



THE COALITION
FOR ASIAN
AMERICAN
CHILDREN
& FAMILIES

2002 ANNUAL REPORT

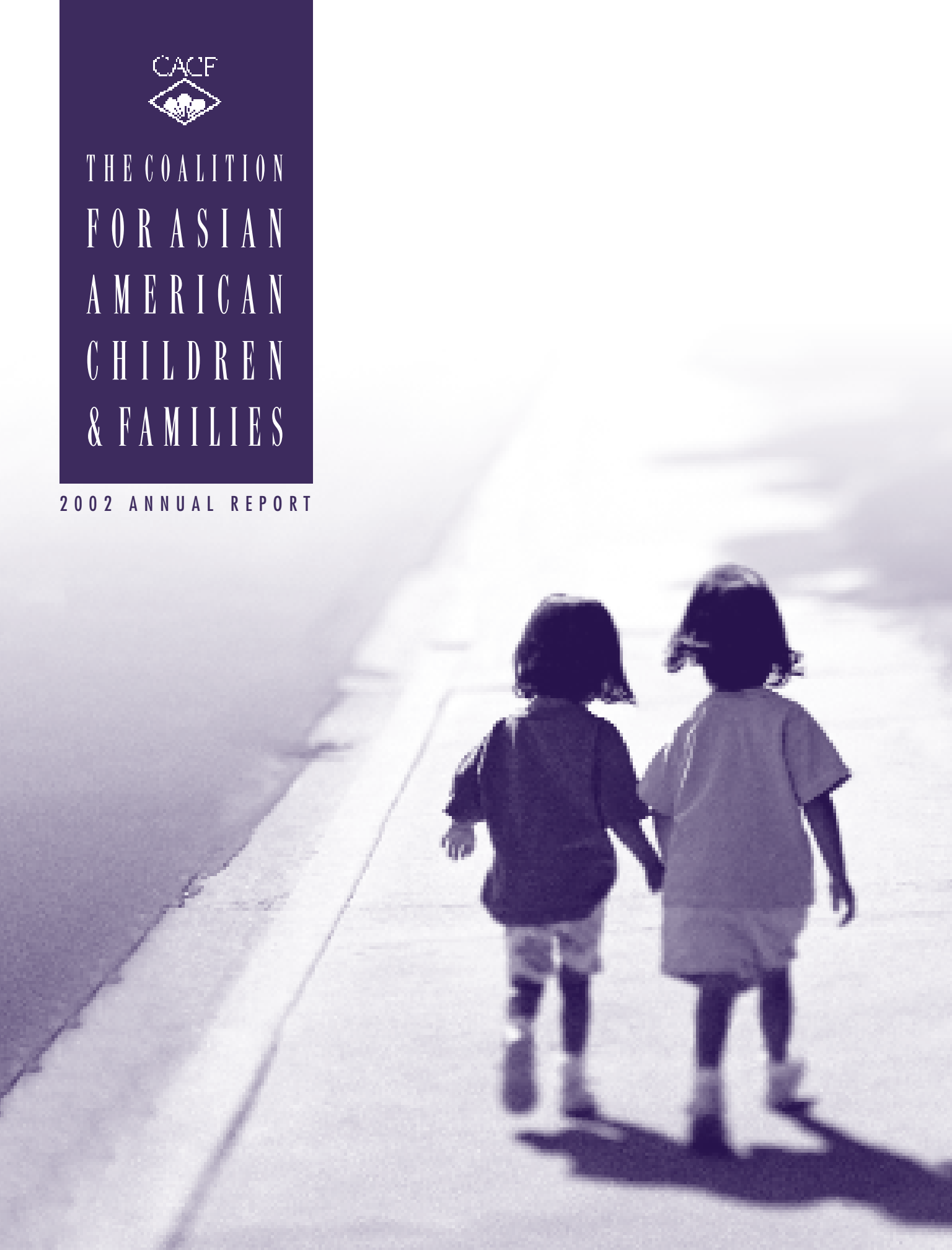




Photo by Rosa Urcoza

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

While each year consistently brings growth to CACF, 2002 was an especially exciting time.

We started 2002 with the release of another landmark CACF publication, "Crossing the Divide." The publication is the first to address the impact of child welfare policies on Asian American families. We are not sure what was more rewarding – the policy makers who said "We never knew this!" or the community service providers who said "Finally, someone has told our story and gotten it right!"

