

# ACA

Asian Community Alliance, Inc.  
asiancommunityalliance.org



**Creating & Coordinating Resources  
Through**

**AWARENESS**

**COLLABORATION**

**ADVOCACY**

**2015 Annual Report**



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*We work with innovative community leaders and partners to build effective programs.*

# Letter from Chair

Dear Friend, Leader, Supporter, and Community Member,

It has been a pleasure for me to serve as the board chair for Asian Community Alliance (ACA) in 2015. We have been exceptionally busy and productive in bringing meaningful programs and effective services to the Asian Community in Cincinnati. Since ACA's inception in 2004, we have worked relentlessly and in great stride in identifying issues and finding solutions to a population that differs in language, economic background, cultural, and religious beliefs. This year we have broadened our programs and services to build greater awareness on emerging issues around our multi-cultural populations. Our goal was to provide programs and services that help to build capacity that will enhance our quality of lives by strengthening family and community ties.

Our multigenerational programs start with the Youth leadership program where the students 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade designed their own programs to build their skills and capacity for broader personal and leadership growth. With volunteers from National Association of Asian American Professionals (NAAAP), we presented job interview skills, team building workshop with Asian youth citywide.

Separately, several prominent local Asian leaders shared their personal experiences in a career development panel discussion. More importantly this year marked our first Annual Dorothy O'Brien Scholarship award in honor of our co-founder. The scholarship idea was established in 2014 and spear headed by a committee of board members. They developed the guidelines and selected the winners from many qualified applicants. Two high school graduates were awarded with \$2500 each for their excellence in academic achievements and their contribution in community involvement during our first annual fundraising event in May.

This year Project HOPE (Helping Our People through Empowerment), a program launched in 2012 to provide resources & support to victims of domestic violence (DV), has expanded to include sexual assault on campuses and elder abuse. Our 24/7 Project HOPE hot line (513.535.4976) has received multiple calls from victims of domestic violence, friends, and family members to seek assistance in obtaining appropriate community resources.

In 2015 we partnered with Ohio Asian American Health Coalition to help over 800 Asians in the Cincinnati/ Dayton / Columbus area to obtain personal health care coverage through the Affordable Care Act. We trained multiple local Asian navigators with bi-lingual capability to provide outreach to various Asian Communities and to

provide one-on-one assistance in on line registration.

To improve immigrant and refugee capacity, we provided several free computer-training classes (6-10 weeks) near their community to assure attendance and easy access. Similarly classes were presented to Japanese and Filipino seniors to improve their communication capabilities with their love ones and improve their quality of life.

Apna Sapna, an Indian monthly senior program established by a group of Indian volunteers has demonstrated the importance of socialization among seniors. Their monthly luncheon gathering is filled with outside speakers, arts and craft, fun and games. The rapid growth of the group has demonstrated that senior programs as such can significantly enlighten their spirits, cut down loneliness and build a sense of community.

Legal right education classes were presented to various communities to bring awareness on the importance of proper documentation that are necessary for personal protection.

This is the first year that ACA successfully held its first Annual Fundraiser in May 2015 where we raised over\$ 11,000. The money raised help us supplement our programming in addition to those received from local organizations, corporate, foundations & state

agencies.

You will find a detailed account of various programs in the section  
“ Program Achievements. “

I am very grateful to our Executive Director Arlene de Silva & the Board of Directors for their dedication, hard work, and commitment to our mission. Many thanks to my Vice-Chair, Chandra Prasad, whose dedication and commitment to the organization is unparalleled.

Our deepest gratitude to all of our sponsors, donors, advocates, collaborators and volunteers for your support, and commitment to our work. We hope to continue to build our capacity in delivering quality programming and services that will make a difference for our family and our community. We greatly appreciate your support of our organization.

*Yen Hsieh,*  
*Board Chair*

# Key Audiences

ACA reaches multiple audiences. Since inception, the organization has been a bridge between the general community and Asian populations. It operates to provide a neutral avenue through which various Asian populations can talk with each other. ACA also fosters better understanding between other minority groups and Asians. When designing communication processes, its various programs and events, and developing its long-term strategies and goals, ACA ensures that it enhances all these efforts simultaneously.

