CF and I are greatly honored and humbled to have ASIA’s building named after us. For the past 50 years we have worked, lived, and raised a family in Northeast Ohio. There are now three generations of the Chen family here. Our lives have been greatly enriched and we strongly believe that it is our civic and social responsibility to give back after receiving so much.

The journey that ASIA has traveled to arrive at this point mirrors the journeys of many immigrants and refugees in our community. ASIA arrived in the social service community to develop a new untapped frontier just as immigrants and refugees resettled in uncharted territories--facing challenges in living in a new and different culture.

In the beginning, ASIA had much to learn to build capacity to serve immigrants and refugees, just as immigrants and refugees have to acculturate by learning English and navigating their lives around their new social and educational environments. Resources for ASIA were few and limited. ASIA maximized what little human resources and space were available. ASIA moved from place to place renting, and hoping that one day ASIA will have her own home. Similarly, immigrants and refugees come to America with limited finances and social support. They move from one rented residence to another until one day they accumulate enough resources to own their own home. Both CF and I are thrilled beyond words to see how ASIA’s efforts have benefited so many immigrants and refugees who want to call Northeast Ohio their home.

We are so pleased that they can come to a place that now has permanence and capacity to help immigrants and refugees become fully contributing members of this community. We thank ASIA’s funders, ASIA’s staff, and ASIA’s partners throughout the years for helping them realize this most important goal. We look forward with confidence under Elaine Tso’s leadership to ASIA’s having a lasting, productive and meaningful presence in Northeast Ohio. Finally, CF and I thank each and everyone of you for taking time to come and celebrate this very special day for ASIA.

May Chen
ASIA, Inc. Co-founder and Executive Director Emeritus
October 7, 2019 Open House Speech
Dear Friends,

I am honored and excited to share our 2018-2019 annual report as the new Chief Executive Officer of ASIA! This past year has been a year of transition and investment for ASIA. Our Akron office relocated to 370 E. Market to house both our International Community Health Center (ICHC) and our Sustainability Services Department under one roof. Thank you to everyone who joined us in celebrating the ribbon cutting and grand opening of the C.F. and May Chen Community Center, named in recognition of their ongoing support and commitment to ASIA. The renovation of our International Community Health Center site in Cleveland has also been completed and we look forward to inviting you to our ribbon cutting and grand opening in 2020.

This year, ASIA’s Gala highlights the Apex Fund for Economic Opportunities (Apex Fund) that has helped numerous immigrants and refugees with asset building and financial empowerment services over the past year. The Apex Fund has helped several community members graduate to self-sufficiency through becoming a first-time homebuyer or a small business entrepreneur. One of ASIA’s new entrepreneurs has risen from poverty to become a sponsor of this year’s ASIA Gala showcasing “Communities Thriving Through Entrepreneurship.”

ASIA also launched a Victims of Crime (VOC) program to provide legal services to crime victims experiencing crimes other than domestic violence and sexual assault. This program expands culturally appropriate, linguistically specific, trauma-informed legal services for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) and other immigrant/refugee victims of crime. The Legal Services Department at ASIA can now provide legal services for victims of crimes, including, but not limited to: theft, property crimes such as robbery, burglary, and vandalism, elder fraud and abuse, as well as hate and bias crimes.

Over the summer, ASIA’s longest running program, the International Community Empowerment Project (ICEP), held a week-long debate program through an outreach initiative from Cornell University where immigrant/refugee youth learned how to expand their knowledge of current issues through critical thinking and reasoning, research and organization, active listening and speaking, and cross-cultural engagement. The week-long program ended with a debate tournament where community members who are committed to the bright futures of our youth evaluated each student’s argumentation and debate skills.

Next year will be a very important one and ASIA has already been planning for what 2020 will bring. It will be a busy year for all of us as we strive to make sure EVERYONE is counted in the 2020 Census and continue to encourage AAPI voters to register and vote. Keep up with what ASIA is doing by joining us on social media or signing up for our newsletter. As always, we thank you for supporting the mission to provide AAPIs and other communities access to quality, culturally, and linguistically appropriate information, health and social services.