The report led to media coverage, trainings, and conferences. As the project takes off, CACF is increasingly seen as a national resource on issues of child abuse and neglect among Asian Americans.

In our Concerned Mothers project, the women began to discover the power their stories lend to advocacy efforts. CACF staff and Board certainly have a much greater appreciation of the challenges facing immigrant families, thanks to these inspiring women.

The year 2002 ended with the launch of two new programs for children. The first is our community mental health project designed to help children to recover from the lingering emotional impact of September 11. Second, we established a schools advocacy project that will combine coalition building, research, policy and training.

Perhaps most importantly, CACF expanded its network. To be effective advocates, we must have strong roots in the Asian neighborhoods. We are grateful for community-based organizations and their leaders who have generously shared their insights with us and have consistently supported our advocacy work. CACF is increasingly successful in its advocacy role as it extends its reach into the non-Asian communities. In 2002, the Coalition increased its participation with other immigrant and children's advocate groups. With these roots and ties to the community, CACF is uniquely poised to provide a broad array of information and insights into Asian American children's needs to a wider audience.

The work of CACF remains unique. We often get calls from across the country asking for the "local chapter" of CACF or a similar organization in another state. Unfortunately, there are no other organizations like CACF — we remain the only children's advocacy organization for the Asian American community.

The work and the success of the Coalition could not be possible without the support of numerous organizations and individuals. Thank you for your support in making a difference in the lives of Asian American children and families. We look forward to reporting on our exciting initiatives in 2003!

Yours Truly,



Hema Kailasam
President, Board of Directors



Jessica Lee
Executive Director

"I adopted a daughter from China seven years ago. CACF has enabled us to continue connections to the Asian American community and support other families in creating an Asian American experience."

- Ed Pauly,
Director of
Evaluation, The
Wallace Foundation,
and CACF Board
of Directors

OUR VISION

All children have the right to be treated fairly by society and to grow up in an environment free of racism, prejudice, and violence. Regardless of ethnic origin and citizenship status, all families should be able to meet their basic necessities - sufficient nutrition, adequate housing, and gainful employment. Every child deserves high quality education, health care, and child care and should enjoy opportunities for physical, emotional, and social development.

OUR MISSION

The Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF) seeks to improve the quality of life for the New York City Asian American community by facilitating access to health and human services that are sensitive to all Asian American children and families. CACF promotes awareness of cultural values, linguistic differences, and immigration issues. CACF serves as a resource for social service providers through advocacy, production of education materials, coalition building and information dissemination.

A NEW VOICE FOR CHILDREN

WHY? More than half of Asian children born in New York City are born into poor families. Almost half of Asian American families do not have an adult who can speak English well. At least 16 different Asian ethnicities are represented in New York City. Over 95 percent of Asian American children are born to immigrant parents.

HOW? CACF creates a new voice for advocacy by bringing together the diverse Asian American communities into one voice for children.

IMPACT! We can be the advocate for the community-based organizations who might not have time or resources to advocate on their own. Working together, CACF and community leaders can better express common concerns and build a common agenda to make sure that policy makers, educators, and social service providers do not forget our children.



A Project CORE workshop at the Chinatown YMCA.

"I believe CACF's work fills a void, gives Asian American children and families a clear voice, and that connecting our needs to mainstream resources and policy makers is key to leveling the playing field."

- Aiyoung Choi,
Board of Directors,
Korean American
Family Service Center

PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

WHY? The number of Asian American children in foster care is growing, even as the number of other children in foster care declines. The combination of poverty, limited English proficiency, lack of bilingual social services, and different parenting styles of immigrants often lands families in trouble. As a result, some parents are reported for abuse or neglect for cultural differences. Other families who need help are afraid to ask, or have nowhere to go. And once reported, families with few resources or limited English proficiency find it hard to navigate, find help, and get out of the child welfare system.

HOW? Acting as a bridge between policy makers and community organizations, CACF provides a unique combination of advocacy, training, and community education.

IMPACT! CACF has begun to change the way the Asian American community and the child welfare system interact. CACF helps child welfare professionals better understand and serve our families. In turn, community organizations can turn to CACF for support in dealing with child abuse and neglect in their neighborhoods, or if they need to take action for an individual family. CACF's work is so unique that its local efforts have helped Asian American issues gain national recognition.

