



Asian American
Center of Frederick
Enhance. Empower. Enrich.

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



Our Mission

"To equip immigrant communities with essential skills to be independent, self-sufficient and successful contributors to the communities and society at large."

YEAR AT A GLANCE

Asian American Center of Frederick | Annual Report | 2023



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from humble beginnings, AACF has evolved into a preeminent immigrant-serving agency in Frederick County.

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We are grateful for your support!

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OUR HISTORY

AACF since 2004

Board of Directors

Rev. John Ponnala, *President*

Dr. Cynthia Macri, *Vice President*

Mr. Kang Lee, *Treasurer*

Dr. Dawei Yang, *EC at Large*

Ms. Charlotte Davis, *Secretary*

Dr. Lakshmi Darbha, *Director*

Ms. Patricia Simons, *Director*

Ms. Theresa Smith, *Director*

Dr. William Reid, *Director*

Dr. Amit Kumar, *Director*

Dr. Minhkhoe Nguyen, *Director*

Ms. Hongwei Xu, *Director*

Ms. Michelle Beadle, *Administrative Support*



A Message from the President of the Board

As we celebrate AACF's 20th Anniversary and reflect on our journey over the past two decades, I am struck by the profound growth and impact we have achieved since our inception. From humble beginnings, AACF has evolved into the preeminent immigrant-serving agency in Frederick County, a testament to our unwavering commitment to our community. Our expansion from offering limited programs to implementing transformative initiatives underscores AACF's dedication to meeting the evolving needs of our constituents. The establishment of a permanent physical structure, now located on the West side of Frederick, symbolizes our enduring commitment to providing essential services to immigrant families. This facility serves as a beacon of hope, fostering early childhood education through Family Services and facilitating access to vital resources. Our comprehensive range of services, from citizenship preparation and ESL classes to interpreter services in over 30 languages, demonstrates AACF's multifaceted approach to community support. Moreover, our commitment to hosting free community health fairs and cultural events reflects our dedication to holistic well-being and cultural enrichment. Looking ahead, I am filled with confidence that AACF will continue to serve as a cornerstone of support for immigrants and marginalized populations. Our ongoing efforts will empower individuals to realize their full potential and contribute to society as productive, fulfilled citizens. In celebrating our achievements and anticipating the opportunities that lie ahead, AACF remains steadfast in our mission to cultivate happy, healthy lifestyles and foster a vibrant, inclusive community.

Rev. John Ponnala

President, Board of Directors

Reflection from our Executive Director

As an American immigrant, I am deeply appreciative and humbled by the opportunities this incredible country has offered me. America is a land of hope and vision, where determination, continuous efforts, and a sense of adventure can lead to outstanding achievements.

My journey as an immigrant has been truly transformational. Embracing diversity, America has allowed me to flourish without regard to my background. I've felt the strength of the American spirit and its ability to spark innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurial skills. It truly is a place where dreams can become reality.

However, while America provides opportunities, the opportunities could be more equitable. We must use our voices and deeds to fight for change as we celebrate the accomplishments and victories. Let's work together to remove the obstacles that may prevent everyone from having equal access to economic success, healthcare, and education. We can build the foundation for a better future where everyone, regardless of background, has the opportunity to succeed through fostering understanding, empathy, and unity.

To sum up, my experience as an immigrant, America has made me feel proud and hopeful. I am devoted to helping with the ongoing work to make America equal for all people while appreciating our progress. Together, we can create a country where achievement is unrestricted, diversity is valued, and opportunities abound.

Elizabeth Chung

Executive Director

Staff

Elizabeth Chung, Executive Director
TJ Sydykov, Director of Operations
Nancy Noriega, Executive Assistant
Mark Kraham, Communications Dir.
Dr. Matthew Nimpson, CIS Project Manager
Steve Norris, SCP Project Manager
Vanda Yamkovenko, LRS/Training Manager
Shayne Stratyner, Apprenticeship Manager
Ying He (Winnie), Operations Specialists
Mehdi Modabbir, Outreach Coordinator
Marilen de Jesus, Communications Coord.
Sharon Dibia, Data & Analytics Specialist
Sierra Dischel, Programs Specialist
Cleo Burton, Operations Assistant
Frank Sainfort, AmeriCorps Project Assistant
Miguel De Castro, Project Assistant
Albertine Nana, Service Coordinator
Yok Ling Candelario, Family Engagement Spc.
Mamatha Bomma, Child Development Assoc.
Arshad Kuhafa, Program Assistant
Bao Nghi Ho, AmeriCorp Member
Nadine Wilson-Smith, LRS Scheduler
Elly Sedita, Community Health Worker
Katherine Carpio, Community Health Worker
Gracy Zurita, Community Health Worker
Nitza Rivas, Community Health Worker
Mayra Marchena, Community Health Worker
Maria Candanoza, Community Health Worker
Min Shain, Community Health Worker
Linda Brooks, Community Health Worker
Dora Duncan, Community Health Worker
Tan Quach, Community Health Worker
Tatyana Prikazchokov, Comm. Health Worker
Tamir Shahid, MD Corps Member
Sophia Rodriguez, MD Corps Member
Timothy Brewer, MD Corps Member
Jeremy Gray, MD Corps Member

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

The 2023 Annual Report is a compilation of data as well as a series of success stories. The work accomplished through various programs and events stands as a testimony to the dedication of our staff and volunteers. It also conveys personal stories of those we served. Stories of personal triumph, stories of a better life as an immigrant in America. We often hear the words, “thank you” but just knowing that our assistance has given someone greater peace of mind, is a rewarding return on work accomplished.