Best regards,

Elaine Tso, Esq.
Chief Executive Officer
PARTNERS
- US Together · Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee · National Council on Aging · Ohio Services (MRS) · International Institute of Akron (IIA) · Department of Jobs and Family Services · U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) · Akron Summit Community Action · CHN Housing Partners · Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland (CEO GC) · The National Caucus & Center on Direction Home Akron Canton Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities · Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging (WRAAA) Black Aging, Inc. · Saint Clair Place · Asian Evergreen Apartments · Asian American Community Well Akron Community Development Royal Buffet & Grill · VANTAGE Aging Services · The Corporation ·

FUNDERS
- National Council on Aging (NCOA) · Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services · Direction Home Akron Canton Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities · Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging (WRAAA)

CURRENT PROGRAMS/SERVICES
- Benefits access · Workforce development · Tax preparation · Nutrition education · Congregate meals · Socialization activities · ESOL · Educational workshops · Senior Housing assistant referral services

853 TOTAL UNIQUE CLIENTS
1,237 TOTAL CUMULATIVE CLIENTS

Social activities are a great way for participants to learn new skills and sharpen existing talents. The Lucky Seniors Program not only provides nutritious meals, it also offers various activities to enhance attendees’ physical and mental health. In 2019, this program collaborated with the Victims of Crime program to give legal education to our aging adults.

On March 8, 2019, ASIA staff attorney Nathaniel Johnson presented a seminar on telemarketing fraud to Bhutanese and Nepalese community members in the Lucky Seniors Program at The Well Community Development Corporation. AAPI seniors are at an increased risk of being targeted and fall prey to this specific type of crime. Providing this information about what telemarketing fraud is, how to prevent it, and what to do if it happens is absolutely critical for the well-being of this community.

Many seniors shared that the seminar provided them with valuable information about victims’ rights and how to protect themselves.
'English as a Second Language' Workshop in the Lucky Seniors Program

Chinese Lucky Seniors Group Celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING DEPARTMENT

THE DEPARTMENT HAS HELPED OVER 70 SURVIVORS IN 2019
We are an initiative that advocates for self-love and empowerment for everyone. It involves developing the confidence and strength to set realistic goals and fulfill one’s true potential. Everyone has strengths, weaknesses, and skills that are used in everyday situations, but all too often people remain unaware of, or undervalue, their true abilities. We are community educators and advocates to encourage healthy relationships that increase self-love, empowerment, confidence, and peace.

NEW UPDATES ON PROGRAMS/SERVICES
Collaboration of legal and advocacy services for survivors under one department • We are expanding our services to include helping human trafficking survivors (sex trafficking). In collaboration with Asian American Community Services, we are facilitating lectures regarding sexual harassment in the workplace directed to the AAPI communities throughout Ohio.

CURRENT PROGRAMS/SERVICES
Advocacy services including support groups, legal, medical, and personal assistance, public benefits, language, and material assistance. Legal service including immigration assistance, Marsy's Law assistance, family law, juvenile law, housing issues, and appellate work. The department also provides trainings on sexual harassment in the workplace, cultural competency, how one can recognize, respond and refer sexual assault survivors, immigration issues facing survivors, working with survivors, and interpreters working with survivors.

PARTNERS
• Asian American Community Services • Asian Community Alliance • Battered Women’s Shelter • Rape Crisis Center of Summit and Medina Counties • Cleveland Rape Crisis Center • Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) • Collaborative to End Human Trafficking • Cuyahoga County • Summit County Coalition Against Human Trafficking • Sexual Assault Response Team • Summit County • Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center • Victim’s Assistance Program • Summit County • Jewish Family Services Association of Cleveland • Community Legal Aid • Ohio Domestic Violence Network • Safer Futures • Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services • International Institute of Akron

FUNDERS
• Office of Violence Against Women • Ohio Department of Health • Attorney General • Office of Criminal Justice Services Violence Against Women Act