PUBLICATIONS

1) "Crossing the Divide: Asian American Families and the Child Welfare System"

WHY? Although many people believe that Asian American families do not experience child abuse and neglect, in the first six months of 2000, over 25 percent of the requests for interpretation and translation made within the Administration for Children's Services' (ACS) Division of Child Protection were for Asian languages. Nonetheless, there was **no published examination** of child abuse and neglect needs in New York City's Asian American community.

HOW? In January, CACF released "Crossing the Divide: Asian American Families and the Child Welfare System," the first comprehensive publication addressing the impact of New York City's child welfare policies, programming, and services on Asian American children and families. The report challenges misconceptions about Asian American families and raises awareness about the gaps in community education and culturally appropriate services in our communities.

IMPACT! Many professionals and policy makers gained their first insight into a community about which they knew little. Asian American social service providers told CACF that **the findings and recommendations were right on target**. They reported that "Crossing the Divide" clearly gave voice to the challenges they face every day with their clients.

In 2002, over 1,500 copies were distributed locally and nationally to:

- Health care and social service professionals
- Educators and academics
- Community-based organizations
- Public administrators
- Children's advocates
- Mainstream and ethnic media
- City, State, and Federal policy makers



Photo by Kitty Keiz



2) *“Understanding the Laws on How You Can Discipline Your Children”*

WHY? Immigrant parents often do not understand child abuse laws. They do not realize that parenting practices that were acceptable in one’s home country can lead to allegations of abuse or neglect in the U.S. What little educational information for parents that exists is almost never translated into Asian languages.

HOW? *“Understanding the Laws on How You Can Discipline Your Children”* was released in 2001 to help parents understand American laws and the cultural differences in discipline. Originally released in Chinese and Korean, we added Hindi, Urdu and Bengali versions in 2002.

IMPACT! Over 5,000 copies of the brochure were distributed in 2002 to libraries, after school programs, schools, social services, media, ACS, attorneys, hospitals, and foster care organizations. Over 11,000 copies have been distributed since publication, with more requests coming in monthly.

TRAINING PROFESSIONALS

WHY? Most social service professionals do not receive training on understanding Asian American families. Without such skills, many professionals become frustrated or confused when they have to work with Asian American families.

HOW? CACF created a half-day training for professionals working in the child welfare system to understand Asian American communities, the impact of values and traditions on child rearing, how to work effectively across cultural differences. The training was implemented at ACS’ training institute. A total of over 150 people were trained throughout the year.

IMPACT! The participants found the training to be useful to their work, providing them with new skills and techniques to use in working with Asian American families. The evaluation found that about 95 percent of participants agreed that the training would **prepare them to work more effectively with Asian Americans.**

ADVOCACY EFFORTS

WHY? Other ethnic communities share many concerns with Asian Americans about child abuse services for immigrants, but Asian Americans do not formally and regularly meet with other immigrant advocates to improve the system.

HOW? CACF met consistently as a member of ACS’ advisory group on immigrant issues, spearheaded the first ever State-level hearing on immigrants and child welfare, and collaborated actively with advocates from the Arab American community, different Latino communities, and others.

IMPACT! By linking Asian American concerns to other immigrant communities’ concerns, we have built a larger, louder and more effective coalition. The ACS working group has assisted in the development of a handbook on immigration issues for ACS’ child protective service workers and attorneys. ACS set an admirable precedent for other City agencies with its efforts to include immigrant advocates and to educate its front line staff on immigration concerns. State Assemblyman Roger Green committed to establishing a similar advisory group at the State level.

MOTHERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

WHY? Immigrant parents with limited English proficiency often cannot find the help they need to raise their children in America. Many parents need information on health and child care services and how to advocate for their children's needs in school. At the same time, there are valuable lessons that policy makers and advocacy organizations such as CACF can learn from the experiences of immigrant families.

HOW? The Concerned Mothers of the Chinese Community formed six years ago to assist low income, immigrant women develop their skills as community advocates for children's services. The women may have limited resources but they do have one great strength - their personal experiences as immigrant mothers.

In fact, this group of dynamic women considers it their duty to the community to share what they have learned. Their goals are to:

- Educate and empower one another through sharing experiences and exchanging information;
- Educate other parents in the community about services for their children and families; and,
- Educate City and State officials about what Chinese American families need.