Among this year’s highlights:

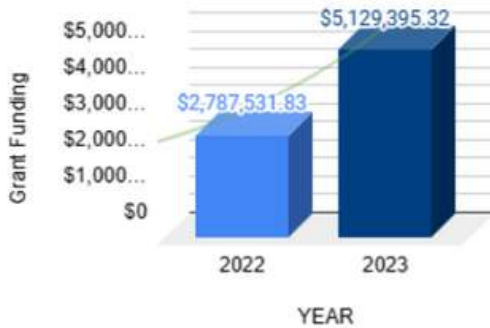
- **MORE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS**
- **LUNAR NEW YEAR AND AAPI MONTH EVENTS**
- **FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES**
- **COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR**
- **NEW U.S. CITIZENS**
- **VISITS FROM MARYLAND GOVERNOR WES MOORE, LT. GOVERNOR ARUNA MILLER**
- **VISITS FROM U.S. SENATORS CARDIN AND VAN HOLLEN, AND CONGRESSMAN TRONE**



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Grant funding significantly increased while donations were down by almost \$15,000. An increase in total income by more than 2 million dollars. (a 70% increase)

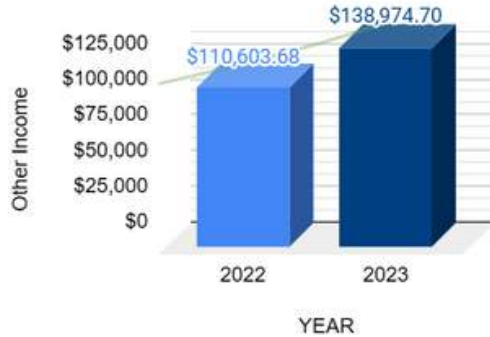
4200 GRANT FUNDING



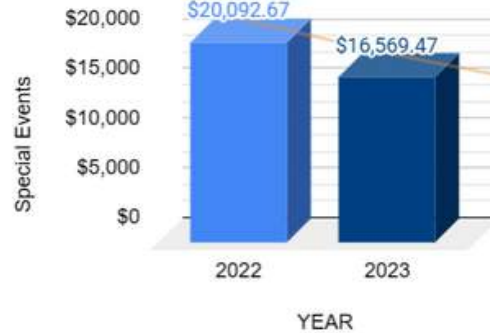
4300 DONATIONS



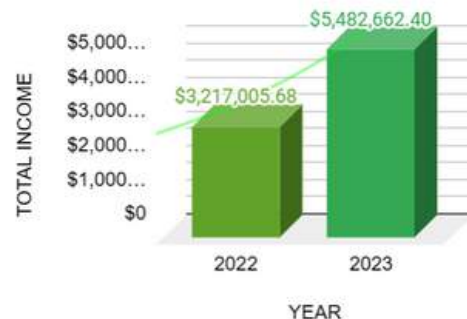
5300 OTHER INCOME



5800 SPECIAL EVENTS



TOTAL INCOME



AACF empowers immigrants and minorities to become independent members of society. We offer programs that address social determinants of health and provide essential tools and language resources for equitable access to healthcare. Our reach extends to the 20,004 foreign-born non-citizens in Frederick and surrounding counties ensuring that they have the support and resources they need to thrive.

AACF COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Throughout 2023, an ongoing outreach was conducted, with 3,424 clients who live or work in Frederick County to determine needs assessment for referral and follow-up. The average age of our clients surveyed was 49.

- 19% have lived in Frederick County for more than 10 years
- 13% have lived in Frederick County for 5-10 years
- 12% have lived in Frederick County for 1-5 years
- 6% have lived in Frederick County for less than 1 year

The assessment revealed our community's most pressing needs. To meet these needs, we:

- partnered with caseworkers from several counties
- organized regular outreach programs
- collaborated with local businesses and government
- created a crisis hotline
- built stronger connections with Frederick Health Hospital (FHH) and emergency food and shelter services

As a result of our efforts, we have achieved the following outcomes:

- **IMPROVED** efficiency and minimized duplication in providing support to individuals already receiving support.
- **PROVIDED** resources to community members to help them address minor needs before they escalate into major ones.
- **SUPPORTED** major needs more cost-effectively and efficiently.
- **ADDRESSED** critical needs promptly and effectively.

2023 OUTPUT

10,000+ PROGRAM RESOURCE PROVIDED (Educational Brochures/Flyers)

4,000+ HEALTH KITS PROVIDED (COVID-19 test kits, Masks)

4,000+ NON-HEALTH KITS PROVIDED (Water, Food, Toys)

3,600+ PHONE CALLS /EMAILS MADE on behalf of the Client

1,200+ APPOINTMENTS SCHEDULED

1,824 PAPER FORMS FILED (from Hospital, job, school, work, etc.)

1,500 ONLINE FORMS FILED (Contact Us Form, etc.)

864 FREE LYFT CODES PROVIDED through United Way

262 RESOURCES ADDED TO DATABASE (Address/ Contact Information)

109 COMMUNITY EVENTS ATTENDED

PLUS – a countless number of hugs, “thank you’s”; the gratitude was non-stop-profit-ing!

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) refer to the conditions in which people are born, live, learn, work, and play, affecting various health risks and quality-of-life outcomes. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), SDOH accounts for 30-55% of health outcomes.



If you're interested in learning more about SDOH and want to make a difference in your community, consider contacting AACF. Together, we can work towards creating positive change and improving the health and well-being of everyone in our community.

LEARN WITH US: FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

The Family Support Services Center helps low-income families, immigrants, and minorities. Providing early childhood education, ages 0 to 5, parenting skills development, family support group time, and service navigation. Maryland Family Network identified four core service areas with measurable outcomes for families and children. Its mission is to equip all children and their caregivers with the essential skills, knowledge, and tools to become self-sufficient.

Activities at FSS included:

- ESL
- Parenting classes
- Lactation education
- Infant massage
- Bi-lingual story time in collaboration with the Frederick County Library

Some definitions of services include Lactation Education, Infant Massage, Nurturing Parents, and Referral Services. These programs provide resources and support to improve the quality of life and well-being of children by offering various services and additional opportunities to overcome challenges and achieve their goals.