20+
IMMIGRATION RELATED CASES

10+
CIVIL PROTECTION ORDERS

60
LEGAL CASES IN THE PAST YEAR

74
TOTAL CUMULATIVE CLIENTS

450
OUTREACH NUMBER

3
TOTAL UNIQUE CLIENTS
2019 ACHIEVEMENTS

A client came to our office looking for information on getting a divorce from her husband. She was from Taiwan and had three children with her husband. Client disclosed that he was very aggressive with her and extremely controlling. That same evening, client was sexually assaulted by her husband because of her “absence” at the home for a period of time (when she came to our office) and her unwillingness to disclose where she was. Client called our office the next day and she met with the attorney again. This time the client requested help with a criminal case against her husband (a friend of hers called the police to report the crime the previous evening and a criminal case began). The attorney submitted her Notice of Appearance on the criminal case where the husband was charged with rape. Furthermore, the client wanted to get a domestic violence civil protection order against the husband. The attorney filed the case with the Domestic Relations court in Cuyahoga County. She received a protection order for one-year. Within a week of the protection order being issued, the husband texted the client - a direct violation of the protection order. The next day, the attorney filed a motion with the Court to extend to protection order for the full five years due to husband’s violations. This case went to trial and the attorney won and the protection order was extended to five years. Client then wanted to get a divorce from her husband. The attorney filed for the divorce, tried negotiating with the husband on this but husband refused to participate, and attorney got client full custody rights to the children and ownership to the property in question. Husband then appealed the protection order case and requested the Eighth District Appellate Court to vacate the entirety of the case. Client’s attorney filed a counter-brief and argued in oral arguments for the client. The court found in favor of client and the protection order and its extension remained in full effect for five years.

A client came in initially searching for legal advice from our attorneys until the client became aware of all our advocacy services we provide as well. An attorney assisted client with immigration issues and at the present time, those are still pending. As for the advocacy services provided to this client, first and foremost, this client speaks Swahili so every time there was a communication between this client, we had to get language assistance for the client. This client lived in a neighboring county and did not have access to any transportation. We were able to assist her with transportation to her legal appointments, to court appointments and to employment interviews. This service significantly helped the client in accomplishing her various tasks to meet her goals. Client moved into a family member’s home until Client was able to get a job and get on her own two feet. We assisted the client in building a resume and setting up interviews. With one of the interviews, the client was offered a job working full-time. While client was searching for a job, we also helped client with material assistance to help with supporting her children. Once client had a few steady paychecks, we then assisted client in finding an apartment for her and her children. We helped the client find an apartment and we assisted in payment for the security deposit and a portion of the next few months rent.

CLIENT TESTIMONY

“I still remember two years ago, I first figured my situation and tried to reach help. The very first place I reached, they taught me how to pack a safety bag and tried to arrange a shelter for my kids and me, but they couldn’t provide legal help. I looked at my kids’ stuffs. I didn’t know what I should pack. (Everything, every stuff was important for my kids, and was precious memories for me. I couldn’t decide what I should throw away.) I didn’t know how to hide three kids’ stuffs in a safety bag and my ex-husband wouldn’t find out. I couldn’t figure how to carry three young kids and transfer a shelter to another until settled. We might need to change names and I couldn’t contact the friends my ex-husband also knows. All the situation made me feel sad, hopeless and very helpless. One day, I found out ASIA. I still remember the day I sent my first email out. I didn’t know what I should expect at that time. I didn’t know what ASIA could provide to me. However, I had no way to go, and I needed to grab any chance. Then, I had my first meeting with my advocate and my attorney, Samantha. Following, I had almost two years law sue and it’s still going on.... It’s never been easy for an immigrant to understand the local law. Even I have a PhD degree, the law process, philosophy or even just words are very unfamiliar to me, or to say the ‘law world’ is a totally different and difficult world to me. No matter to say, I was very stressful and emotional. I was really needing a person could understand my situation and provide me legal suggestions at the same time; I was not just needing a person to deal with the law cases with no empathy. I’m glad I reached out ASIA. The past two years, Samantha worked with me, explained law process and philosophy to me with full patient. She didn’t give me fantasy expectancy, but the facts, which always helps me to prepare facing all situations, even the worst. She did not just provide her professional knowledge; she also took care of my emotions. She knew how to calm me down. She knew when I needed a moment. Also, she tried to learn my culture and put her feet on my position to see what I saw. Honestly, it’s a very difficult part. I had been through criminal case and worked with a prosecutor. Many things might be normal for me, but it’s not in the same situation for my prosecutor. I was helpless, helpless, and didn’t know what my future would be. I was weak and frightened, but I feel strong now. The past two years, I’m glad to have Samantha and her team. They make me feel I can always have someone to count on, and I don’t need to worry about law processes. They’re not cruel and money-seeking lawyers. They are real helpers and did change my life.”
Our Children, Youth, & Family Services provides programming for children in pre-K through 12th grade. We provide culturally competent services that support educational development and academic assistance, acculturation and enrichment for immigrant and refugee youth. Additionally, our services include language-specific peer support groups for women and for men, and parenting education that strengthens families to thrive in their communities.

