins the Cleveland Foundation’s Successful Aging Initiative.
- AAYAT youth receive Group Advocate of the Year Award from the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.
- Advocacy and legislative efforts around smoke-free workplaces are addressed in Summit and Cuyahoga Counties.
Our HISTORY

2005
- ASIA hosts Ohio’s Second Annual Asian Health Conference.
- ASIA addresses hepatitis B prevention and education statewide.

2006
- ASIA begins to implement its strategic plan and expands its Cleveland office.
- The organization helps to pass the Summit County smoke-free legislation and, eventually, the Ohio smoke-free legislation.
- ASIA creates a more streamlined intake and referral service for Cleveland APIs.

2007
- The First Annual An Afternoon in ASIA event is held at the Akron Public Library.
- ASIA’s food distribution program expands.
- ASIA’s First Annual Evening of Music silent auction fundraising event is held at Corporate College East.

2008
- ASIA becomes the lead agency for a W.K. Kellogg grant and the Health Through Action Coalition for Ohio.
- Founder and Executive Director, May Chen, takes a leave of absence.
- ASIA undergoes expansion of services into the refugee communities of Lakewood and Cleveland’s near West-side, partnering with Catholic Charities Office of Migration and Refugee Services, by providing ESL, job training, and after-school education.

2009
- Michael Byun becomes the Executive Director.
- ASIA partners with the United Black Fund to work with individuals from the African Somali Bantu community.
- ASIA becomes an Ohio Benefits Bank provider and Access Your Benefits provider for seniors.
- The organization begins to formally address domestic violence and mental health through grants from the Office of Violence Against Women and the Woodruff Foundation.
- ASIA hires program staff to oversee the Community Health Promotions Department.
Our
PARTNERS
AND SUPPORTERS

4-H
Access Your Benefits
Akron Community Foundation
Akron Health Department – Prevention Education and Health and Wellness
Education
Akron Public Schools – Sam Salem CLC, Leggett Elementary
Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County
American Family Insurance
Area Agency on Aging
Arrow International
Asia Plaza
Asian American Community Services
Asian American Community Services Council
Asian Evergreen Apartments
Asian Festival Corporation
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance
Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum/W.K. Kellogg
Baldwin Wallace College – Service Learning
Boy Scouts of America
Building Hope in the City
Case Western Reserve University – Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences
Catholic Charities Office of Migration and Refugee Services
Catholic Diocese Summer Meals Program
City of Cleveland City Council
City of Cleveland Department of Police
Cleveland Housing Network
Cleveland Metropolitan School District
Cleveland State University School of Social Work
County of Summit Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Board
Cuyahoga County Department of Senior and Adult Services
Facing History and Ourselves
Flats Oxbow Association
GAR Foundation
Girl Scouts of North East Ohio
GAR Foundation
Girl Scouts of North East Ohio
Grace Church (Fairlawn, OH)
Hotel and Leisure Advisors, LLC
Jewish Family Service Association
Junior Achievement
KeyBank
Lakewood Public School District
MotivAsians
National City Bank
Neighborhood Connections
Neighborhood Progress Inc.
New York Life
North East Ohio Universities College of Medicine
Northeast ABLE Resource Center
Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services
Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation
Professional Flair – Dancing Wheels
Rose Management
SCORE
St. Augustine Towers Assisted Living Center
St. Clair Superior Development Corporation
St. Luke Catholic Church
Solon Senior Community Center
Summit County Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services Board
Summit County Public Library
The Bruening Foundation
The Cleveland Dragonboat Association
The Cleveland FoodBank
The Cleveland Foundation
The Cleveland Housing Network
The Cleveland Public Library – Youth and Mobile Services
The Ellie Fund
The MacGregor Foundation
The Ohio State University Extension
United Way Services of Greater Cleveland
University of Akron – Service Learning
Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, 10B Inc.
Westown Community Development Corporation
Youngstown Metropolitan Housing Authority
Youth Outdoors
Local Grants, $14,400.00
State Grants, $163,928.00
Federal Grants, $113,043.00
Foundation, Trust, and Other Grants, $402,769.00
Program Service Fees, $150,916.00
Investment Return, $435.00
Donations and Contributions, $23,022.00
Other, $4,029.00
Expenditures

- Program Services: $738,623.00
- Supporting Services: $80,257.00
- Fundraising: $53,081.00

ASIA, Inc. 2008-2009 Annual Report