CAREGIVER'S PROFILE

LANGUAGES SPOKEN BESIDES ENGLISH:

Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Burmese, Urdu, French, Twi, Japanese

TOP COUNTRY OF BIRTH

Togo, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Japan, Cameroon, El Salvador, United States of America, Guatemala, Russia (Russian Federation), Honduras, Colombia

Average Age: 32 Years Old

Gender: 66% Male, 33% Female

Years in Frederick County, MD

1 - 5 years 12%

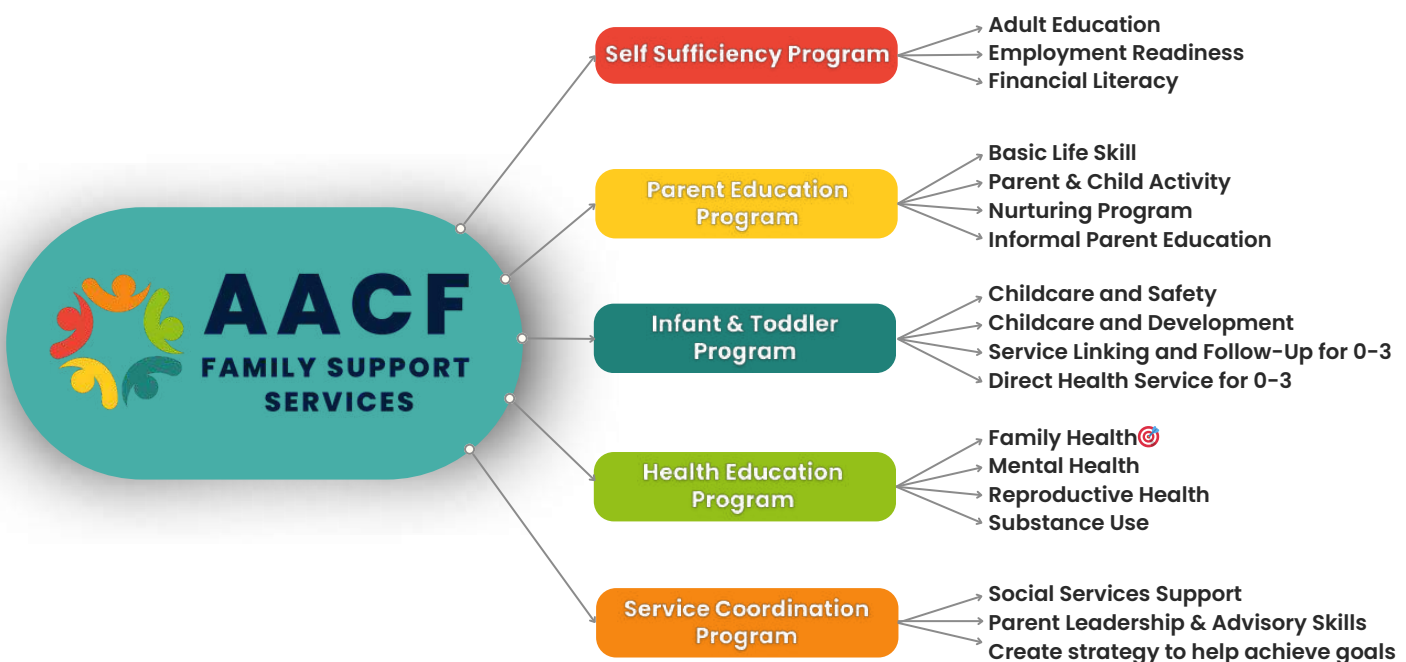
5 - 10 years 40%

10+ years 31%

Income at or below 250% of the federal poverty guideline?

Yes

FSS GLOSSARY OF SERVICES



SENIOR SERVICES

AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP (Retired & Senior Volunteer Program) of Frederick County is a local program administered by the Asian American Center of Frederick (AACF). AACF coordinates the fifth largest RSVP program in the United States. This program connects volunteers aged 55 and above with local non-profit educational and healthcare institutions. To attract potential volunteers, we have clearly defined volunteer opportunities and continue to support the missions of food banks, hospitals, and other needed groups.

Volunteers contribute over 20,838 hours of service, valued at an astounding \$662,648.40! This remarkable feat is a testament to the dedication and selflessness of our community members. We are proud to acknowledge their valuable contributions and the positive impact they have made. Join us in celebrating the spirit of volunteerism and the power of collective action! We have grown rapidly during the fall of 2023 to 30 trained seniors providing services to a client base of 41 seniors.

Seniors Cafe is hosted every second Saturday of the month at the Urbana Regional Library. Along with other areas of AACF, we have held outreach events, such as Mahjong Class, and organized a cookout.

SCP The two dozen seniors who attended learned about the AmeriCorps SCP program. In September, SCP held a Bocce Ball Tournament; about 40 players and spectators were well-received. To enhance communication within SCP and participation in the community, a monthly newsletter called "SCP Bulletin" was created.



CITIZENSHIP AND INTEGRATION SERVICES

In 2023, AACF celebrated adding a record number of new members to our community. AACF helped 495 individuals with matters concerning permanent residency and citizenship. That means, on average, more than one person every day was assisted.

Each and everyone has a personal story. Dr. Matthew Nimpson relates this account:

A very excited Jackeline Aguilar ran into the CIS office accompanied her, sixteen-year-old daughter Joceline Natalia Godoy Aguilar. I know both of them very well, Jackeline has been our CIS client since April 2022. Jocelyne is a Frederick High student volunteer, brought into the office by Mayra Marchena.

“Jackeline was excited to tell me that she passed the USCIS Citizenship Interview on her first attempt after attending our Citizenship Classes for Spanish Speakers with Mayra. Before coming to CIS, she could hardly speak English. She could not believe that she made it, passing the test in English!”

Jackeline's husband is also a Green Card holder who will be coming to CIS to begin his naturalization application process. Her two daughters, Joceline and Stefany, will be seeking CIS assistance to apply for their citizenship certificate as minors as soon as their mother is naturalized.

This story is evidence of the capabilities of our daily work at CIS, while we pursue immigrants with Green Cards who are eligible for naturalization.