PARTNERS
- Lakewood City Schools
- Lakewood Public Library
- H2O
- Case Western Reserve University
- Baldwin-Wallace University
- Cleveland Metroparks
- Catholic Diocese of Cleveland
- Hope Center

FUNDERS
- ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County

CURRENT PROGRAMS/SERVICES
- West CAM After School Program
- West CAM Parenting Classes
- CAM Summer Program

All ESL students developed social and cultural confidence and decreased linguistic proficiency gap which enabled them to improve overall development. This achievement has been effective and successful because the program is designed to fill the gap in acculturation and academic support services for the ESL immigrant students and promote healthy decision making in academics and life.
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER (ASIA-ICHC)

At the International Community Health Center, you’ll find excellent quality healthcare, and convenient health care services across Northeast Ohio. ASIA-ICHC is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), partially funded by Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) to provide high quality healthcare services to medically underserved communities.

PARTNERS
US together · International Institute of Akron · World Relief · U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants · Metro Health System · Ohio Department of Job and Family services (ODJFS) · Cuyahoga County Board of Health · Cleveland Department of Public Health · Akron Children’s Hospital · Summa Health System · Summit County Health Department · Cleveland Metropolitan School District · Akron Public Schools · Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services Board (ADAMHS) · Coleman Behavioral Health Center · Recovery Resources · Catholic Charities · MRS

FUNDERS
Health Resources & Services Administration · Hepatitis B Foundation · Hep B United mini grant · St. Luke's Foundation · ODJFS · Refugee Health Screening grant · US Department of Health and Human Services · Youth Health Equity Model of Practice · GAR Foundation · Akron School Based Health Capital Funding

CURRENT PROGRAMS/SERVICES
Primary care · Adult Medicine · Geriatrics · Pediatrics · Women’s Health · Mental and Behavioral Health · Foot Care · STD Screening and treatment · On-Site Laboratory Services · Acupuncture · Language assistance · Transportation assistance · Medication Assisted Treatment for Substance Use Disorders · Prenatal Care · School Based Health Clinic · Refugee Health Screening

From April 1, 2019 to June 30, 2019, 31 unduplicated patients were seen for 124 acupuncture visits. This achievement is an important step for the clinic towards supplementing traditional services with integrative medicine. In 2018, Ohio Department of Medicaid approved certified acupuncturists for coverage to pay for acupuncture for back pain and migraines (in response to the opioid crisis). This resulted in increased access to the pain relieving effects of acupuncture by everyone, not just folks who could pay out of pocket.

NEW PROGRAMS/SERVICES
This fiscal the Cleveland health center location added acupuncture. The School Based Health Program in City of Cleveland was also initiated in collaboration with Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

2,630
UNIQUE CLIENTS SERVED
CUMULATIVE TOTAL
FROM NOVEMBER 2013 - JUNE 30 2019 THE HEALTH CENTER SAW 4,403 UNIQUE PATIENTS WITH 23,286 VISITS
HIGHLIGHTS

1 Nikki Rodney, a licensed Acupuncturist, with a strong interest in clinical integration of Eastern and Western medicine, leads the new acupuncture program at the Cleveland health center. According to Nikki, most of her patients are pain patients, they come in because they have had accidents, injuries, or chronically over-use parts of their body for work. They do not want to be on pain medication for the rest of their lives, and many of them refuse pain medication at all, meaning that acupuncture is the only treatment available to them. “My patients come in for frequent treatment because it is the only way they can live without pain. Many patients have "graduated" meaning they no longer experience pain. Many other patients are staving off surgery, using acupuncture as their pain medication instead”.

In addition, this is in contrast to some larger area hospitals, who, upon disliking the lower payment schedule for acupuncture compared to other services, stopped accepting Medicaid for acupuncture. Nikki stated, “I got dozens of calls at that time, and thanks to ICHC and the rooms they offered me, was able to accommodate all of their patients who needed care”.

