



# Asian American LEAD

Leadership, Empowerment, and Development  
of Youth and Families

**FY13 Annual Report**



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## from our leaders

Dear Friends:

This past year was a true testament to what a community of supporters and hard work can accomplish. The year was full of events and activities that contributed to the growth and progress of Asian American LEAD (AALEAD). Despite the economic challenges that continue to impact the nonprofit community, AALEAD successfully provided quality After School, Summer, and Mentoring Programs to 300 low-income and underserved Asian American youth in the District of Columbia and Montgomery County, Maryland.

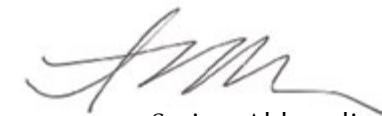
The past several years were dedicated to ensuring the sustainability of AALEAD financially and programmatically. In 2013, AALEAD combined leadership roles and cut down on office space to save on costs, while not impacting our programming.

Programmatically, our dedicated staff offered purposeful and enriching events and activities to our youth. We focused on cross-collaborative efforts within AALEAD and in our community at-large to build a stronger foundation of community for our youth. Highlights from the past year include: AALEAD's 2nd Annual Asian Pacific American (APA) Youth Summit—a community-wide conference planned, organized and hosted by youth for youth; Summer Fusion 2013, which gave our MD high school youth the opportunity to take on leadership roles and support their middle school counterparts; and participation in Fiesta Asia DC, a street festival in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, where all our program youth gathered for our second annual flash mob led by youth.

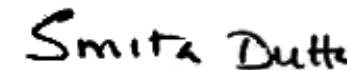
We would not have achieved our

goals and accomplishments this year without your support. We are grateful for the family of supporters we continue to have every year.

Together, we are confident that our combined efforts will promote better communities and create the foundation for our young people to grow, develop and thrive. With your continued support, we hope our youth will empower and inspire each other to become active, confident and engaged future leaders in the community.



Surjeet Ahluwalia  
Executive Director



Smita Dutta  
Board Chair in FY13



## Mission

Asian American LEAD's mission is to promote the well-being of low-income and underserved Asian American youth and families through education, leadership development, and community building.



## the community need

Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) represent nearly five percent of the U.S. population as one of the fastest growing and most diverse minority groups. According to the 2010 D.C. Asian Census Report from the

DC Mayor's Office on Asian & Pacific Islander Affairs, AAPIs make up four percent of the DC population; 15.9% live below the poverty line. According to 2012 U.S. Census Bureau data, Asian Americans in Montgomery County make

up 14.8% of the total population; more than 20% live below the poverty line. According to the 2012-2013 MCPS School profiles, more than 7,000 Asian American youth qualify for free and/or reduced meals (FARMS). Over 400 Asian youth qualify in the County schools we serve. Of the youth we serve, 85% are low-income and 79% of those youth are on Free and/or Reduced Meal plans (FARMS).

Unlike the "model minority" stereotype of the successful Asian immigrant, many low-income immigrant families face barriers to becoming self-reliant. Adults often received only minimal education in their home countries. Limited English language proficiency and few marketable job skills relegate them to working long hours at low-paying jobs. Youth often lack positive and engaged role models. Many parents are unable to offer much academic support, or are unable to interpret their report cards, help with homework, or communicate with teachers. Youth are at high risk of dropping out of school and exhibiting other delinquent and self-destructive behaviors.

In addition, according to a 2009 study conducted by the U.S. Departments of Justice and Education, 54 percent of Asian American youth were bullied in school, a sharp contrast when compared to what was reported for white (31.3 percent), black (38.4 percent) and Hispanic (34.3 percent) students. They were also three times more likely to experience cyber bullying than youth from other ethnic groups. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reported in 2011 that Asian American females, ages 15-24, have the highest rates of suicidal ideation of all ethnic groups. They also found that an alarming 30 percent of Asian American girls, grades 5-12, displayed signs of depression; their white and African American counterparts measured out to 22.5 percent and 27 percent respectively.

AALEAD's programming provide a safe space for youth after school, opportunities to develop leadership and life skills they may not receive elsewhere, and support from our committed team of Board, Staff, Mentors, and Volunteers.

# our history

**2004**

AALEAD is selected by the Annie E. Casey Foundation as a FAMILIES COUNT — National Honors Program Honoree.

For excellence in youth development, AALEAD is selected for support from a limited pool of multi-service youth agencies in the nation by the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation.

**2006**

AALEAD opens its doors to its new Wheaton, MD office to address the growing immigrant and low-income Asian population in Montgomery County.