2023 SUMMARY

432

in-person engagements
from Intrastate mobile tours

183

Number of students enrolled
in English Class for Spanish
speakers

75

Referrals to pro-bono
lawyers

42

N-400 Applications
completed (Application for
Naturalization)

16

N-600 Applications
completed (Certificate of
citizenship for minor
children)

11

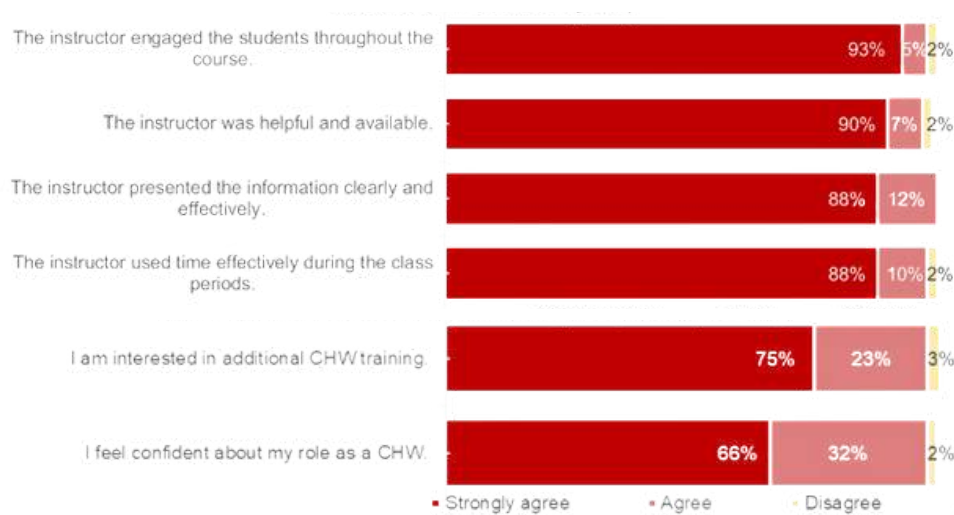
New Citizens &
Permanent
Residents

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN PUBLIC HEALTH

AACF and Hagerstown Community College offer a **100-hour CHW Certification Training Program** using Evidence-Based Core competencies such as emergency response education, prevention, treatment, and vaccine hesitancy research to enhance the value of CHWs in public health. Now, CHWs can serve as a bridge between health and social services and the community they serve improving access to services and community education.

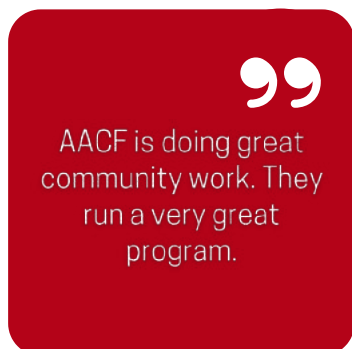
After completing the training, the respondents strongly agreed that they had gained the necessary resources and information to be successful as CHWs and felt confident in using the acquired knowledge and skills.

After participating in the CHW Training Program. . . (n=40-41)



In addition to the statements about skills and knowledge, almost all participants strongly agreed or agreed that they were interested in additional CHW training and felt confident about their role as a CHW, with just one respondent disagreeing. As we continue to invest in the future of our workforce, we are excited to announce the launch of our very own apprenticeship program. We are currently seeking apprenticeship sites and invite you to become one today! Don't miss out on this opportunity to shape the future of our workforce – join us now!"

Concluding words from Participants:



EMPLOYMENT READINESS & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

In the Fall of 2022, the Asian American Center of Frederick (AACF) received a 3-year funding opportunity titled Community Health Worker Training Program (CHWTP) through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Bureau of Health Workforce, Division of Nursing and Public Health (HRSA-22-124).

The mission of the AACF Community Health Worker Training Program is to train community health workers to serve as a bridge between communities, health care systems, and state health departments. In order to evaluate the program and secure an independent perspective, AACF engaged an external evaluation firm, Sharp Insight, LLC., to identify recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of the CHW training program and its curriculum.

In 2023, much of the evaluation focused on the CHW Training Program, as the apprentice and mentor components were still in development. During this period, AACF staff trained five cohorts of participants, with 113 graduates.

Training Curriculum Implementation and Component Effectiveness

During the annual interviews with staff members, it was revealed that the organization was successful in outreach and recruitment, meeting its own targeted goals and using effective methods to identify new participants.

Notable comments include:

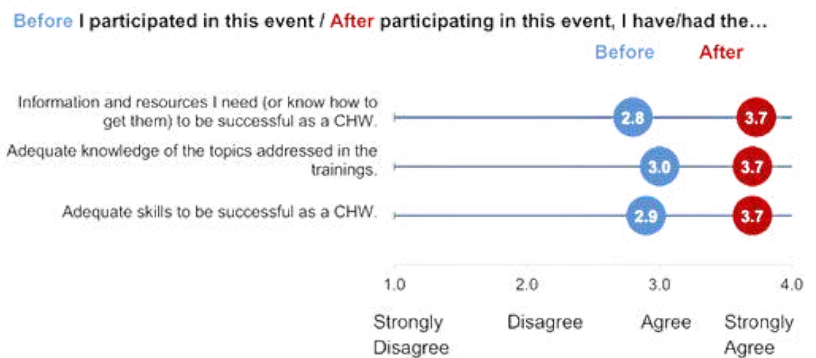


Fig. When reflecting on their CHW abilities before and after the event, respondents reported marked improvement in all three areas. (n=41)

TARGET ACHIEVEMENT: ”

“AACF is just leaps and bounds ahead of other organizations who also received funding from this program in terms of hitting the ground running, getting people recruited into training.”

EFFECTIVE METHODS: ”

Another staff member stated, “I think the fact that people come to us rather than us going to them is a good sign.”

STIPEND: ”

Lastly, a staff member stated, “Having the people with the right heart and giving them a little something just to get through...is awesome.”



LANGUAGE RESOURCE SERVICES

AACF continues to provide **Language Resource Services** to the community. Among those utilizing the services most often were *Frederick Surgical Center, Frederick Health Hospital, Canam Steel Corporation, Amber Hill Physical Therapy, and Bimbo Bakeries USA.*

Languages provided were ASL, French, Burmese, Vietnamese, Chinese, Spanish, Russian, Hindi, Urdu, Cantonese, Korean, Farsi. Languages most often requested were *ASL* and *Spanish* by Frederick Surgical Center and *Vietnamese* and *Burmese* by Canam Steel Corporation.



Over 35 languages and dialects for onsite interpreting

WE HAVE A NEW APP!

VRI and OPI capabilities thru LSPware



ANNUAL COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

Hundreds of medical professionals, interpreters, and organizers made the **16th Annual Frederick Community Health Fair** an enormous success. More than sixteen hundred people were served at the October 7th event. AACF partnered with Frederick Health Hospital and Lion's Club along with more than seventy government, business, and nonprofit organizations. Using interpreters in a wide range of languages makes sure all attending the health fair are able to communicate their needs clearly to those offering the services. In addition to medical services, fair organizers helped distribute hundreds of pre-packed grocery bags, Covid tests, masks, and other necessities.