2 The ASIA International Community Health Center (ASIA-ICH) has been working diligently with the Sustainability Services department to improve care coordination to ensure our patients have efficient wrap around enabling social services. These include domestic violence and sexual assault, access to benefits, and legal services. In the past, ASIA-ICH was informally referring patients to ASIA social services and there was no tracking system. A tracking system was developed within our Electronic Medical Record (EMR) to document these referrals and since January 2019, 44 referrals were made to ASIA social services; out of these referrals, 64% of patients received confirmation of assistance to wrap around case management services.

One thing that is especially impactful are some of the referrals made to the Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault department. One case involved a 5-year-old child that had come for an appointment to the clinic with his uncle and a provider discovered that he was in a domestic violence situation. The provider reached out to a caseworker in the DV department, who met with the child and uncle and then advised the provider to report the case to Child Protective Services (CPS). Another provider also contacted a case worker regarding another patient in a domestic violence situation and looking for help. The caseworker met with the patient, provided counseling and explained the services that the department provides to survivors. Both of these cases were also documented through referral coordinators into the EMR system for documentation and tracking purposes. These are good examples of the efficient communication between providers and the Sustainability Services department to allow for ‘warm hand offs’, quick and accessible consultations, and collaborative efforts.

3 Better Health Partnership’ has given both Akron and Cleveland sites Certificate of Achievement awards for "Outstanding Improvement in Caring for Chronic Illness” to include Diabetes and High Blood Pressure Quality Improvement measures. ASIA-ICH initiated the expansion of School Based Health program to Cuyahoga County through agreements made with Cleveland Metropolitan School District. ASIA-ICH also conducted some outreach for this time period to include Dawn Women’s and Children’s Community Wellness Day, April 2019 at Patterson Park Community Center, Akron Jennings Community Partners – Culture Day, May 15, 2019. BMI and nutrition education at Cleveland Asia Festival- Health Pavilion, May, 2019. Flu Clinic, Lakewood Library- Madison Branch November 2018. Flu clinic, Presbyterian Church, Cleveland Hts. November 2018. Our School-Based Health staff also attended Akron school open houses. Summer/Fall Physical Outreaches and cultural nights.
As ASIA’s oldest program, the International Community Empowerment Project (ICEP) has been in existence since 1995. A prevention program that aims to defer the onset of violence, alcohol, tobacco and other drug (VATOD) use in at-risk refugee and immigrant youth and their families in Summit County. ICEP utilizes the Botvin LifeSkills curriculum to impact environmental risk factors that influence VATOD in these communities. The skills learned by enrolled youth lead to increased social emotional learning and competency, enhanced problem-solving and decision-making abilities, improved academic performance and reduced truancy.

PARTNERS
• Boy Scouts of America • Girl Scouts of Northeast Ohio • The University of Akron • Akron Summit County Public Library • Akron Public Schools • Children and Books (CAB) • Crown Point Ecology Center • Summit County Public Health • Summit Education Initiative • The Exchange House

FUNDERS
United Way of Summit County • Summit County ADM Board • GAR Foundation

NEW PROGRAMS/SERVICES
2018/2019 was the first academic school year that successfully utilized the newly acquired van for student transportation.

CURRENT PROGRAMS/SERVICES
After-school programming at Findley CLC, Jennings CLC and North High School during the academic school year. Summer programming at Forest Hill CLC and Jennings CLC.

There is an increase in attendance of students from the Congolese population as more newcomers become aware of the benefits of the International Community Empowerment Project programs. The program has been successful in reaching our African refugee population. With every new population of communities in need, there is a learning curve for their specific cultural needs. While the Congolese began to emerge in the North Hill community 2-3 years ago, this year saw a significant increase in students attendance to the program and their continued dedication towards their education and their future.

254
UNIQUE CLIENTS SERVED

300
CUMULATIVE CLIENTS SERVED

ICEP K-12TH GRADE SUMMER PROGRAM AT A FULL DAY OF SWIMMING AT MUNROE FALLS METRO PARKS.

NORTH HIGH SCHOOL ICEP PICKING FREE BRAND NEW BOOKS THANKS TO THE GENEROUS PARTNERSHIP OF CHILDREN AND BOOKS.
READY seeks to prepare refugee children, ages 0 to 5 years, for entry in kindergarten. READY is a Parents As Teachers Affiliate Program, focused on development-centered parenting, parent-child interaction and family well-being. READY teaches parents to be engaged in their children’s cognitive, language, and social-emotional and physical development. Home visitors model educational, skills-based approaches to parental relationships.

