

# ACA

Asian Community Alliance, Inc.  
asiancommunityalliance.org



**Creating & Coordinating Resources  
Through**

**AWARENESS**

**COLLABORATION**

**ADVOCACY**

**2016 Annual Report**



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

# Letter from Chair

Dear Community Leader, Community Member, Donor & Supporter:

As we write this year's report, we are awed by the programs and services that we have brought to the community. We appreciate your great feedback and encouragement on how much you have benefited from the programs and workshops, which we have provided. With your enthusiasm and support, we are energized to continue our work and services hoping that our work will further improve you and your family's lives, so we continue to thrive as a community.

The focus this year was on "Creating a healthy and happy family", a multi-generational approach in addressing family issues. We presented multiple programs that addressed some key concerns for each segment of the families - children, youth, parents & grandparents.

In keeping with this focus, our first event this year was the Anti Bullying workshop - a need of the hour event -held in January for parents & students. The community was shaken with a tragic incident of a local 14-year-old Asian girl, who committed suicide,

having being tormented by a bully in school. This incident rallied the Asian community leaders to protest against the inaction of the Fairfield school board for not addressing this tragic incident properly. We brought in a national anti-bullying expert, Mr. Jim Bisenius, to provide greater insights on a bully's behavior and best approach in handling a bully from both student's and parent's perspective. Over 120 parent/child attended this very informative event.

We continued to build individual capacity in our Youth leadership program. We worked with P&G in developing a mentoring program that connected high school youth with young P&G managers. We also brought anti-stress and career planning sessions for the students.

This year, Sabari Subramanian & Jackie Xuan were the winners of the Dorothy O'Brien Scholarship, for their excellence in academic achievements & their contribution to community services

Emphasis on our children's education has been such a focal point for the Asian Parents. However, our children may face different challenges in navigating through a complex multi-cultural environment than when we grew up. In May, we invited Dr. Mei

Wang, a clinical psychologist to work with us in presenting a parenting workshop called, “ Secret of raising healthy, happy and successful kids.” In the fall, we presented a second session “The Secret of good parenting skills: How to build a child’s resilience /success with strong family ties” It addressed the importance of understanding your child’s emotional needs effective communication with your children. Both were very well received and many parents wanted more sessions with more in-depth discussions in smaller groups, which we will consider for next year.

Our monthly Indian senior’s program ‘Apna Sapna Club’ continues to be very popular & the membership is growing. We hope to use the learning and success of this program to build similar senior programs in other ethnic communities next year.

Project HOPE (Helping Our People through Empowerment) one of our signature ACA programs to address Domestic Violence has expanded to include human trafficking and sexual assault. Project HOPE is perhaps one of the most challenging and difficult programs to outreach to those who may need help the most. This is mainly due to the social and cultural stigma that prevent those who are being abused to seek for help. We continue to develop new approaches and means of reaching out to those who are in need of

help. Our hope is that victims will eventually come forward to seek help.

We successfully held our second annual fundraiser 'Taste of Asia' at Peter Loon in October. Although we are funded by local and federal grants and foundations, the purpose of fundraising is to showcase our work & accomplishments to our funders and the community

A more detailed description of our accomplishments is available in the section 'Program Achievements'.

We would like to thank our Executive Director, Arlene de Silva, for her leadership in developing programs and services that benefited the Asian community. We are extremely grateful to our dedicated Board members, the independent contractors, donors and community leaders for their commitment and support in helping us achieve our mission and goals for the greater benefit of our community.

*Yen Hsieh, Chair*

*Chandra Prasad, Vice- 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 2016:

- Domestic Violence / Sexual Assault Awareness/Human Trafficking
- 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

*Our Programs span Three Generations: Youth, Parents & Seniors. Over 1200 individuals benefited from the various programs this year.*

## ***Youth Programs:***



***Anti-Bullying workshop for Parents and students:*** In January, we organized an anti-bullying seminar by a national expert, Mr. Jim Bisenius. 110 parents /students attended the three hour comprehensive workshop. Mr.

Bisenius has twenty years of experience as a child adolescent therapist, specializing in teaching students how to handle Bullying situations. Mr. Bisenius has taught over 950 schools/ communities in the U.S. He covered various types of bullying; differences in behavior/tactics between Boys vs. Girls and the impact of social media bullying tactics. Parents and students learned to recognize the signs of those who were being bullied and how to properly work with victims. He also taught us the do's and the don'ts in dealing with a bully. His demonstration using role-playing on proper ways of handling various types of bullies was particularly powerful and effective. The program

was very well received and ACA was accredited for addressing this very important issue for our youths and the community.