# Primary Focus Areas

Our focus areas in the year 2015-2016 are:

- Domestic Violence / Sexual Abuse Awareness/Elder Abuse
- Aging and Caregiving
- Healthcare Access
- Youth Leadership Program
- Youth Scholarship Program
- Build Refugee Capacity, Health and Wellness
- Voter Registration

# Our Mission, Vision, Purpose

*Our **mission** is to provide quality, compassionate, and culturally sensitive programs and services for Asian populations in Greater Cincinnati through awareness, collaboration, and advocacy.*

***Awareness:** To recognize and embrace the similarities and differences of our diverse cultures, religions, and languages through dialogue and networking.*

***Collaboration:** To reach out and partner with others to achieve common goals that will mutually benefit the community.*

***Advocacy:** To champion our visions through personal conviction, capabilities, commitment, and strength.*

Our **vision** is to identify issues that are unique to Asians in our community and to provide programs and services that will enhance the individual's and family's capacity which may ultimately impact their quality of life and sustainability; to address difficult family, social & cultural issues that often are neglected via forum, workshops and outreach programming; to collaborate and build awareness with various non-profit organizations and social services that may benefit Asians; and to advocate the importance of collaborations among Asian communities to have an united voices in Greater Cincinnati.

Our **purpose** is to work collaboratively with Asian community leaders and social service agencies to develop programs and services that are targeted to a population that differ in language, economic background, cultural, and religious beliefs.



# Core Values

*Our work is based on individuals who share the following core values of ACA. Each of these values is important in seeing that the work of ACA succeeds to ensure that Asian Americans can move forward. These values reflect the nature of our organization and our belief that by working together, we can build a stronger family and thrive in our community*

***Inclusion:*** Bringing together the various Asian populations, its individuals as well as the broader community in a compassionate manner so as to discuss issues and find resolutions.

***Diversity:*** Respecting the differences of various Asian enclaves, its people and the larger community to improve the outcomes for the organization and each other.

***Sustainability:*** Creation of outcomes that sustain each other, and the individual Asian populations and the greater community.

***Self-reliant:*** Development of individual's talent by taking on new responsibilities and challenges so the organization can grow to the highest levels of learning and performance. This makes the individual stronger, resolute and clear.

***Respect:*** Affirm the dignity, potential and contribution of participants, donors, partners, and volunteers.

# Program Achievements

**Project HOPE** (Helping Our People through Empowerment) launched in 2012 to address the issue of domestic violence in Asian communities. In 2015, the program expanded to include sexual assault prevention in college campuses, provide train-the-trainer programs to immigrant and refugee communities and Elder Abuse.

A 24/7 HOPE hotline (513-535-4976), operated to allow victims of domestic violence, witnesses and family members to call in and get connected to appropriate community resources. Project HOPE coordinator answers this dedicated hotline and also provides outreach to the community. The outreach and the hotline program were supported by a grant from the Spaulding Foundation and a donation from the Nielsen Company.

The establishment of this hot line is quite significant considering that most Asian DV victims do not report to authority or know how to seek help. It is a huge leap forward that these DV victims are using ACA as a resource to help them obtain proper help. We are continuing with our aggressive outreach program mentioned above to build awareness in various communities. We are confident that more people will call the help line with time.

ACA partnered with Asian Services in Action (ASIA), in Cleveland on a State grant from the Ohio Department of Health to work on a Campus Sexual Assault prevention program for local Asian college students and develop a train-the trainer program for immigrants and refugees. The HOPE coordinator teamed up with a clinical psychologist & a student coordinator to conduct focus groups on sexual assault on campuses. These trained students will be engaged to form an on-campus support group for Asian students. The project will continue through 2016 where we intend to expand the training program to other university campuses (Xavier University and Miami U). Similarly, the refugee trainers will do the same with their communities.

A Storytelling DVD on domestic violence and elder abuse called 'Breaking the Silence' was produced through funding from HealthPath Foundation of Ohio. The video includes interviews by DV researcher Dr. Shreya Bhandari, PhD, from Wright State University, Kamalini Chatterjee (ACA HOPE Coordinator) and Theresa Singleton, director of the YWCA Battered Women's Shelter and other resources available to help victims. The video will serve as a useful tool to raise awareness on the sensitive issue of Domestic Violence and its prevention. This is a huge step toward addressing the DV issue that is often a taboo subject among the Asian Community. Few members know about the resources that are available in the community. This video is now available on the ACA website with our HOPE phone number (513-535-4976) which will help others to seek help when needed.