This year, the program hired a youth educator to service families with children ages 0 to 5 to develop and be ready for kindergarten. With weekly home visits, the additional educator was able to assist with the development of 5 additional families from low-income, and non-English proficient backgrounds.

18
CUMULATIVE CLIENTS SERVED

9
UNIQUE CLIENTS SERVED

FUNDERS
UW of Summit County

PARTNERS
Summit Education Initiative - Cross Point Alliance Church

THE READY PROGRAM CONDUCTS HOME VISITS THAT FOCUS ON DEVELOPMENT-CENTERED PARENTING, PARENT-CHILD INTERACTION, AND FAMILY WELL-BEING
ASIA, Inc.'s Interpreting and Translation Services bridge the cultural and linguistic divide between the English Language Learner and their service providers. We offer professional interpreting and translation services for every field including medical, legal, education, family, business and more. In addition, we provide editing and proofreading services for other languages. Our translators and interpreters work exclusively in their native tongue and in their area of specialization to meet local and global needs.

CURRENT PROGRAMS/SERVICES
· Interpreting services · Translation services · Breaking Boundaries In Healthcare Medical Interpreting Certification Program (BBiH MIP) · Court Interpreting and Professional Standards Training (March and October)

This year the Breaking Boundaries In Healthcare Medical Interpreting Certification Program (BBiH MIP) increased the number of participants by 52%. The program recruited 10 students who successfully completed the BBiH-Medical Interpreting Program for the interpreter pool. In March and October the department hosted Court Interpreting and Professional Standards Training for two days. During the training a representative from the Ohio Supreme Court taught interpreters the best practices for courtroom interpreting. The training was free to the department's interpreters.

In September 2018, the department utilized Interpreting Intelligence II software for data collecting, tracking, and analyzing. This software helps streamline administrative tasks and allows the department to identify its strengths and areas of improvement. The department is now able to run reports for specific time frames. The data show the number of appointments, number of total languages the department serves, what the top languages are, number of total clients, who top clients are, the number of completed appointments, and number of unfulfilled appointments.

THE DEPARTMENT REDUCED UNFULFILLED APPOINTMENTS BY 24% BY IMPLEMENTING NEW POLICIES

FROM OCT 2018 - JUNE 2019:
TOTAL INTERPRETING APPOINTMENTS WERE 1,252

TOP 3 CLIENTS WERE CSBDD (138 APPOINTMENTS), METROHEALTH (70 APPOINTMENTS) AND CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY SCHOOLS (68 APPOINTMENTS)

FROM OCT 2019 - JUNE 2019:
TOP 3 LANGUAGES SERVED WERE NEPALI (389 APPOINTMENTS), SPANISH (210 APPOINTMENTS), AND KA’REN (112 APPOINTMENTS)
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP WITH INTERPRETING AND TRANSLATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

BREAKING BOUNDARIES IN HEALTHCARE MEDICAL INTERPRETING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

COURT INTERPRETING AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS TRAINING GROUP PHOTO
Our Civic Engagement Department is a statewide effort aimed at promoting year-round, integrated participation and engagement on issues critical to the well-being of AAPIs, immigrants, refugees, and other new American communities. Our team serves as the central hub for policy-research for AAPI communities and is committed to promoting and protecting human and civil rights for all through democracy.

PARTNERS
Asian American Community Services · Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs · Ohio Chapter · Council on American Islamic Relations-Columbus Chapter · Cleveland Contemporary Chinese Culture Association · Hmong Ohio of Tomorrow · Korean American Association of Greater Cleveland · Karen Community of Akron · League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus · Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center · Ohio Asian American Health Coalition · Organization of Chinese Americans of Greater Cleveland · St. Clair Superior Development Corporation · Westlake Chinese Culture Association · Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Chicago · Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles · Crossroads Campaign · Ohio Voice · Cleveland Votes · Policy Matters · Ohio Progressive Asian Women’s Leadership · Children’s Defense Fund · Faith In Public Life · One Nation · Protecting Immigrant Families · Value Our Families · Ohio Census Advocacy Coalition

FUNDERS
ACE Network · Coulter Foundation · VoF AAJC-Chicago · Ohio Voice

1,877 NEW VOTERS
Through the efforts of 13-partner organizations across the State of Ohio, the ACE Network registered and verified a total of 1,877 new American voters during the 2018 election cycle. Of the 1,877 individuals, 197 pledged their commitment to vote during the November 6, 2018 election.