***Mentoring program:***

In May, a mentoring program was initiated with P&G Asian managers and many local high school youths. The managers shared their education background, their roles and responsibilities at P&G and how being mentored impacted their lives. After the presentation, the students connected with the managers through one on one interviews to further explore mutual interests and potential mentorship. The youths enjoyed the event and many continued with the connections they made at the event .We hope to make this mentoring program an annual event for the high school youths.

***Dorothy O'Brien Scholarship:***



In May we presented our second Annual scholarship to 2 High School Seniors during the Asian Food Festival. The winners were Mr. Sabari Subramanian from Sycamore High School & and Ms. Jackie Xuan from

Mason High School, who demonstrated not only academic excellence, leadership, but also their commitment to community services. Each received \$2500 toward their college education fund.

### ***Team Building Exercise:***

A group of students tested their problem solving & leadership abilities in the popular challenge Escape the Room. The exercise helped them learn first hand about teamwork & communication.

### ***For Parents:***

ACA presented two Parenting Workshops in collaboration with Greater Cincinnati Chinese School (GCCS). The first Session was ***Secrets of Raising Happy, Healthy and Successful Kids***



presented to Asian Parents on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Over 90 Asian parents of various ethnicities attended the seminar. Dr. Mei Wang (A clinical psychologist) and Yen Hsieh shared recent findings on effective communication tools that build trust, confidence and success with children. Dr. Wang urged parents to focus on developing confident, well-rounded children ready to face failure & challenges of the world.

The second Parenting workshop titled '***The Secret of good parenting skills: How to build a child's resilience /success with strong family***

*ties'* was held on October 30 and attended by 50 parents. The session addressed the need for parents to communicate effectively with their children & always staying connected with them, importance of listening, identifying a child's emotional needs & raising a child in a multi cultural environment

Both workshops were well attended and well received. Many parents wanted to see more similar programs to address specific issues that were concerns to them. ACA will continue to expand this program next year.



***Project HOPE (Helping Our People through Empowerment):***

was launched in 2012 to address the issue of Domestic Violence in Asian Communities. Since last year the program has expanded to include Sexual Assault prevention in Campuses, Elder Abuse & Human trafficking. A 24/7 HOPE Helpline (513-535-4976), continues to operate, enabling victims of domestic violence, witnesses & family members to call in, get connected to appropriate community resources & professional assistance. Project HOPE Coordinator answers this dedicated helpline & also provides outreach to the community. This year, 15 Asian members were able to get help to resolve their Domestic Violence issues. Spaulding Foundation & Health Path Foundation supports the Helpline & the



outreach program.

ACA partnered with Asian Services in Action (ASIA), in Cleveland on a State Grant from the Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Children's Trust Fund to work on a Campus Sexual Assault Prevention program for local Asian college students & develop a train-the-trainer program for immigrants & refugees. The HOPE coordinator teamed with a clinical psychologist, Dr. Angie Vredeveld & conducted 15 one-on-one interviews of Asian American College students and focus groups on sexual assault prevention. Students were also provided with stress management and communication skills that can help others who maybe a victim or prevent others from being a victim. About 40 Bhutanese members completed a train-the-trainer program offered by the clinical psychologist on stress management, communication, and sexual assault prevention.



ACA held a ***Health & Wellness Day*** on May 28<sup>th</sup> at Forest Park, in collaboration with the Bhutanese Community of Cincinnati. Over 120

Bhutanese members from Colerain Township, Finneytown & Forest Park attended. Attendees learned healthier life styles through educational presentation by mainstream professionals. Bhutanese

ladies who completed the training program demonstrated the importance of Healthy Family relationships, awareness of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Elder Abuse & Human Trafficking through song, cultural dance, drama, and skits in their native languages. Several social service organizations like Legal Aid, Women Helping Women, Alliance for Immigrant Women, End Slavery Cincinnati & Global Music & wellness were present to provide information on the services they provide.

A video on Domestic Violence that was developed last year with funding from Spaulding Foundation was uploaded on ACA webs site.