We reached out to the community through nine teams in various areas of Frederick City, including Downtown, West Frederick, North Frederick, Ballenger Creek, Middletown/Braddock Heights/Myersville, East County, South County, West County, and North County. The attendance demographics were as follows: 43% of attendees were of Hispanic or Latino or Spanish origin, 15% were Asian, 8% were White, and 8% were Black or African American. Attendees ranged in age from 1 to 94, with the highest attendance among people aged 30-54.

The health fair provides individuals with below-average health and limited understanding of their health conditions the essential opportunity for checkups and face-to-face interactions with medical providers at Frederick High School, ultimately improving the health outcomes of communities.



Community Health Fair Day



Frederick Hospital Medical Services

Vitals, BMI, Triage & providers, blood panel, Flu vaccines, HIV testing, colorectal cancer screening, genetics testing, advanced directives, lung & bone health screenings & education!



Community of Practice

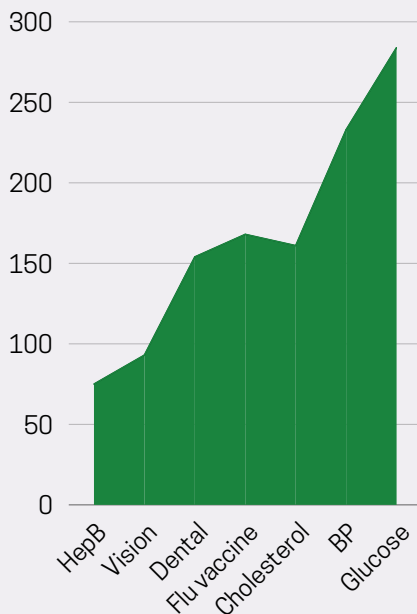
Vision & Dental screening, Hepatitis B & C screening, acupuncture and clinical breast exams provided through our network of public-private partnerships



Social Services

Benefits enrollment counseling, Care coordination, family activities, hundreds of pre-packed grocery bags, and other necessities

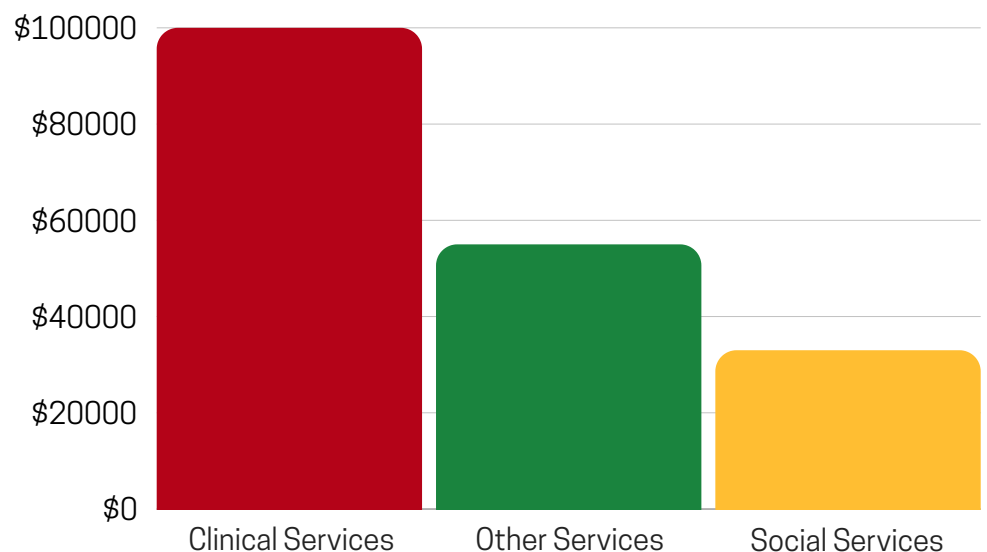
Screening / Medical Services



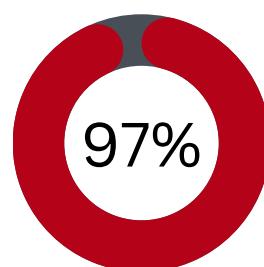
Highest demand at the 2023 Community Health Fair was for **Blood Glucose** testing.

284
People Tested

VALUE OF SERVICES



PARTICIPANT SATISFACTION SCORE



The 2023 Health Fair received an impressive score of 97%. The score was an average of the ratings given by the guests, medical providers, volunteers, exhibition vendors, and front-line officers of the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) on their satisfaction with the event, overall experience, and their likelihood to attend next year's HF.

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROFILE FROM OUTREACH

n=3,120

51%

AVERAGE HEALTH

1,597 individuals in this group, aged 30-54. 45% female, 36% male. Results varied for insured vs uninsured. The insured saw a medical professional in the last 12 months; the uninsured had not. All claimed an average or poor understanding of any present health concerns.

11%

NO RESPONSE

348 individuals engaged but chose not to respond to either insurance or health understanding question.

1%

VERY POOR HEALTH

40 individuals, mostly between the ages of 30 and 54 did not have insurance and were not in the process of obtaining any. Additionally, none had seen a medical professional in the past 12 months.

28%

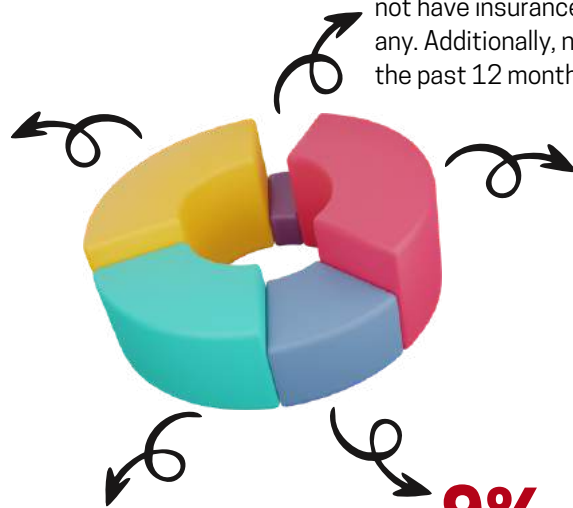
GOOD- EXCELLENT HEALTH

There were 855 individuals in this group, including people of school age and adult age. 54% had insurance and had consulted a medical professional within the past 12 months, while 38% had a primary care physician (PCP). Good to excellent understanding

9%

POOR HEALTH

280 adults and seniors, 56% female, 41% male, diverse races. Most without health insurance, 51% don't understand their health after consulting a medical professional in the past 12 months.



CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

A survey found that 70% of attendees at the AACF **Lunar New Year**, had not previously celebrated the Lunar New Year.

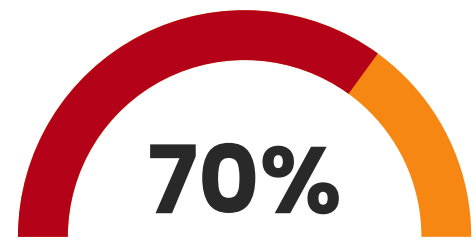
What does the Lunar New Year mean to them?

Lunar New Year is a significant event celebrated by many cultures, particularly those of Asian descent. It signifies a new beginning, a fresh start to the year, and a time to spend with family and loved ones. The festival is an opportunity to learn about different cultures and to embrace cultural connections and renewal. It is also a time for prosperity, sharing happiness with friends and relatives, and seeking blessings for the new year. Red envelopes, hongbao, and dumplings are traditional items associated with the Lunar New Year. Community members enjoyed delicious food, sweets, fruits, and flowers, and tea gifts. The Lantern Festival, new decorations, clothes, and spring cleaning are also part of the celebrations. Visiting family and friends, temple visits, and displaying spring couplets or Chun Lian are common practices. To bring good fortune, it is customary to give two Mandarin oranges.

The 2023 Lunar New Year celebration was held at the Urbana Library where the community had the opportunity to learn more about the celebration, connect with the culture of their ancestors, grow in appreciation for the observance.

AACF considers every day as an opportunity to recognize the contributions made by immigrants. May is **AAPI Month**, and a number of activities were held throughout the month.

ASIA ON THE CREEK: Many people desire the opportunity to travel to distant places and experience diverse cultures. For those attending Asia on the Creek found a generous sampling of a variety of Asian culture, food, and entertainment. Along with colorful costumes and music the event provided a delightful cultural exchange and served as a centerpiece of AACF's cultural series. While Carroll Creek hosts a number of events every year, Asia on the Creek provides an international experience to the local community.



HAD NEVER CELEBRATED LUNAR NEW YEAR IN THE US

Many immigrants found it difficult to observe the holiday in a country that doesn't officially recognize the celebration as part of its culture.

Those attending remarked that they appreciated being able to reconnect to their heritage through the food, entertainment, other traditional features of the Lunar New Year featured by AACF.



EMPOWER U

EmpowerU has been working with the community since October 2020, teaching parents and caregivers how to advocate for themselves, their families, and their communities. Our Community Health Workers (CHWs) have been reaching out to families who qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Our goal is to increase receipt of EITC by underrepresented groups, and to evaluate the efficacy of CHWs in increasing understanding of EITC and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Over 210 families signed up to participate in our Program.

At the program's graduation ceremony in July 2023, we had 379 guests.

Thanks to our CHWs, participants are enrolled in our program and attend excellent workshops at Hillcrest Community Center taught by various community experts. Topics like nutrition, financial literacy, self-care, and conflict resolution are creatively woven into the tapestry of protective factors of ACEs.

210

EmpowerU
Graduates



LIFTING ALL VOICES

The Lifting All Voices (LAV) project was launched to address the high number of coronavirus cases in urban areas of Frederick County, Maryland. The main objective of this project was to provide access to COVID-19 testing and vaccine information to residents in different languages, especially those who may have been disenfranchised by systemic racism and oppression. The LAV project partnered with leaders from Asian, African, Islamic, and Spanish-speaking communities to organize town hall meetings that fostered a welcoming atmosphere and encouraged feedback from residents.



9 TOWN HALLS

Burmese
Chinese
Gujarati, Punjabi, and
Hindi
Islamic Society
Korean
Russian
French
Spanish
Urdu
Vietnamese



Total Direct Touches:

5,233



Total Household
Residents:

15,070



GOLDEN GATHERINGS

We've organized 12 unique workshops and 5 field trips covering various topics like health, technology, and culture, with 40 seniors enrolled in our third senior program, the Golden Gatherings, which complements our existing senior volunteers and companionship programs.

Our young-at-heart clients learned about community health, met new people, and received referrals to aging and independent services. We have received positive feedback from the senior community, and our entry survey revealed that **70% of senior citizens could not access local senior services independently**. However, since the intervention, we have observed a 100% improvement in remarks towards case management. Senior citizens have reported feeling more supported and are more satisfied with navigating resources with Community Health Workers (CHWs). Despite these successes, language access and transportation remain the biggest obstacles in effectively reaching and serving our senior population. Thanks to our community partners, we have been able to meet weekly from September to December, and we are excited to continue hosting Golden Gatherings!

TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE

In 2023, United Way issued **864 Lyft codes** for the Refugee Welcoming Coalition and Asian American Center of Frederick (AACF) clients. This provided the equivalent of **1,728 rides**, removing barriers for clients to access essential services. The impact of these rides is a powerful one, helping our clients achieve their goals and demonstrating our commitment to making a difference.

FREE INSURANCE BENEFITS

The Kaiser Permanente Community Health Access Program (CHAP) has provided medical assistance to uninsured individuals with a household income up to 300% of the federal poverty level. This year, **AACF recertified 600 community members and enrolled 100 new applicants from a waitlist of over 400 to maintain or get FREE insurance benefits up to \$20,000.00!**

In October, we organized a successful onboarding Pilot event for program participants. The high demand for the program shows its importance in the communities we serve.

Game changer?
CHWs!

We have observed a 100% improvement in remarks towards case management.



On entry, 70% of seniors were unaware of how to access local senior services independently.