ELECTION DAY TURNOUT
In the state of Ohio, the ACE Network identified 13 cities in 5 regions across the State to target as part of our canvassing efforts: Akron, Copley, Green, Brunswick, Cleveland, Lakewood, Solon, Westlake, Columbus, Dublin, Hilliard, Deerfield Township, and Mason City. Nearly 30 precincts were contacted through our canvassing efforts to increase AAPI voter turnout in those areas. Voter turnout in Ohio hit an all-time record, surpassing that of the 2014 election.

Election Results
- U.S. Senate: Brown (D)
- U.S House: 4 (D), 12 (R)
- Dems gained 30 seats
- Ohio Senate: 6 (D), 10 (R)
- Ohio House: 37 (D), 62 (R)
- Ohio Governor: DeWine (R)
- Ohio SoS: LaRose (R)
- Ohio Auditor: Faber (R)
- Ohio Treasurer: Sprague (R)
LEGISLATIVE VISITS
On Wednesday, June 27, 2018, ASIA, Inc., in partnership with ACE Network members, hosted the Annual Ohio Asian American/Pacific Islander Legislative Day in Columbus, OH. Nearly 300+ AAPIs from across Ohio gathered at the Ohio Statehouse to showcase the growth, diversity, and influence of our community in Ohio and to discuss issues of concern with our legislators. On this day, nearly 50 legislative visits were scheduled for AAPIs to meet and engage with Ohio House and Senate members to discuss issues concerning the AAPI community. Key topics included combating hate crimes and racial profiling, opioid addiction and mental health, increasing access to state services, gun control, and 2020 census. Translation was provided to members of the Chinese (Mandarin/Cantonese) and Nepali communities. Over 100 seniors from the AAPI community attended.

VOTING THROUGH COMMUNITY ART
As a way to spread the importance of voting through different methods, ASIA, Inc. collaborated with five ethnic communities in Akron, Ohio to create a mural aimed at encouraging Akron voters to vote on November 6, 2018. The mural, which features the word “VOTE” in 15 languages, embraces the joy of voting through diversity and inclusion. For two months, we worked with local Akron mural artist Mac Love to complete the community mural. On November 2, 2018, ASIA, Inc. hosted a community get-together to reveal the community mural and bring all the communities together. The mural will be permanently placed at our new office location in the heart of Akron’s University Park neighborhood.
PARTNERS
Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland (CEOOGC) · CHN Housing Partners · Greater Cleveland Food Bank · Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP) · Tink Holl (Asian grocery store) · International Institute of Akron (IIA) · Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) · U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) · US Together Mission Asset Fund (MAF) · The Well CDC · 6 Temp agencies (Alliance Solution, Great Work, Integrity Staff, Accurate Staffing, Triad Staffing, Thel America) · The department works with companies such as GoJo, Regency, Alsida, J & R, Little Tikes, STEP2, Special Pack, Rubbermaid, Cosmax, and Maval Industries. HAPI Fresh Farmers’ Market: Vendors (Mee’s Garden/Handcraft, Let’s Grow Akron, Kao’s Veggies, Vene Family, 2 Daughters Tea Company, Nick Zaub, Sima–Artist); Information tables (Metro RTA, HOOT--Voter Registration, Jacqueline Kowalski--OSU Extension Educator, WIC Health Department). Kids’ activities were provided by the Children, Youth, & Family Services Department.

FUNDERS
United Way of Greater Cleveland · United Way of Summit County · National CAPACD · Ohio CDC · Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland · Ohio Department of Job and Family Services · Summit County Job and Family Services · Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund) --U.S. Department of the Treasury · Cleveland Foundation · Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. (EITC) · United States Department of Agriculture · Huntington · Akron Foundation · Apple Grow+h Partners · Community Outreach · Charitable Giving Fund · The Praxis Project

CURRENT PROGRAMS/SERVICES
Benefits Access · Workforce Development Program · Free Tax Preparation · Emergency Food Pantry · Housing Counseling · Financial Literacy · Community Development (HAPI Fresh Farmers Market) · Credit Building (Lending Circle) · Asset Building · APEX Fund for Economic Opportunities’ Micro Lending · Small Business Technical Support · Information and referral

16,300
UNIQUE CLIENTS SERVED

HOUSING COUNSELOR NAR PRADHAN (CENTER) AND STAFF ATTORNEY NATHANIEL JOHNSON (RIGHT) DURING THE FIRST HOMEBUYER SEMINAR ASIA, INC. HAS EVER HOSTED.