5 Youth Ambassadors from High School conducted ***Human Trafficking Prevention*** outreach conducted to 500 Asian Americans. They created a poster to raise awareness on Human Trafficking, which was displayed at the ACA, booth at the Asian Food Festival held in May. They participated in outreach events at Asian Grocery stores, University of Cincinnati Open House event & at their schools.

**Multi-Generational Health:** This project was funded by P&G Fund. The program enabled the 3 generations -children, parents & grandparents – from the



Bhutanese community to learn together about health & good hygiene practices. Dr. Anisha Singh, a physician was the project lead who conducted the educational sessions with the help of a community coordinator. 3 sessions were held with about 30 Bhutanese members attending each session. The educational sessions increased the attendee's understanding of Diabetes, managing blood sugar, dental hygiene, cholesterol, and understanding and managing Asthma.

### ***For Seniors:***



The Indian Senior group, ***Apna Sapna Club***, has grown to a significant following to a point that we had to find a new venue for the gathering. The group now meets monthly, led by Ms. Geeta Mehan, ACA Board Member, and her group of dedicated volunteers. They plan their monthly meetings with speakers on health & wellness topics & celebrating some Indian festivals, Mother's Day & Father's Day. They play fun games followed by a delicious luncheon prepared by volunteers.



Some of the presentations on health topics included Alzheimer's & a tour of an Alzheimer care facility, Intersection of Culture, Immigration and Depression by Dr. Renu Kotwal, a Talk by Dr. Chandan Gupta on simple guidelines for healthy living. Other topics included Chair Yoga, Meditation & how to address Back & Joint Pain.

The group formed Hobby groups for gardening, knitting & reading. The Knitting hobby group knitted scarves to donate to needy kids.



The program attracted many family member sponsors who either donated money or prepared some of the monthly luncheons. Our goal in the future is to start other Asian senior groups similar to the Indian senior program run by volunteers. The Indian Senior program demonstrated the importance of keeping the Asians seniors happy, connected and thriving.

### ***Other Programs:***

***Health care Coverage through the Affordable Care Act:*** ACA continued to enroll individuals through the Marketplace Health Insurance by a health navigator. 38 individuals were enrolled in the Marketplace, 15 were enrolled in Medicaid, and we completed 50 Assists, which did not lead to enrollment. This project was funded by

## Asian Services in Action (ASIA)

***Voter Registration:*** Was funded by Asian Services in Action (ASIA). Outreach was conducted by a Voter Registration coordinator & temporary workers at various Asian community events & Asian grocery stores. Voter engagement was accomplished by assisting 82 new Asian Americans register to vote. 2 phone banks were conducted where 345 Robo calls were made.



***Legislative Day Visit:*** The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Ohio Asian American & Pacific Islander Legislative day was held on October 4. It is a civic engagement opportunity for the Asian communities in Ohio. Asian community members representing Asian organizations in Columbus, Dayton, Cleveland, and Cincinnati & Toledo visit the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus. Members get an opportunity to meet State Legislators & advocate on some key issues of specific concern to Asian communities. The topics addressed this year were Healthcare & Health related issues, Language Access and Interpretation Services, Human Trafficking, Civic Engagement and Voter Registration. 10 members from Cincinnati representing Asian Community Alliance, attended the event



***Taste Of Asia – Second Annual Fundraising event:*** In October, we had our second annual fundraising event at Peterloon, a Historic Georgian style house built in 1928. Patrons savored many tasty cuisines from Asia, enjoyed entertainments from many talented musicians and bid for exciting silent auction items. We raised over \$10,000 for our organization. The funds raised will allow us to continue to provide programs & services to benefit the community.



# Financial Highlights

The Asian Community Alliance (ACA) continues to grow stronger in its financial capacity. We are thankful to: HealthPath Foundation, Spaulding Foundation, ASIA (Asian Services in Action), Ohio Department of Health, P&G Fund, Ohio Children's Trust Fund, Cincinnati International Wine Festival, and many sponsors and individual donors for their generosity. We are grateful for the continued support of ACA Founder, Dorothy O'Brien for her donation through the Greater Cincinnati Foundation. Due to their dedication and commitment we were able to provide many key services to the Asian communities in Greater Cincinnati.

ACA's financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for non-profit organization. Proper internal controls are maintained. Monthly financial statement are reviewed and approved by the board of directors.