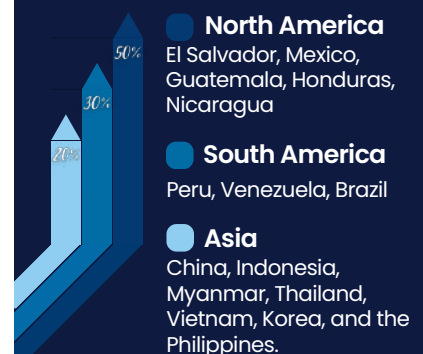
Request

Work commute 37%
Car Repair 25%
School/ Daycare 13%
Medical Appt. 6%
SNAP/WIC Access 6%
Adult classes 6%
Other 6%



Ride

BREAKDOWN OF 100 NEW ENROLLMENTS



+600 REENROLLMENTS THIS YEAR!



GAMBLING ADDICTION AWARENESS

The Special Populations grant program for Problem Gambling Prevention in Maryland aims to achieve three primary goals. Firstly, it strives to educate community organizations and the population they serve about the risks associated with gambling, how to prevent problem gambling, and the resources available for problem gambling help in Maryland. This will empower community organizations to become leaders in the problem gambling prevention field. Secondly, the program aims to integrate problem gambling prevention into the work of community organizations with substance misuse prevention, mental health promotion, and public health promotion for underserved and at-risk populations. This will ensure the sustainability of problem gambling prevention strategies in Maryland. Finally, the program seeks to promote public health among communities across Maryland, especially concerning problem gambling, with limited funding and resources. To achieve this, working through community organizations that are familiar with their communities and have established networks is a more efficient way of preventing problem gambling.

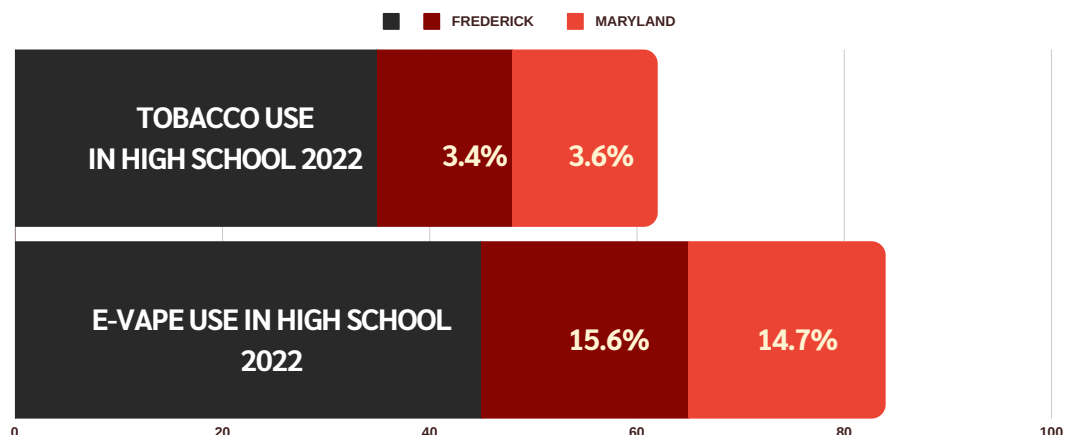
TOBACCO

Reducing the usage of tobacco among high school students is a crucial step towards a healthier community. The fact that the rate of tobacco use among high school students in Frederick is below the state average is a positive sign, but the higher usage of electric vapor products is concerning. Our partnership with Frederick County Health Department's Tobacco Sales Compliance Program and Frederick County Public Schools has been a promising initiative that can help reduce the usage of tobacco products among students.

This year, AACF in conjunction with Maryland Corps educated store owners on the importance of following the rules and regulations related to tobacco sales to minors. **Of the 70 we visited**, we found that 63 had appropriate displays prohibiting tobacco sales to minors under 21. Unfortunately, 7 stores were not in compliance. We provided up-to-date signage and education to these merchants, who appreciated it.

Showing our commitment to creating a healthier community. By working together, we can ensure that our youth stay healthy, protected, and informed.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT USE OF TOBACCO AND ELECTRONIC VAPES LAST YEAR



An ancient proverb says, **“it takes a village to raise a child.”** But that is also true with any accomplishment within a community. It is most successful when many become involved in the project.

Another proverb says, **“many hands make light work.”** The accomplishments of AACF are possible due to a community that stands committed and always ready to help. **AACF is grateful to all of our partners, sponsors, and grantors for their continued support.**

thank you

SCHOOLS

FCPS ▪ Hood College ▪ Frederick Community College ▪ Hagerstown Community College ▪ University of Maryland

BUSINESSES

Goodwill ▪ Costco ▪ Sharp Insight ▪ Thai Meric Eatery & Bar ▪ Sumitra Thai ▪ Peking Garden ▪ Wegmans ▪ Warehouse Cinemas ▪ Common Market ▪ Boscov's ▪ McCutcheon Apple Products ▪ South Mountain Creamery ▪ El Eden ▪ China Garden Great Wall ▪ International Bazaar ▪ Tulip Grill ▪ Halal Market ▪ Hillcrest Pharmacy ▪ Olive and Basket ▪ Lucky Korean ▪ Clay Oven ▪ H-Mart ▪ Mega Mart ▪ Modern Asia

ORGANIZATIONS

Aetna Better Health Maryland ▪ Alzheimer's Association Greater Maryland Chapter ▪ Azalea Mental Health ▪ Blessing in a Backpack ▪ Capitol Women's Care ▪ Cedar Star ▪ Centro Hispano ▪ Civic Nation ▪ Community Radiology Associates ▪ Continuum Healthcare Network ▪ Corporate America Family Credit Union ▪ Cricket Wireless ▪ Family Connects ▪ Farm to School Frederick ▪ Fox Haven Learning Center ▪ Frederick Rescue Mission ▪ Fusion Lions Club of Frederick ▪ Girls on the Run ▪ Greater Baltimore Homecare LLC ▪ Healthcare is a Human Right ▪ Health Markets Insurance Agency ▪ Health Well Foundation ▪ Healthy Families Frederick ▪ Heartly House, Inc. ▪ Hepatitis B Initiative (HBI-DC) ▪ Indigo Fox Acupuncture & Wellness ▪ Integrity Insurance LLC ▪ Literacy Council of Frederick County ▪ Monarch Healthcare ▪ Multi-faith Alliance of Climate Stewards ▪ Nava Health & Vitality Center ▪ Nexamp ▪ Nigerians In Frederick ▪ Nurse Lynx Inc ▪ On Our Own ▪ Outreach Recovery ▪ Potomac Community Services ▪ Priority Partners MCO ▪ Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs ▪ Selfless Life ▪ Sleep in Heavenly Peace ▪ Spanish-speaking Community of Maryland ▪ Team Hope ▪ The Freedom Center ▪ The Parents' Place of Maryland ▪ Transformative Arts Project ▪ United Way of Frederick County ▪ United Healthcare ▪ University of MD School Dentistry ▪ Unraveling Obesity ▪ Worldshine Adult Medical Day Care Center ▪ YMCA of Frederick County ▪ Zen Psychological Center