**2008**

AALEAD is listed in *Washingtonian* magazine as one of the top nonprofits in the DC area.

**2002**

Venture Philanthropy Partners (VPP) selects AALEAD to be an Investment Partner for their first portfolio. AALEAD builds capacity through strategic planning, recruitment of executive talent, and professional organization development.

**1998**

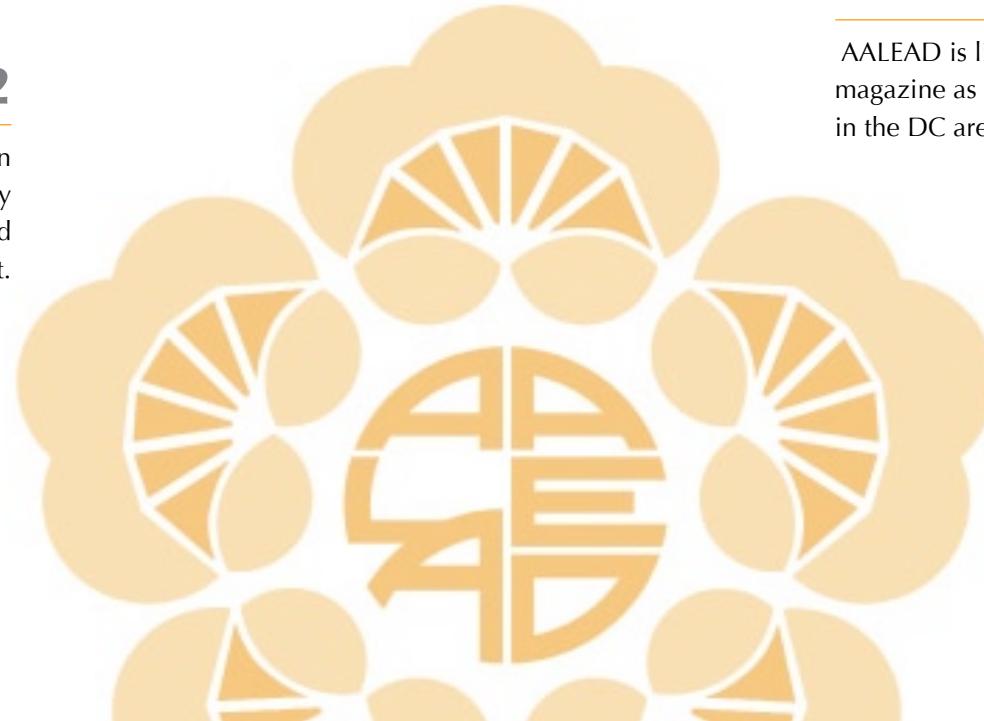
Sandy Dang establishes AALEAD to serve the needs of Asian immigrants in the DC area.

**2010**

AALEAD is named a finalist for the Washington Post Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Management.

**2013**

AALEAD is selected to be featured in the 2013-2014 issue of the *Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington* as one of the top community nonprofits in the region.



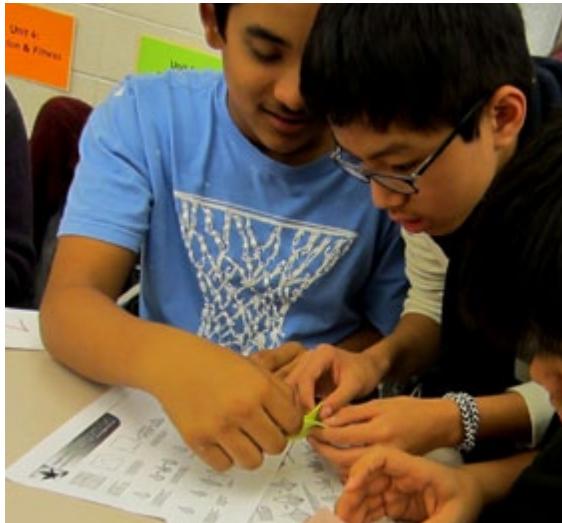


# Programs

Our diverse staff and team of volunteers deliver After School, Summer, and Mentoring Programs to our youth. We also provide parents and guardians with critical information in regards to their youth. Our programs have helped hundreds of low-income and underserved Asian American children and their families stabilize their lives, succeed academically, and gain a voice in their community.