IMPACT! Concerned Mothers now includes over 25 mothers who participate actively in monthly meetings. The women pride themselves on forming a supportive network of peers who enjoy laughing together, commiserating, and urging each other to be vocal and involved. CACF incorporates their opinions and stories into our trainings and policy work. The women often act as an informal focus group for our programs and new initiatives.

Over the years, the women have come not only to appreciate the parenting information they receive from CACF for their own families, but also the importance of advocating on behalf of all Asian American children. In 2002, the Concerned Mothers accomplished the following:

- Gathered over 250 letters and signed postcards supporting more interpreters at city agencies and protesting budget cuts on after school programs.
- Participated in a City Hall rally and a City Council Candidates forum.
- Testified on post-9/11 environmental health concerns.
- Hosted a meeting with City Councilmember Alan Gerson.
- Hosted speakers on housing, meetings, schools, the City budget process, child welfare laws, air quality, 9/11 relief, health insurance, and parenting skills.



A meeting for Concerned Mothers.

"We often hear about or become involved in mentorship and other outreach programs, but we forget to recognize the organization that advocates for most of these programs. A mentorship can aid one child at a time, but an advocacy organization benefits the group as a whole."

- Laura Weng
CACF Action Council

“Without CACF, I, as a reporter, would not have known about certain issues facing the community, ranging from Asian Americans struggling in school, to the lack of bilingual healthcare, and legal aid available to the community.”

- Ernabel Demillo,
Reporter, FOX 5 TV
Good Day New York,
and CACF Board
of Directors

Fighting for My Rights

In the U.S., it is very important that immigrants speak up and advocate for our rights. I advocated on behalf of my child, whose asthma became significantly more serious after the 9/11 event. As a result, I obtained a check to purchase an air filter and vacuum cleaner. Advocacy can be a long process, but I realize that we will eventually be able to make a difference for ourselves and our community.

-Mrs. Ye

Clearing My Name

I was reported to ACS for allegedly bruising my daughter. I was found guilty without an opportunity to explain myself. I felt unjustly treated, betrayed, and alone. Through Concerned Mothers, I connected with other women, some of whom shared similar experiences and offered invaluable support and encouragement. I learned about my rights as a parent. After four years, the case was finally cleared with the help of CACF. I believe I was reported for lack of communication with the school, and the school's unfamiliarity with Chinese culture. I want to use my example to encourage other immigrant families not to settle with any situation that is unfair to them. As a group, we can all work together to bring changes and improve services for Chinese families.

-Mrs. Chan



Jennifer Choi, Vice President for Communications, meets with a reporter.

BLAZING NEW TRAILS

CACF launched two new projects in the end of 2002:

1) PROMOTING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

WHY? September 11th had a devastating emotional impact on Chinatown's children, much of which has gone unaddressed. Parents may not recognize the impact of 9/11 on their children. When they do seek help, there are not enough bilingual and bicultural professionals trained to work with children.

HOW? CACF created Project CORE, which stands for Children Overcoming through Resources and Education. CORE is a community mental health initiative designed to help children in Chinatown to recover from the lingering emotional impact of the tragedy of September 11th and its devastating effect on the neighborhood's economy through:

1. **Community Education:** To increase parents' understanding of children's mental health needs through articles in Chinese newspapers and discussions on Chinese radio.
2. **Community-Building Events:** To help children and their families reconnect with each other and with community through festive and educational events.
3. **Mental Health Training:** To expand mental health services for Chinese children and youth with child-centered clinical trainings for community-based providers.
4. **After-School Training:** To help after-school providers recognize signs and symptoms of distress in Chinese children and to conduct activities to help children to heal.

ANTICIPATED IMPACT

CORE will promote better children's mental health by creating a sense of positive **identity**, a cohesive **community**, an encompassing environment of **safety**, and a sense of **normalcy**. These factors lead to a stable and healthy sense of well-being for children. In 2004 CORE will expand to serve the broader Asian American community citywide.

2) CHALLENGING SCHOOLS TO BE BETTER

WHY? Asian American children in public schools are often ignored or viewed stereotypically as smart, quiet and passive students. **In reality, many students struggle with discrimination and some do not get the academic help they need.** Immigrant parents often do not understand the local school system and how to advocate for their child.