CHURCHES & PLACES OF WORSHIP

Brook Hill United Methodist ▪ Church International Community Church ▪ St. John The Evangelist Catholic Church ▪ The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church ▪ Jackson Chapel United Methodist Church ▪ Missionary Baptist Church ▪ First Baptist Church of Frederick County ▪ Grace Community Church ▪ Cornerstone Korean Presbyterian Church ▪ Asbury United Methodist Church ▪ Islamic Society of Frederick ▪ Tibetan Meditation Center ▪ Xá Lợi Temple - Vietnamese ▪ Joyful Korean Church of MD ▪ Falam Baptist Church - Burmese ▪ Gospel Baptist Church of America (Burmese Church) ▪ Frederick Korean Baptist Church ▪ Chinese Grace Church ▪ Miso (Chin) Church - Burmese ▪ Korean Emmanuel Baptist Church ▪ The Church of Transfiguration

FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL & PRIVATE FUNDERS

CareFirst • Corporation for National and Community Service • Health Resources and Services Administration • Dept of Homeland Security • Dept of Education • City of Frederick • US Dept of Health & Human Services • EFSP Local Board • Maryland Department of Labor (EARN) • Maryland Dept of Health: Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities • Rural Maryland Council • Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development • Maryland Department of Health: Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control • Maryland Dept of Health: Prevention and Health Promotion Administration • Maryland Department of Service and Civic Innovation • Maryland Family Network • Maryland Department of Health: Prevention and Health Promotion Administration • Frederick County Health Department • Frederick County Government • Kaiser Permanente: Community Health Access • Kaiser Permanente: Onboarding Training Pilot • Delaplaine • Aetna/CVS • Community Foundation of Frederick County • United Way • University of Maryland - Problem Gambling Education

Ummu OmaRaf Almer • Cuong Duong • Joshua Finkle • Yayah • Ruud Dimitri Casseus • Vlad Lena • Pepin Accilien • Elizabeth Chung • Marc David Miller • Sandra Doggett • Vanda Yamkovenko • Lely Damayanti • Dewi Brewer • Bela Widi • Mega S • Dahlia Dini • Widyastuty Noviyanti • Tiffany Le • Lema RE Llc • Engkos Mahpud • Victor Pattianakotta • Daisy Coelho • Novi • Joko Suprianto • Mariyati Ngadenan • Eflien Tumiwa • Abdain Witjaksono • Rita Santosa • Jacqueline Thorpe Addy • James Showe • Joanna Jong • Darius Reid • Damaris Rivera • Loretta Chan • Ary Isnawati • Taufik Gunawan • Patrick Martin • Larry Fuqua • Indah Destria • Netty Helawati • Bandi Wiyono • Bean Ho • Antonio Zamarripa • Jimmy Irawan • Anang Dwianto • Tina Chaney • Syailendra Sidartokartorejo • Evi Haryanti • Shayne Stratyner • Iketut Sudira • Soenowo Pamungkas • Wartu Madsari • Basuki Rahmat • Fnu Nurjanah • Anna Kartina • Yudith Rosmawarni • Dani Agus • Andriyani Hall • Tonya Hays • Wita Doyle • Suzanne Barbero • Patricia Pierre • Ruth Daurisca • CIS Program • Tengiz Sydykov • William Reid • Annette Breiling • Frank Sainfort • Aditya Priangga • Sumarti • Bridget Carver • Inca Damayanti • Naze Andreville • Sierra Dischel • Sharon Oshai • Stanley Chung • Christelle S • Jittisak Phakam • Corazon Martin • Christine Finnelle • Laurie Fisher • Jade de Jesus • Heroe Susilo • Wahyudin Rahayu • Jaminah Sumojimin • Santhana Shanmugam • Olivia Cheng • Second Street & Hope Inc • William E Cross Foundation, Inc • Gregory & Deborah Wasserbach • Patriot Federal Credit Union • Sharon & Daniel Kuebbing • Pauline S Manalo • Jana Moberly • Kimiko Kotani • Richard & Lois Simons



OUR HISTORY

The Asian American Center of Frederick (AACF) was created in 2004 out of the need for afterschool activities for the children of immigrant families. Providing math and reading enrichment and a Chinese language program made more connections throughout the community and revealed barriers families faced in health care and other services. For founder Elizabeth Chung, a long-time public health advocate, after-school services were insufficient. Recognizing that a healthy community is economically productive, she knew much more needed to be done to help others reach their American Dream. Throughout her four decades in public health, she understood that addressing social determinants of health has been a significant challenge for immigrant and limited English proficiency (LEP) populations. On a personal level, she sent her father back to China because of a lack of access to health care due to language/cultural barriers and lost him in less than a year.

2004

Small beginning for small people

AACF begins with afterschool activities for children of immigrant families who cannot afford daycare.

2006

Community Health Fair

AACF holds its first health fair with screenings and referrals aimed at helping immigrant and those who may lack healthcare an opportunity to have access to quality healthcare.

2012/2013

Asian Heritage & Immigration Services

2012 saw the first official celebration in recognition of Asian Heritage Month in May. In 2013 the Citizenship and Immigration Services began.

2019

CHW Training Program

The Community Health Worker training program accredited demonstrating the value of the program in meeting higher standards.

2023

Family Support Services Center

FSS finds a permanent home in a new building especially designed to meet the needs of the services provided.



ENHANCE Improve access to service through community outreach and support
EMPOWER Teach, train, and enable community members to increase their capacity
ENRICH Understand and appreciate different cultures among those we serve

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