## after school programs

Our **Elementary School Programs** foster academic growth and life skills development through enrichment opportunities that encourage social, emotional, intellectual and physical growth in our students. Our program staff and volunteers provide homework support, enrichment activities focusing on reading, writing, math, arts and crafts, and service learning opportunities. These programs intervene



at an early stage to critically impact our youths' academic and social development.

Our **Middle and High School Programs** provide a safe environment for middle and high school students. Through academic counseling and support, life skills and enrichment activities, field trips, community service opportunities, college preparatory sessions, and student youth councils, students are encouraged to explore their cultural identity, develop leaderships skills, pursue academic achievement, and give back to their community.

In the District of Columbia, AALEAD's programming serve students from: Bancroft Elementary School, Thomson Elementary School, Alice Deal Middle School, Jefferson Middle School, Columbia Heights Educational Center, and Wilson High School.



In Montgomery County, Maryland, AALEAD programs operate onsite at: Loiederman Middle School, Argyle Middle School, Eastern Middle School, Parkland Middle School, Newport Mill Middle School, Blair High School, Einstein High School, and Wheaton High School.

“AALEAD has made me feel comfortable and safe. For every program time, every meeting, every event, AALEAD has made me who I am today!”

AALEAD Middle School Youth

## mentoring program

AALEAD's Mentoring Program matches Asian American youth between the ages of 10 and 18 with caring adults who support them in developing the academic and life skills necessary to succeed. Mentors meet one-on-one with their mentees, engaging in activities in their local community. Our pairs choose activities based on their own interests. Outings have included museum visits, community service events, homework time, trying new foods, and just spending time together.

AALEAD provides training for each mentor and supports each mentor-mentee pair through regular field trips and community service activities that bring pairs together for fun and encouragement.

The mentoring relationship provides youth with a safe avenue to express their feelings and frustrations, improves youths' self-esteem, fosters positive self-identity, gives students opportunities to

explore new interests, and motivates students to pursue higher education.

In April 2008, our Mentoring Program won the award for "Excellence in Community Based Mentoring" through the Maryland Mentoring Partnership.



## outcomes

In FY13, AALEAD focused programming on four outcome areas as critical to youth success and development. All AALEAD programming is designed with the goal of encouraging our youth to develop and demonstrate these characteristics. For FY14, AALEAD revised our outcome areas through a rigorous process and review of collected data. We are proud to share our results from FY13:

### ACADEMIC ATTAINMENT

To understand the importance of education, successfully graduate from high school, and move on to post-secondary education.

**FY13 Results:** 99.65% of AALEAD students passed on to the next grade level or graduated. Thirteen graduated students were accepted into a four-year college. Five graduated students went on to a four-year college. The remaining eight students enrolled in a two-year school.

### POSITIVE SELF-IDENTITY

To increase students' self-esteem, expose them to new opportunities that expand their horizons, and provide a safe space that allows students to be proud of their culture and unique abilities.

**FY13 Results:** 98% of youth participated in at least one cultural activity with AALEAD.

### RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR

To have the ability and knowledge to make informed, responsible decisions and healthy life choices.

**FY13 Results:** 93.6% of AALEAD students attended school at least 90% of the time. The AALEAD High School Youth Council planned, organized, and hosted a successful 2nd Annual Asian Pacific American Youth Summit.

### CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

To understand and become more aware of issues in the community, and to learn how to develop, plan, and execute projects that benefit society.

**FY13 Results:** AALEAD youth served 3,940 hours of service learning together.

# financials

## Statement of Financial Position as of September 30, 2013

<b>Assets</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 127,774
Grants and Contributions receivable	26,025
Prepaid expenses and deposits	9,859
Investments	1,084,302
Property and equipment, net	6,979
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,254,939</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 13,249
Refundable advance	7,055
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>20,304</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	
Unrestricted	1,234,635
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>1,234,635</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,254,939</b>

## Statement of Activities as of September 30, 2013

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
<b>Revenue and Support</b>			
Government Grants	\$ 546,529	-	546,529
Grants and contributions	336,819	-	336,819
Investment income	51,583	-	51,583
Miscellaneous income	2,291	-	2,291
In-kind donations	16,664	-	16,664
<b>Total revenue and support</b>	<b>953,886</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>953,886</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>Program services:</b>			
Elementary school programs	322,263	-	322,263
High school programs	145,502	-	145,502
Middle school programs	145,278	-	145,278
Mentoring	55,920	-	55,920
Parent outreach	6,544	-	6,544
<b>Total program services</b>	<b>657,507</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>657,507</b>
<b>Supporting services:</b>			
Management and general	72,080	-	72,080
Fundraising	104,090	-	104,090
<b>Total Supporting services</b>	<b>176,170</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>176,170</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>851,677</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>851,677</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>102,209</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>102,209</b>
Net Assets, beginning of the year	1,132,426	-	1,132,426
Net Assets, end of the year	\$ 1,234,635	-	1,234,635



## Get Involved!

The work we do is possible because of the dedicated efforts of each and every member of our team. Whether it is interns supporting staff, volunteers leading workshops or donors contributing their financial resources, we are all committed to being advocates for our youth and seeing them succeed. We always welcome new team members who share these values.