**Wellness Aging Caregiving Programs** sponsored by a grant from the Procter and Gamble Company. ACA brought several health and personal care programs to the Asian seniors this year. A series of lectures on dental health and good hygiene practices were presented to seniors in Indian and Chinese communities in their native languages by a group of P&G dental experts. Dental diseases, proper care and preventions were also covered in the discussion. Separately, several talks on how to overcome personal hygiene (incontinent) issues were presented to various senior groups. Seniors learned that they were able to maintain an active and productive life from various products available to control their bladder issues. A Healthy Aging Coordinator trained 100 older Bhutanese on healthy habits and general hygiene, conducted group sessions and one-on-one home visits. A P&G Dentist/Researcher educated 70 Chinese Seniors and 33 Indian Seniors on Oral Hygiene.

**Apna Sapna Club** is a monthly lunch social gathering founded by a group of Indian women volunteers and supported by ACA. These Indian seniors get together for lectures on health and wellness, fun and games, singing, and arts and craft. Every month about 40 seniors participate.



In June, members and their caregivers attended an open house event at Sycamore Senior Center where information on resources

for caregivers and older adults were presented. Topics included information on Continuing Care Retirement Communities & Adult Day Facilities. This collaborative meeting consisted of retirement communities, senior centers, adult day care, Tri-Health, and Asian leaders. With the rapidly increasing aging Asian population, the need to build awareness on the resources available in the community is significant. This program was well appreciated by the Seniors and Caregivers.

In November, members participated in an Art & Wellness Day at the Sycamore Senior Center presented by the Cincinnati Music & Wellness Coalition. It was a fun-filled day where members learnt to make upcycled musical instruments, learnt dance moves from Bhutanese/Nepali dancers, and joined in singing with the Sycamore older adult choir. Similarly, a group of Chinese seniors meet monthly for lunch with similar talks and presentations. Topics such as legal rights, health and wellness were also presented to this group of seniors.

***Health Care Coverage through the Affordable Care Act:*** ACA continued to plan an active role in the roll out of the Affordable Care Act in partnership with Ohio Asian American Health Coalition (OAAHC) and supported by Midwest Asian Health Association (MAHA). 8 bilingual Asians were trained to become certified Health Care Navigators. Over 800 Asians obtained healthcare in 2015 in Cincinnati, Dayton, and Columbus, and many for the first time.



**Youth Leadership Program** (Grade 9-12) is a Leadership program for Asian high school students supported by a grant from the Cincinnati Wine Festival. The programs presented included one on one-job and college entrance interview skills with Asian Professional volunteers from NAAAP (National Association of Asian American Professional) and P&G managers. We also conducted a career panel discussion with local Asian leaders who shared their experiences in how they chose their career. With the help of volunteers (NAAAP, P&G), we held a team-building workshop for students. Students learned the importance of collaboration and teamwork through various strategic games and exercises. Mr. Nick Francis, former principal of the Seven Hill Schools, conducted a stress management workshop. He explained how stress is induced with youth and taught several stress release techniques that students can easily adapt at home.



**Dorothy O'Brien Scholarship:** The First Dorothy O'Brien scholarship was presented to two Asian High School seniors at the Taste Of Asia Fundraising event held on May 31<sup>st</sup>. The scholarship, supported by the Nielsen Company, was named in honor of Dorothy O' Brien, co-founder of ACA, for her leadership, guidance,



and continued financial support of ACA since its inception in 2004. The winners, selected from 15 applicants, were Ms. Megan Jiang of Sycamore High School and Mr. Thomas Quan of the Summit Country Day School for their outstanding academic achievements, leadership and their contribution to community services. Each received \$2500 toward their college education fund.



***Computer Literacy Project:*** Basic computer classes taught to immigrants/ refugees and Asian seniors with a grant provided by the Procter and Gamble Alumni Fund. The project educated 58 Asian Americans consisting of Japanese, Bhutanese, and Filipino on basic computer skills and social media. The classes were provided in local libraries and ACA office. Sixteen refurbished laptops were purchased with grant funds provided. The Bhutanese community were provided with six to ten week sessions where they learned how to search information that are critical for their everyday life. Information such as: how to find a job/housing; how to fill out an application; how to find a nearby doctor/urgent care; how to repair via YouTube etc. were taught. Separately, computer classes were also taught to several Asian senior groups to better communicate with their children/grandchildren and loved ones from homeland.



**Legal Education** on basic legal rights supported by Asian Services in Action (ASIA) and the Ohio Bar Foundation. With this program, Attorneys educated 138 Asian Americans consisting of Chinese, and Bhutanese on four topics:

Healthcare Power of Attorney, Living Wills, Traffic Accidents/Traffic violations, and Tenant/Landlord Rights. The sessions were well received and participants found it extremely helpful.