HOW? CACF will combine coalition building, research, policy and training to become a lead education advocacy voice for Asian American children. Planned strategies for 2003 include:

- Publish a report on Asian Americans in the city's public schools.
- Educate policy makers and school administration about the educational challenges of our community through training and advocacy.
- Develop collaborations with community organizations to work on advocacy.

ANTICIPATED IMPACT

The Schools Advocacy Project will allow CACF to become a **voice for the pan-Asian American community** in the field of education. We want to raise awareness of the unique challenges and strengths of Asian American students and their families, educate students and parents about their rights, and assist schools to be better prepared to address the needs of our families.



THE POWER OF A UNITED VOICE

WHY? In the different Asian American ethnic communities, parents have many similar concerns about their children, but one ethnicity does not always work with another. **Without working together, the Asian American voice is diluted and powerless.**

HOW? CACF works with community-based organizations in the East, South, and Southeast Asian communities in a reciprocal relationship. We gather data, provide referrals, and connect them to media. We tell their stories when we train professionals, speak at conferences, talk to the media, or testify at hearings. In turn, community-based organizations provide the expertise to review our publications, speak at our press conferences, distribute our parent education materials, administer our surveys, and allow us access to the daily concerns of parents, youth, and children.

IMPACT! By tapping into each community-based organization's unique resources, CACF brings together a broad cross-section of needs. CACF joins organizations together to provide a stronger voice in advocating on behalf of Asian American families and their children in a mutually beneficial collaboration. By working across the pan-Asian spectrum, CACF can offer the reporter, the researcher, or the elected official a better sense of the nuances between the ethnic communities.

Just some of our member agencies, community partners, and training sites in 2002:

Advocates for Children
 Arab American Family Service Center
 Asian American Bar Association of New York
 Asian American Community Consultation Association
 Asian American Federation of New York
 Asian American Youth Center
 Asian Americans for Equality
 Asian Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS
 Brooklyn Primary Care Center
 Cabrini Immigrant Services
 Center for Family Life in Sunset Park
 Charles B. Wang Community Health Center
 Child Welfare Organization Project
 Child Welfare Project, Public Advocate's Office
 Children's Defense Fund -New York
 Children's Health Fund
 Chinatown YMCA
 Chinese Progressive Association
 Chinese-American Planning Council
 Citizens' Committee for Children of New York
 Committee for Hispanic Children and Families
 Council of Pakistan Organization
 The Door
 Empire State Coalition of Youth and Family Services
 Filipino American Human Services, Inc.
 Flushing Hospital
 Hamilton-Madison House, Inc.
 Health Plus

"I was grateful that CACF prepared a booklet called "Understanding the Laws on How You Can Discipline Your Children" to give out to my clients. The booklet is translated into Chinese, so it is very useful to my agency."

- Henry Ye,
 Director of
 Immigrant Services,
 New Life Center

Hunter College School of Social Work
 Immigrant Social Services
 Immigrants and Child Welfare Project
 Korean American Family Service Center
 Korean Community Services
 Korean Youth Center
 Lawyers for Children
 Legal Aid Society
 Legal Services of New York City
 Lower East Side Family Union
 March of Dimes
 Mental Health Association of New York
 Milano Graduate School of Management and Urban Policy
 National Family Heritage Coalition
 National Korean American Service Education Consortium
 New Visions for Public Schools
 New York Asian Women's Center
 New York City Coalition for Asian American Mental Health
 New York Immigration Coalition
 Overseas Chinese Mission Church
 Partnership for After School Education
 Queens Child Guidance Center Asian Outreach Program
 Queens High Schools Office
 Red Apple Child Care
 Sakhi for South Asian Women
 Salvation Army
 South Asian Youth Action
 St. Rita's Center for Immigrant and Refugee Services
 St. Vincent's Hospital, Chinatown Clinic
 State of Minnesota, Office of Ombudsperson for Families
 Teacher's College, Columbia University
 True Light Lutheran Church
 University Settlement House
 Visiting Nurse Service of Queens
 Wu Yee Children's Services
 YWCA of New York - Flushing Branch
 Partnership for After School Education
 Queens Child Guidance Center Asian Outreach Program
 Queens High Schools Office
 Sakhi for South Asian Women
 South Asian Youth Action
 True Light Lutheran Church
 Wu Yee Children's Services
 YWCA of New York - Flushing Branch

*"We came together
 to form the Action
 Council to get young
 professionals to
 become involved,
 work with kids,
 raise awareness and
 increase funding for
 CACF."*

- Noel Collo,
 Action Council
 Co-chair

SALUTING OUR HEROES

Every fall, the Coalition presents the Caring for Children Awards to honor outstanding contributions to Asian American children in New York City. The awards recognize the myriad ways in which individual and organizations can help to improve the quality of life for Asian American children.