ASIA, INC. VOLUNTEERS DELIVERING FOOD TO TO CLIENTS.
Pah Ree Dah’s family resettled in America in 2010. He quickly faced culture shock, language barriers, and limited access to resources. Pah Ree Dah struggled navigating the home buying process and financial systems. The idea of becoming self-sufficient in a new country seemed unattainable.

When Pah Ree Dah contacted ASIA for help, the Housing Program quickly provided financial and homeownership education to him. Caseworkers provided ongoing one-on-one counseling tailored to his specific needs.

With patience and a little luck, Pah Ree Dah was successfully approved for a home mortgage. He is now a first-time homeowner in Akron. Our caseworker Soengkha Mahn assisted Pah Ree Dah’s family in applying for Medicaid and in enrolling in the Home Weatherization Assistance Program.

The Sustainability Services Department works to empower clients to become self-sufficient. The Housing Counseling and Financial Capability Program’s goal is to assist clients through the home buying process, to instill within them the knowledge and tools needed for successful homeownership, and to build wealth and invest in their communities.

Annually, we assist over 550 individuals in the Workforce Development Program. Over 60 employers have been working closely with ASIA and found qualified employees through this program. We are glad to see our clients achieve their goals. These valuable employment opportunities make our clients become more self-sufficient and happier.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PARTNERS

"Midwest Direct began its partnership with ASIA, Inc. in the spring of 2015. The partnership has brought us an estimated total of 261 clients. Of those 261 clients, many of them are still currently employed and many of them have been promoted to higher positions. For example, Dadhi Bista started in June of 2015 as a mail sorter and by June of 2017, he was promoted to floor manager. Many of our employees have been promoted from mail sorter to machine operator. To name a few, Gopi Pradhan, Lachhi Rai, Jigesh Chongwang, Budhi Rai, Oma Budathoki, Thal Poudel, and Deepak Rai started in 2015 and 2016 and are now machine operators. Midwest Direct is grateful for the help that ASIA has given to us. We look forward to continuing our partnership with them."

- JASMINE LETT, HR ASSISTANT OF MIDWEST DIRECT

"I started recruiting employees from ASIA in 2013. I still have 8 people who were referred by ASIA, Inc. working in my company. If I have any future opening opportunities I will definitely contact ASIA, Inc. again."

- MICHAEL DOBRONOS
PRESIDENT OF ARCHITECTURAL FIBERGLASS, INC.
SUSTAINABILITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

HOUSING COUNSELING AND FINANCIAL CAPABILITY

The Housing & Financial Education staff conducted 16 seminars and workshops for 188 individuals. A total of 528 individuals participated in Housing Counseling Workshops including Rental (131); Pre-purchase (23) Post-purchase (197); and New homeowners (16). An additional 117 individuals participated in financial counseling and coaching. Another 44 individuals joined the Lending Circle. Five individuals applied for credit cards, seven individuals opened bank accounts to establish or rebuild credit, three small business loans were approved, and three are being processed. Over 250 hours in technical assistance support were provided to 18 small business owners.

BENEFITS ACCESS

Utility Assistance Programs including HEAP, PIPP, SCP, and WCP served 278 families totaling $79,600 of savings. A total of 499 individuals applied for food stamps and 485 individuals applied for Medicare. The food drive served 62 families with over 6,000 lbs. of food. The food pantry served 170 families, 597 individuals, and 5,373 meals.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Workforce Development assisted 148 clients and 22 clients landed jobs.

EITC

Seven volunteers completed 424 hours and served 2,363 individuals who received $1.3 million in refunds.

HAPI FRESH FARMERS' MARKET

Our HAPI Fresh Farmers’ Market (pictured on the right) and Lakewood Farmers’ Market served 800 customers this season. The Farmers Market in Akron was hosted by The Well CDC. Over $6,000 worth of farmers’ market vouchers were collected from low-income families. By using the vouchers, families had access to locally grown fruits, vegetables, honey, and herbs. A total of 3,500 lbs. of vegetables and fruits were sold.
FOLLOW US AT @ASIAOHIO