**Community Engagement DVD** offered insight into the Asian culture, struggles, challenges, and successes. This collaboration with Ohio University's assistant professor, Dr. Yea Wen Chen, and a summer intern, Anika Holland, was achieved with a grant from Ohio University. The purpose of the video was to provide a visual sense of the Cincinnati Asian community through story telling. The participants shared their intergeneration stories of their family 's struggles and successes as immigrants and refugees coming to America. They also shared their own struggle of self-identity and how they have achieved their goals and dreams through determination and perseverance.



**Minority Health Month (April):** A workshop for Asian Parents titled *Building A Brighter*



*Future for Your Child* was presented by Dr. Patricia Barros M.D.; a certified Parent Coach. Interpreter services were provided to Bhutanese parents to help them participate in the workshop. Twenty-seven individuals attended. The Ohio Commission on Minority Health funded the program.



***Taste of Asia:*** Our First Annual Fundraising event on May 31st raised over \$11,000 for ACA. The event held at the Sycamore Senior Center where one hundred and three registered attendees sampled Asian delicacies from nine area Asian Restaurants, most were provided in gratis. Many goods and services were also donated for our silent auctions event, which further helped our fund drive. ACA is very grateful for the overwhelming community support for this event. The funds raised will allow us to continue to provide programs and services to benefit the greater Asian community.

***Voter Registration*** was funded by Asian Services In Action (ASIA). We successfully outreached for voter registrations in various Asian communities (Asian Markets, Asian festivals, and Greater Cincinnati Chinese Schools). In addition, we executed 1553 calls, answered 147, left 598 voicemail messages, and accomplished 498 messages and conversations through 15 temporary workers during the fall election.

# Financial Highlights

ACA's financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for non-profit entities. The board maintains proper internal controls in relation to its revenue and expenditure. Financial statements are reviewed, and appropriate tax reports are prepared and filed with the Internal Revenue Service by the public accounting firm of Barnes Dennig & Company Ltd. The organization's major funders in 2015 were the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, The HealthPath Foundation of Ohio, Ohio Asian American Coalition, Spaulding Foundation, P&G Alumni Foundation, P&G Fund, Asian Services In Action (ASIA), Ohio Commission on Minority Health, and private donors.

The agency continues to seek grants and submits proposals to partner with community organizations, which provide opportunities to further its mission and improve the quality of life of Asians in Greater Cincinnati.