ACA engages the accounting firm of Barnes Dennig to file Form 990 with Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

The following reflects the organization's financial growth in the past 4 years:

2013 - \$34,010

2014 - \$94,788

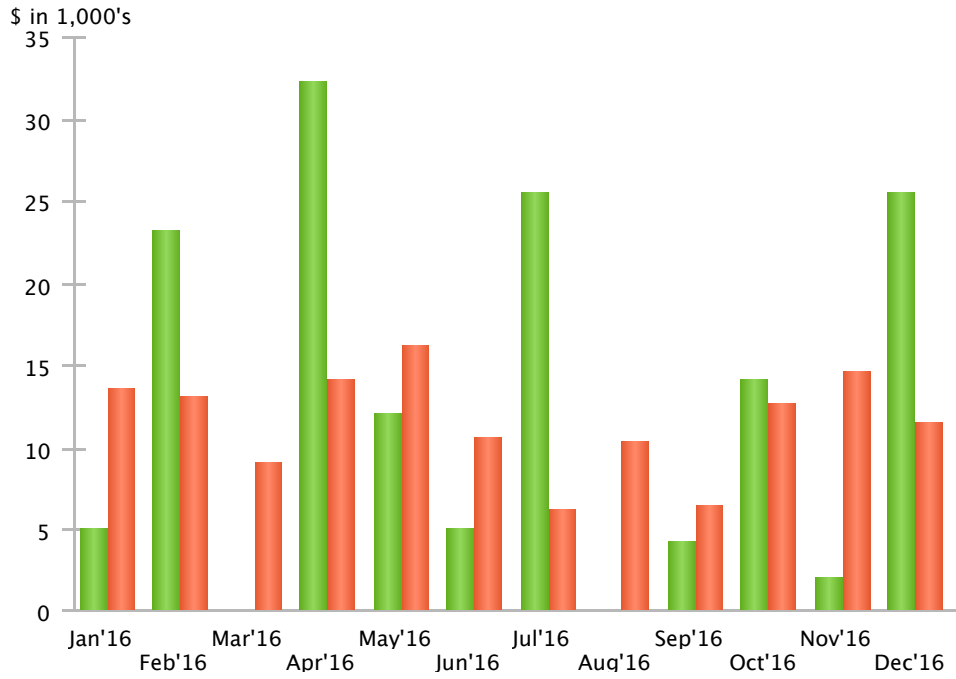
2015 - \$116,283

2016 - \$149,053

*Arlene de Silva,  
Executive Director*

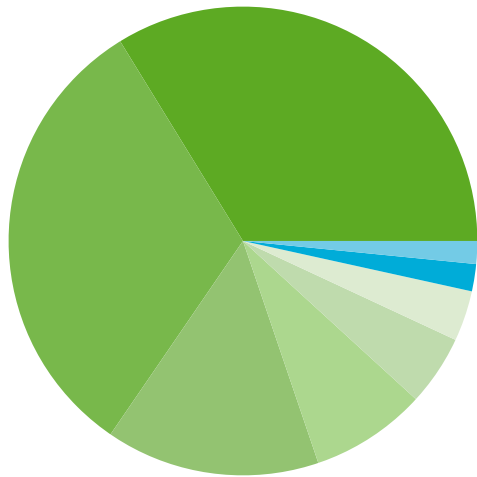
Income and Expense by Month  
Jan - Dec '16

