

# ASIAN AMERICAN LEAD



**Spirit of Giving 2006-2007**  
FEATURED ORGANIZATION

## GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

**FUNDS:** Provide more academic field trips for students; offer stipends for volunteer tutors to offset transportation costs; expand after-school program to larger sites in order to serve 50 more children; provide more staff training.

**TIME:** Mentor a student 6-8 hours per month (minimum one-year commitment); tutor student in math or reading 2 hours per week; assist with program administration by creating interactive learning games and materials or administering tests; assist in after-school classrooms; help clean and organize community center basement.

**GOODS:** AA Batteries, art supplies, chess boards and other learning games, children's books and text books for grades pre-K through 7, educational DVDs, coloring and activity books, file cabinet. Pick-up can be arranged.

## CONTACT

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Operating budget:  
\$1,677,442

Imagine an 8th-grader who has recently-arrived from Hong Kong and barely speaks a word of English. His parents are working two jobs each to make ends meet, and he is supervised by an older cousin every afternoon. He has no one around to help him understand his homework — or think about someday going to college. Then a neighbor tells his mother about the after-school program at Asian American Leadership, Empowerment and Development (AALEAD). There, the boy meets other Chinese American children. He makes friends, gains confidence and soon loves going to school. This is a typical success story for AALEAD, which provides linguistically appropriate enrichment and support to low-income Asian American and Amerasian (mixed race) youth in D.C. and Maryland.

Middle school youth participate in AALEAD's initiative, which provides after-school tutoring and intensive mentoring to more than 200 students age 6 to 18, including leadership and college-prep programs for middle and high school students. Academic success is reinforced through long-lasting mentoring relationships, and youth in AALEAD's programs demonstrate impressive progress, with 100 percent of seniors graduating from high school and at least 88 percent enrolling in college. As part of its holistic approach to student success, AALEAD also works closely with parents — many of whom speak little English and received limited education in their native countries — to help them understand and support their children's educational needs and goals.

Founded in 1998 by Sandy Dang, a Vietnamese immigrant who cared for her younger siblings in a refugee camp en route to the United States, AALEAD originally focused on the needs of Vietnamese American and Amerasian youth in D.C.'s Ward 1. As gentrification in D.C. forced many of its clients to move to Maryland, AALEAD responded by opening a second location in Montgomery County. In addition, economic development drove many social service organizations from Chinatown, resulting in more low-income Chinese Americans seeking assistance from AALEAD. A new five-year strategic plan is helping ensure that AALEAD will continue to respond to demographic shifts and emerging needs.



ASIAN AMERICAN LEAD GIVES YOUTH THE OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUPPORT THEY NEED TO SUCCEED