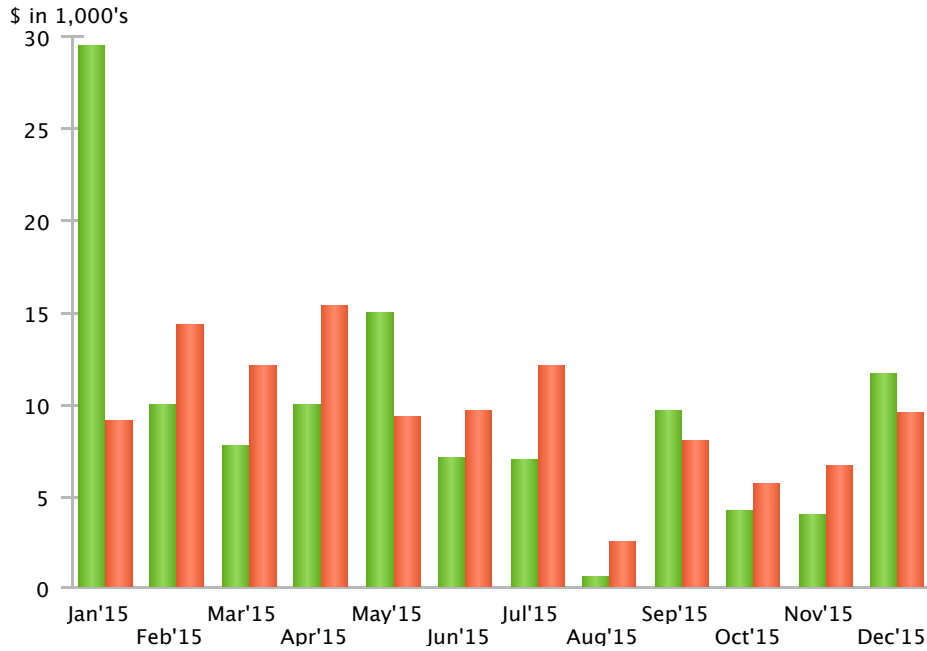
## 2013-2015 Analysis

2013	Revenue	\$34,010	2 Staff
2014	Revenue	\$94,788	5 Staff
2015	Revenue	\$116,283	13 Staff

*Arlene de Silva,  
Executive Director*

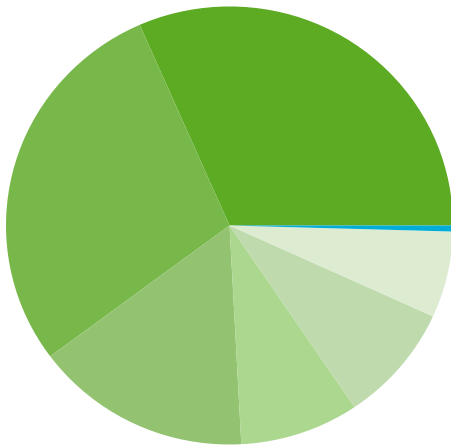
Income and Expense by Month  
Jan - Dec '15

Income  
Expense



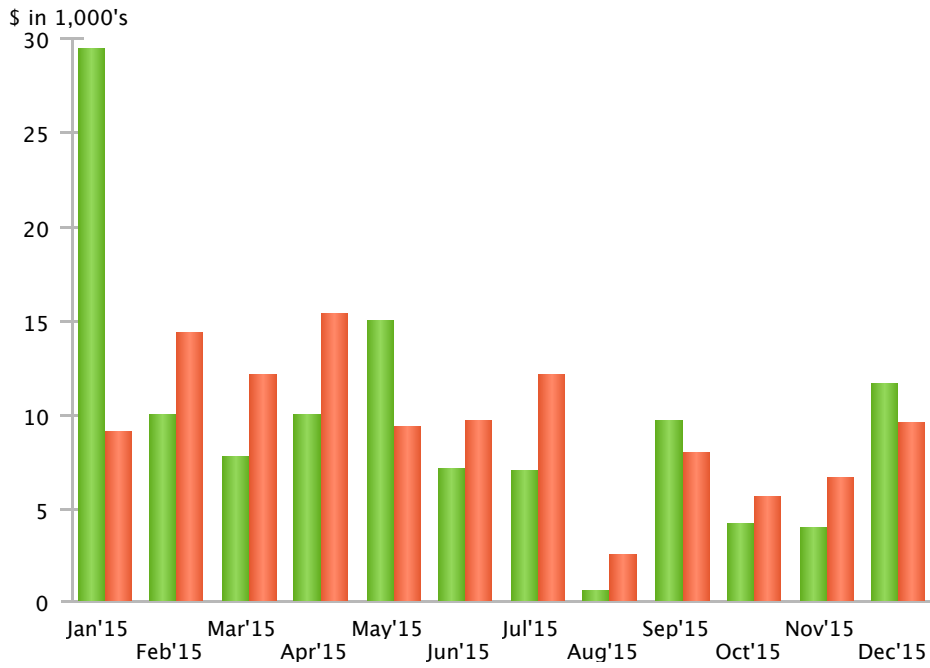
Income Summary  
Jan - Dec '15

17000 ACA A&G Revenue	%31.55
11000 OAAHC	28.81
15000 ASIA	15.61
13000 P&G Alumni	8.60
19000 Nielsen	8.60
18000 HealthPath Foundation	6.45
16000 OH Com on Minority Health	0.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$116,283.00</b>



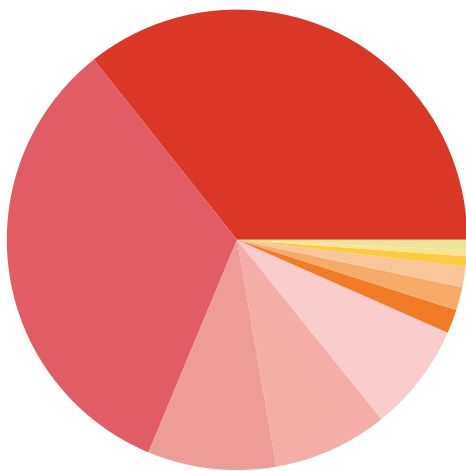
By Account

Income and Expense by Month  
Jan - Dec '15



Expense Summary  
Jan - Dec '15

62000 ACA A&G	35.66
56000 Health Navigator	33.25
57000 P&G Multigenerational Prj	9.17
55000 Project HOPE	7.98
58000 Computer Digital Literacy	7.58
65000 Annual Fundraiser	1.87
60000 Voter Registration	1.68
63000 Story Telling	1.48
67000 Legal Education	0.87
64000 Youth Leadership	0.32
Other	0.13
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$114,199.08</b>