Income  
Expense



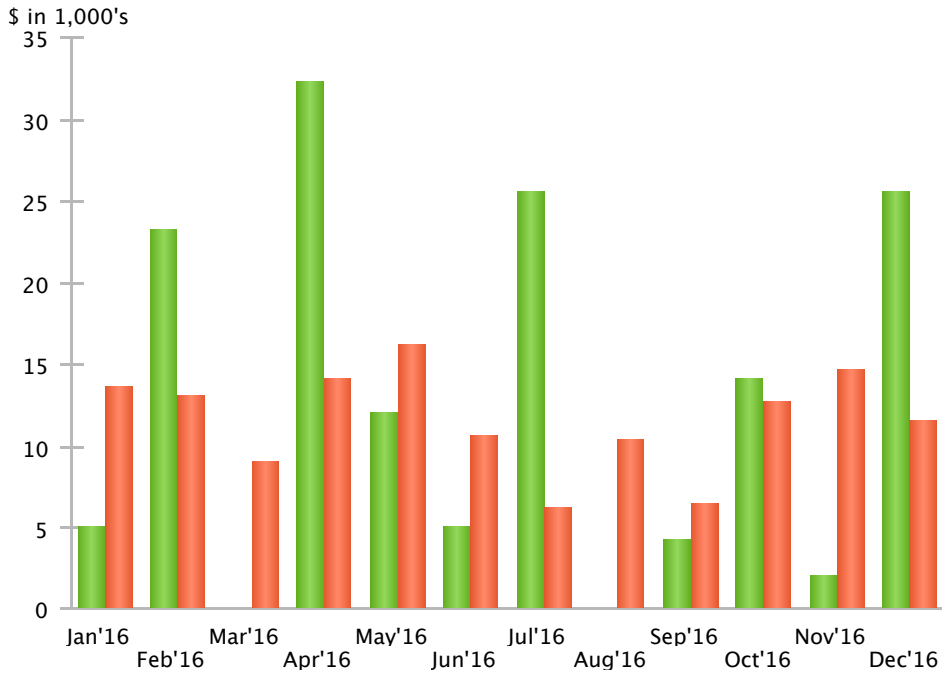
Income Summary  
Jan - Dec '16

15000 ASIA	%33.83
17000 ACA A&G Revenue	31.91
12000 P&G Fund	14.76
10000 Spaulding Foundation	8.05
18000 HealthPath Foundation	5.03
17400 Wine Festival	3.35
21000 OH Children's Trust Fund	1.94
11000 OAAHC	1.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$149,053.47</b>



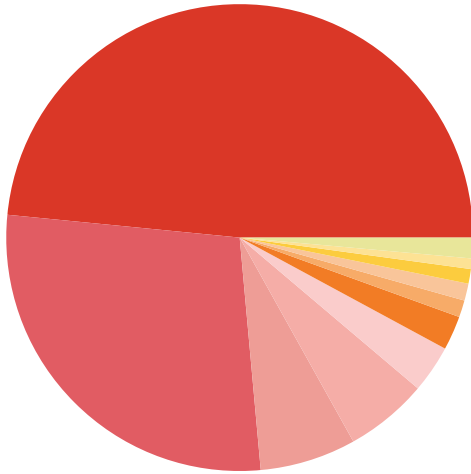
By Account

Income and Expense by Month  
Jan - Dec '16



Expense Summary  
Jan - Dec '16

55000 Project HOPE	%48.68
62000 ACA A&G	28.07
56000 Health Navigator	6.56
57000 Aging Caregiving	5.75
60000 Voter Registration	3.41
65000 Annual Fundraiser	2.30
58000 Computer Digital Literacy	1.31
63000 Story Telling	1.16
66000 Bullying	1.03
67000 Legal Education	0.93
Other	0.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$138,469.27</b>



By Account



# Balance Sheet - Comparison 2016 vs. 2015

	Dec 31, '16	Dec 31, '15	\$ Change	% Change
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Checking/Savings				
Fifth Third Banking **2530	80,597.41	70,013.21	10,584.20	15.1%
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	80,597.41	70,013.21	10,584.20	15.1%
Other Current Assets				
5/3 Certificate of Deposit	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>	100,597.41	90,013.21	10,584.20	11.8%
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>100,597.41</b>	<b>90,013.21</b>	<b>10,584.20</b>	<b>11.8%</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>				
<b>Equity</b>				
Opening Balance Equity	74,650.79	74,650.79	0.00	0.0%
Retained Earnings	15,362.42	13,206.50	2,155.92	16.3%
Net Income	10,584.20	2,155.92	8,428.28	390.9%
<b>Total Equity</b>	100,597.41	90,013.21	10,584.20	11.8%
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>100,597.41</b>	<b>90,013.21</b>	<b>10,584.20</b>	<b>11.8%</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 14,433 volunteer hours for the period 2004-2016. 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, Chair  
Chandra Prasad, Vice Chair  
Geeta Mehan  
Martha Okamoto  
Phetmany Brower  
Tessa Xuan

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

## **Independent Contractors**

Arlene de Silva, Executive Director

Sherri Peak, Program Assistant

Lynn Melzer, Data Entry Specialist

Marisa Dyson, Project HOPE Coordinator

Binh Dinh, Health Navigator

Mae Harman, Voter Registration

Dr. Anisha Singh, Multigenerational Program, Project Lead

Gyanu Koirala, Multigenerational Health Coordinator



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)