## participate

If you are a student or you know a student at one of the schools we serve who would benefit from AALEAD programs, please contact:

Francine Gorres  
MD High School Program Manager  
mdhighschool@aalead.org

Micah Shearer  
DC Elementary School Program Manager  
mshearer@aalead.org

## volunteer

Our dedicated volunteers contribute their time, talent, and skills to support and enhance our programs. Here are some ways you can make a difference in the low-income and underserved Asian American community:

**Mentors** build a friendship with a young person in need of a positive role model and pass along the academic and life skills they have learned. This requires a commitment of six hours a month for at least one year.

**Volunteers** teach workshops, share their life histories, and more. These one-time and short-term opportunities can be tailored to fit a busy schedule. For more information, contact:

Tina Ngo  
Mentoring & Volunteer Coordinator  
(202) 884-0322 ext.105  
mentoring@aalead.org



## donate

Your donation ensures that our youth will continue to receive opportunities that will pave the way to brighter futures. Opportunities such as mentoring and leadership development help our youth discover their potential and motivate them to reach their goals. Join our family of supporters as we guide our youth to become the leaders of tomorrow.

If you would like to join our **AALEAD Aspire to LEAD Giving Society**, please contact us by reaching out to our Development & Communications Manager, Sharon Choi, at [schoi@aalead.org](mailto:schoi@aalead.org).

Asian American LEAD is a registered 501(c)3 organization and your donation is fully tax-deductible. Please visit [www.aalead.org/donate.html](http://www.aalead.org/donate.html) to make a secure donation or make checks payable to Asian American LEAD and send to:

Asian American LEAD  
2100 New Hampshire Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20009

We are also a member of the Combined Federal Campaign for the National Capital Area (CFCNCA) and the United Way Campaign for the National Capital Area (UWCNCA). If you would like to donate to us through these campaigns, our CFCNCA campaign number is **88412** and our United Way number is **9613**.

## our supporters

Annie E. Casey Foundation

Anonymous Donor

Capital One

CareFirst

Clark-Winchcole Foundation

Comcast

Crowell & Moring Foundation

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Corporation

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Affairs

D.C. Office of the State Superintendent of  
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Eugene & Agnes E. Meyer Foundation

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Montgomery County Collaboration Council  
– Excel Beyond the Bell

Montgomery County Department of Health  
and Human Services

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And many individual donors

## fy13 community partners

Asian Fortune  
Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center  
Booz Allen  
Conference on Asian Pacific American Leadership  
District of Columbia Public Schools  
Deloitte  
Domestic Violence Resource Project  
IBM  
Kollaboration DC  
Mayor's Office on Asian Pacific Islander Affairs  
Marriott  
Montgomery County Public Schools  
NBC4  
National Association of Asian American Professionals  
Filipino Cultural Association – University of Maryland  
Wheaton Community Center

## fy13 board

**Surjeet Ahluwalia**  
Executive Director  
AALEAD

**Siu Cheung**  
President  
Siu's Asian Bistro

**Virginia L. Cheung**  
General Counsel and Managing Director of Estate Planning  
McLean Asset Management Corporation

**William Choi**  
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AALEAD Board Chair  
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**Ki Wilson**  
Director, Field Operations  
Verizon

**Vinnie Tran**  
President and CEO  
DirectViz Solutions, LLP

**Joe Wong**  
Resident Manager  
Morgan Stanley

## fy13 staff

Surjeet Ahluwalia, Executive Director

Ryan Ball, MD Middle School Program Coordinator

Alexander Cena, DC Secondary School Program Manager

Raj Chinta, Manager of Accounting & Administration

Sharon Choi, Development & Communications Manager

Francine Gorres, MD High School Program Manager

Tina Ngo, Mentoring & Volunteer Outreach Coordinator

Micah Shearer, DC Elementary School Program Manager

Melor Suhaimi, MD Middle School Program Coordinator

Wei-chun Sun, Parent Outreach Coordinator

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