By Account

## Balance Sheet – Comparison 2015 vs. 2014

	Dec 31, '15	Dec 31, '14	\$ Change	% Change
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
<b>Checking/Savings</b>				
<b>Fifth Third Banking</b>				
<b>**2530</b>				
	69,941.21	67,857.29	2,083.92	3.1%
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	69,941.21	67,857.29	2,083.92	3.1%
<b>Other Current Assets</b>				
<b>5/3 Certificate of Deposit</b>				
	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	89,941.21	87,857.29	2,083.92	2.4%
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>89,941.21</b>	<b>87,857.29</b>	<b>2,083.92</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>				
<b>Equity</b>				
<b>Opening Balance Equity</b>				
	74,650.79	74,650.79	0.00	0.0%
<b>Retained Earnings</b>	13,206.50	-21,962.82	35,169.32	160.1%
<b>Net Income</b>	2,083.92	35,169.32	33,085.40	-94.1%
<b>Total Equity</b>	89,941.21	87,857.29	2,083.92	2.4%
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>89,941.21</b>	<b>87,857.29</b>	<b>2,083.92</b>	<b>2.4%</b>

# How To Get Involved

## ***Volunteers***

Volunteers have the opportunity to assist in many of the ACA programs and services. Participation ranges from various program executions, fundraising events, mentoring youths, planning, and implementation.

## ***Community Partners***

ACA has long-standing partnerships with many community and local social service organizations. With these collaborations, ACA plans many events, and participates in many cultural festivities.

## ***Committee Members***

Many of our steering committees are comprised of professionally and ethnically diverse group of individuals from the local communities who advocate, advise, and assist ACA with its efforts. The dedicated members provide a wealth of information and expertise. ACA is always seeking additional members who can actively support the organization to achieve its mission and goals. If you are interested, please contact ACA at

If you are interested in volunteering, partnering or become a Committee Member please visit our website or contact ACA at [info@asiancommunityalliance.org](mailto:info@asiancommunityalliance.org)

# Board of Directors

ACA is governed by an elected Board of Directors who have spent over 12,140 volunteer hours for the period 2004-2015. They have been instrumental in researching current issues of significance that impact the communities it serves, and implementing programs and services that are aligned with the organization's strategic plan.

Our Board representing various Asian ethnicities gives us significant advantages. We have different perspectives on issues and areas of expertise making ACA a more effective organization. The collective efforts are enabling major improvements in our organization's work, efficiency, consistency, and cohesiveness in our response to the communities.

ACA represents the collective interests of the Asian Americans; we do not speak on behalf of Asian American community members and Asian American organizations.

## **Board of Directors:**

Yen Hsieh, PhD  
Angie Pang  
Chandra Prasad  
Tessa Xuan  
Anisha Singh, MD  
Cindy Panning

The Executive Director and contract team accomplishes day-to-day operations of the organization.

## **Independent Contractors**

Arlene de Silva, Executive Director  
Lynn Melzer, Office Manager

Kamalini Chatterjee, Project Hope Coordinator

Sujata Bhandari, Aging Coordinator  
Khem Rizal, Aging Coordinator

Phetmany Brower, Health Navigator  
Binh Dinh, Health Navigator  
Jessica Truong, Health Navigator  
Vishnu Tiwari, Health Navigator  
Lin Ling Diao, Health Navigator  
Jenny Couse, Health Navigator  
Jo Ann Schaaf, Health Navigator

Ranu Khanal, Outreach for the Bhutanese Community Health Navigator





Asian Community Alliance, Inc.

[asiancommunityalliance.org](http://asiancommunityalliance.org)

**Mailing Address:**

7566 Central Parke Blvd., Mason, OH 45040

**Meetings of Board:**

Check agency website for schedule

**Bank:**

Fifth Third Bank

**Accountant:**

Barnes, Dennig & Co., Ltd.

150 East 4th Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202 Tel# 513.241.8313

**Contact:**

email: [info@asiancommunityalliance.org](mailto:info@asiancommunityalliance.org)

website: [www.asiancommunityalliance.org](http://www.asiancommunityalliance.org)

**Donations:**

ACA is actively seeking donations to ensure long-term viability of our many programs and services. All donations received will be tax- deductible.

To make donations, interested parties may please contact:

Yen Hsieh, Board Chair – [yenhsieh@asiancommunityalliance.org](mailto:yenhsieh@asiancommunityalliance.org)