



SEAMAAC News and Updates

February 2014

Dear Friends of SEAMAAC,

2014 will be one of the most exciting years at SEAMAAC as we continue to serve immigrants, refugees and all people from underprivileged families in the Greater Philadelphia region.

Our services could not continue without the generous support of our sponsors and passion and dedication from our management team, staff and volunteers.

Thank you all for contributing to SEAMAAC's success in helping the lives of many Philadelphians in need through social, health and educational services.

Kindly,
Thoai Nguyen
CEO & Executive Director, SEAMAAC



Help Build Stronger Communities

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Volunteer opportunities include mentoring youth, teaching ESL, interpretation/translation services, community revitalization

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Save the Date: 30th Anniversary Gala

30 Years of Renewing Hope and Rebuilding Lives

For the past 30 years, SEAMAAC has brought crucially needed support to tens of thousands of families in the Greater Philadelphia area. Today SEAMAAC stands as one of the oldest and largest refugee-founded agencies in the region. Our work continues to be guided by the belief that the contributions of immigrant and native-born Americans strengthen the communities where they live together and add depth and richness to the cultural tapestry of our nation.

What: SEAMAAC 30th Anniversary Gala

When: Thursday, June 19, 2014, 6 - 9pm

Where: University of the Arts, Solmssen Court (Broad & Pine Streets)

RSVP: More details to come at a later date....



Education Department



The Education Department serves elementary and high school students and young adults in their educational experience through after-school enrichment programs, truancy prevention, and summer programs.

Resource and Inspiration to Support Education (RISE) is a new collaborative effort between the Hip Hop Heritage and the Truancy Case Management Programs kicked off on July 1, 2013 to provide more in-depth support to youth enrolled in SEAMAAC's afterschool and summer programs. RISE hopes to enhance the academic performances of all youth who attends SEAMAAC's programs and help them prepare for their future post high school graduation.

Student Immigrant Leadership Council (SILC) is the leadership development component of our afterschool program and remains to be strong with capable leadership from Lanica Angpak. With new funding from the Kellogg Foundation, SILC has played an even more prominent role in SEAMAAC's programs to bring

African and Asian American communities together to have open and healthy dialogues on race, racial and economic justice in our community.

Other Programs Include:

- Afterschool Arts & Academic Enrichment Program
- Summer WorkReady Program
- Truancy Case Management
- Resiliency through Faith, Hope and Action



Health and Social Services

Health Insurance Enrollment Program:

Due to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), many of the families SEAMAAC serves will be able to pay for health insurance and have access to quality health care for the first time. Through a grant and ongoing technical support from the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum, SEAMAAC conducted a community needs assessment to design a plan to ensure Asian immigrant/refugees had the tools they need to apply for insurance during the ACA's first Open Enrollment Period. Since October 1, SEAMAAC staff, interns, and dedicated community volunteers have been working in collaboration with other community and faith-based organizations towards this goal.

We partnered with the Health Federation and Resources for Human Development, local Navigator organizations, to enroll community members at our community-based office. SEAMAAC became a Certified Application Counselor (CAC) Organization, and in collaboration with Jefferson University and Nationalities Services Center, conducted a CAC Training for staff, interns, and community leaders who wish to help their community members apply for health insurance through the ACA. SEAMAAC CACs are bilingual in English and Mandarin, Vietnamese, Khmer, Indonesian, Laotian, Hmong, Thai, Nepali, Burmese, Karen, and Chin. From October to present, we have conducted 14 Community Education Workshops educating 452 immigrant/refugee community members about the ACA.

We have educated another 582 community members about the ACA through general community outreach. We have assisted 160 families to apply for health insurance through the ACA Marketplace, with 90 successfully submitting an application for coverage. SEAMAAC will continue to conduct community workshops and provide support for community members to apply.

On Saturday February 22, we are hosting an ACA Enrollment Event in collaboration with the Administration for Children and Families. We hope to enroll at least 60 families in health insurance that day. Families can also schedule an appointment for enrollment assistance during our regular business hours by calling our main number.

Continuum of Care Program:

SEAMAAC's Continuum of Care Program (COC) helps refugees transition to life in Philadelphia and achieve self-sufficiency. Through case management and interpretation/translation services, staff act as "bridge builders," and help refugees to meet needs by navigating mainstream services. Case management services focus on connecting refugees with ESL classes, job training programs, small business support programs, and employment services. The program includes monthly Community Meetings and classes on leadership development, financial literacy, and small business development. The program targets Burmese, Karen, Chin, and Bhutanese refugees who have been in the United States between 6 months and 5 years.

In February, the COC Program will hold 2 Community Meetings focused on how to file income taxes. These presentations will be conducted by the Campaign for Working Families. We are also preparing for a 3-part Financial Literacy Workshop series to be held in March through PNC Bank's community outreach programs. In April we will be holding a 3-part Small Business Development Workshop series in collaboration with The Enterprise Center.

Our Department of Health and Social Services continues to be strong by offering valuable and meaningful programs to the community.

- Asian Women's Health Program
- Continuum of Care Program
- Immigrant Benefits Enrollment Program (IBEP)
- Safe Families Program
- English as a Second Language Classes (ESL)
- Elders Gathering
- Elders Council
- Elder Health & Wellness Workshops



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