NURTURING THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY

Annual Report 2013-2014
Dear Friends,

Being with an organization from its inception and seeing it through its first 21 years gives one a rare and wonderful perspective. I have the privilege of being a founding board member of the Asian Pacific Fund and it will always be a source of pride that I was there from the beginning.

With that pride comes immense appreciation for not only how far we have come but the relationships we have built over the years, both with our donors and with our affiliate organizations serving the vulnerable in our community. As you can see with this annual report, an important way of demonstrating a non-profit’s viability and value is in numbers—the dollars we raise, the grants we distribute and the number of people we reach.

Numbers are also useful in communicating the needs in our community and the impact the Asian Pacific Fund is having. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are the fastest growing ethnic group in the country. A recent report found that we also make up more than a third of those living in poverty in San Francisco.

In the past year we have more than doubled the number of dollars we distribute in grants and we have also engaged nearly 300 new donors for our affiliates through the City and County of San Francisco’s Workplace Giving Campaign.

What’s harder to measure, but perhaps more important, is the trust we earn in the way we spend the dollars you give to us. Whether it is something as personal as a scholarship for a well-deserving student or a grant to help a struggling service organization learn how to fundraise more effectively, the Asian Pacific Fund always has its eye on how best to strengthen the Asian Pacific Islander community in the Bay Area. We thank you for your trust and look forward to continuing our partnership with you in improving the quality of life for others.

Sincerely yours,

Emerald Yeh
Asain Pacific Fund Board Chair & Founding Board Member
Asians communities. “So she can work towards a solution...”

SPOTLIGHT: EMILY H.

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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: MAITRI

A dynamic 41-year-old Asian women run nonprofit experiencing gradual in seeing racial parity in their programs. Their goal is to provide a safe space for Asians to talk about their experiences, história and traditions. This is a unique opportunity to help new immigrants connect with their family heritage and traditions.

Donor Spotlight: Naren Gupta

Nareen Gupta founded and led an innovative technology company, and he is an accomplished philanthropist. In recognition of his leadership, the Asian Pacific Fund has awarded him the Tien Award. This award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the Asian Pacific Fund and its mission. Nareen has also made significant contributions through his business leadership and personal philanthropy. He is a strong advocate for the importance of giving back and the impact that giving can have on the lives of others.

SHEDDING LIGHT ON API NEEDS

There is often a lack of awareness of the challenges faced by the API community. This perception means that many groups that provide essential services to the API community are understaffed and underfunded. The Asian Pacific Fund supports organizations that can make the most valuable community investments and bring attention to the hidden struggles that many API groups face.

HIDDEN STRUGGLES OF THE BAY AREA’S API COMMUNITY

POVERTY

Poverty among API groups living in the Bay Area is a top priority, yet funding for these efforts is often the hardest to secure.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The unemployment rate of API groups living in the Bay Area is substantially higher than the city average (5%).

HOUSING

In Santa Clara County, 30% of low-income API groups are struggling to make the mortgage payments.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: EMILY H.

Emily H. and her mother immigrated to the U.S. when she was eight years old. She grew up in a one-child, single-parent household, surrounded by poverty in the city.

WHAT OUR PARTNERS ARE SAYING

"We are committed to providing Asian communities with the support they need to thrive in San Francisco and the Bay Area. This is a top priority, yet funding for these efforts is often the hardest to secure.

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There is a problem of a lack of a sense of belonging faced by the API community. This perception means that many groups that provide essential services to the Asian community are overlooked and struggles to find funding. The API Pink Fund supports organizations that can best understand community members and bring attention to the hidden struggles that many Bay Area API face.

GROWING UP ASIAN IN AMERICA 2014: HOW FOOD SHAPES OUR IDENTITY

Sally Carlson, Carlson Beck; Lance J. Lew, NBC Bay Area; Sandy Wee, San Mateo County Library; Vicky Wong, DAE Advertising, Inc.; and Nicky Tien, The San Francisco Chronicle.

Many thanks to the following Advisory Committee members for helping to plan and shape this year’s program: Tom and Cheryl Nguyen; Mytung and Ling Li; Howard H. Hsia; Dr. Amy Chua; and Yulun Lee.

Donor Spotlight: Naren Gupta

Naren Gupta dedicates his life to building innovative companies. He is founder and managing director of Innovation XS, a leading technology investment firm that focuses on start-ups providing innovative solutions to challenges faced by the global financial services industry. Naren believes that “the dreamers and the doers” have joined forces in the Bay Area, providing a fertile environment for innovation.

Donor Spotlight: Dr. Liza Cariaga-Lo

Dr. Liza Cariaga-Lo is a retired professor at the University of California. She has taught at numerous universities in the United States and her work has been recognized in multiple professional publications.

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COMMUNITY BUILDING: MAITRI

A declining 44.1% of Asian women report experiencing verbal or sexual harassment while driving their vehicles. In 2013, Maitri received a grant from the Asian Pacific Fund to support the development of a culturally appropriate service in the Bay Area that can help women who are vulnerable to harassment. The goal of this initiative is to provide a safe and accessible environment for women who are dealing with harassment.

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Dear Friends,

Watching your organization from inception and growing through its first 45 years was both inspiring and humbling. I have the privilege of being a founding board member of the Asian Pacific Fund and will always be a source of pride that I was there from the beginning.

While what your immense impact is on the quality of life for others is beyond my ability to quantify, I believe that the relationships you have built over the years, both with the service organizations and the individual organizations serving the vulnerable in our community, and the media, is one of your greatest assets. We have built over the years, both with our donors and with our affiliates, the trust, the respect, and a deeper understanding of who you are and what you value. The stories that we create, the good that you distribute and the successes that you build, continue to create a source of pride that I was there from the beginning.

In the past year we have more than doubled the number of affiliates on our Affiliate Network, and we have raised over $3.5 million for our Affiliates through the City and County of San Francisco’s Street children’s Homelessness Campaign.

What’s harder to measure, but perhaps more important, is the trust you’ve earned that you understand the needs of the people you serve. Whether you’re walking a city council member into a service, a school counselor into a building or a government official into a court, one thing is clear: people want to work with you because you understand their needs and you are committed to meeting those needs.

I am grateful to be a part of this organization and will do my best to serve. Each year since then, and each year I get the sense that I have somehow come to understand the needs of our communities.

When I attended an Asian Pacific Fund gala four years ago, I finally learned about the needs of the people you serve. I was moved by the stories of individuals you serve. I was inspired by your dedication to improving the quality of life for others. I was impressed by the way you strengthened the Asian Pacific Islander community and the impact the Asian Pacific Fund is having.

As you can see with this annual report, an important way of communicating the needs in our communities is through our Affiliate Network and the impact the Asian Pacific Fund is having. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are the fastest growing ethnic group in the United States, and we have the responsibility to ensure that they have access to the resources they need to thrive.

Our deepest gratitude goes to The Wallace H. Coulter Foundation for their generous $5 million challenge grant, which will help us build one of the leading organizations in the area.

Sincerely yours,
Emerald Yeh