The event was held at a Chinese banquet in early October, with over 400 guests in attendance. The 2002 honorees were:

- Julie Azuma, advocate for the Asian American community and for children with special needs
- Aiyoung Choi, Chair of the Korean American Family Service Center
- Sayu Bhoywani, New York City Commissioner of Immigrant Affairs, founder of South Asian Youth Action (SAYA!)
- Cathay Bank, founder of 911 Healing Hands, Inc. to support Chinatown's recovery from September 11
- The staff and faculty of Chinatown schools, for their efforts to protect their students on September 11 and guiding them through the economic and emotional recovery

Sponsors of the 2002 Caring for Children Awards Dinner

Asian Diversity, Inc.

Cathay Bank

JP Morgan Chase

Davis Polk & Wardwell

Goldman Sachs Asian Professional Network

Health Plus

Marsh & McLennan Companies

Verizon

WABC-TV

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GETTING INVOLVED

Created in 2002 to support and represent the work of CACF through fundraising and outreach, the Action Council is a network of new volunteers who provide supportive work for CACF. Appealing to a wider audience and a new generation, the mission of these young professionals is to act as bridge builders in raising awareness of CACF's activities and goals. Key activities include raising funds, building a pan-Asian coalition, and sponsoring cultural events, diversity workshops, and outreach programs. The Action Council kicked off its inaugural year with a fundraising event at Barcode and raised over \$2000.



Caring for Children honorees.

“CACF’s data gathering efforts on Asian American families has been a valuable resource for social work researchers as well as professionals.”

- Tazuko Shibusawa,
Associate Professor,
Columbia School
of Social Work
and CACF Board
of Directors

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2002

Public Support and Revenue

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Grants and Contributions	31,914	188,550	220,464
Government Grant	6,732	-	6,732
Special Events	66,793	-	66,793
Membership	2,850	-	2,850
Program Service	2,585	-	2,585
Interest and others	672	-	672
Total Public Support and Revenue	111,546	188,550	300,096
Released from restriction	152,050	152,050	-
Total Public Support and Revenue	263,596	36,500	300,096

Expenses

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Program Services	216,872	-	216,872
Administrative and General	20,899	-	20,899
Fundraising	31,742	-	31,742
Total Expenses	269,513	-	269,513
Change in Net Assets	(5,917)	36,500	30,583
Net Assets at beginning of year	55,205	30,500	85,705
Net Assets at end of year	49,288	67,000	116,288

Copies of the audited financial statement for FY 2002 are available from CACF.

Photo by Kitty Katz



“CACF fills a gap that has existed in the Asian community for a long time now. CACF can achieve a system wide change in child welfare that addresses immigrant needs and provides culturally sensitive services to our communities.”

- Tanvi Tripathi, Domestic Violence Program Director, Sakhi for South Asian Women

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Myra Liwanag, *Secretary*
Ernabel Demillo
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Sharon Huang

M. Roger Kim, MD
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Lincoln Pan
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Winnie Ng, *Outreach & Education Coordinator*

Kuang Chiang, *Research Intern*
Anthony Cifra, *Program Intern*
Larissa Jorawar, *Masters in Social Work Intern*
Joseph Tsang, *High School Intern*

2002 Funders

Annie E. Casey Foundation
Asian American Federation of New York
Hedge Funds Care
Child Welfare Fund
CJ Huang Foundation
New York Community Trust
New Yorkers for Children

Ong Family Foundation
Pan Pacific and Southeast Asian Women’s Association
Nonprofit Finance Fund
WTC Business Recovery Grant Program



Board members and playwright David Henry Hwang at Flower Drum Song Community Preview.

Written by Eugenia Kiu | Design by Ramon Gil Art & Design





THE COALITION FOR
ASIAN AMERICAN
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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“Speaking out for underserved Asian American children”