



Asian American
Center of Frederick
Enhance. Empower. Enrich.

ANNUAL REPORT

Enhance. Empower. Enrich.

2025



Resilience in Action: Expanding Impact, Strengthening Community in 2025.

Reflections from the Executive Director

Each year provides an opportunity to reflect on our progress while looking ahead with purpose. In 2025, the Asian American Center of Frederick (AACF) continued to strengthen its Workforce Integration Services for Empowerment (WISE) program, introducing new training opportunities, and expand our Senior Services to better support older adults in our community.

This year also brought challenges, including changes in federal funding and the loss of our citizenship services program. Despite these setbacks, AACF remained resilient. With over two decades of service, we adapted and continued to move forward, expanding workforce training programs, strengthening our senior volunteer services, and beginning renovations at our Family Support Services facility on Old National Pike to increase our capacity.

Our community events remained vital in bringing people together. In addition to signature events like Lunar New Year and Asia on the Creek, 2025 marked the introduction of new cultural celebrations, including Nowruz, International Women's Day, the Indonesia Festival, and the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival, all of which further reflect the diversity of the communities we serve. While 2025 tested us, it also demonstrated our strength and commitment. We remain dedicated to our mission to Enhance. Empower. Enrich., and we look ahead with confidence as we continue to grow and serve the Frederick community.

With Gratitude,

Elizabeth Chung
Elizabeth Chung



2025 Highlights

Building Stronger Communities Together

In 2025, the Asian American Center of Frederick continued to expand its impact through culturally responsive programs, community partnerships, and direct services that empowered individuals and families across Frederick County.

8,000 attendees participated in AACF cultural celebrations and community events

200+ program and event volunteers

95 families served through Family Support Services

720 diaper packs distributed to families in need

8,277 RSVP volunteer service hours contributed by older adults

250+ students enrolled in workforce development and career training programs

\$18,567 generated through Language Resource Services, supporting access through interpretation and translation

10 individuals achieved U.S. citizenship through Citizenship Integration Services

\$30,000 emergency assistance distributed to 8 households facing medical hardships

5901 Major renovations launched at 5901 Old National Pike, expanding AACF's capacity to serve the community and create new opportunities for sustainable growth

Look Ahead

As AACF continues to grow, we remain committed to our mission to Enhance. Empower. Enrich. Through collaboration, innovation, and community partnership, we are building a more connected, inclusive, and resilient Frederick County for all.

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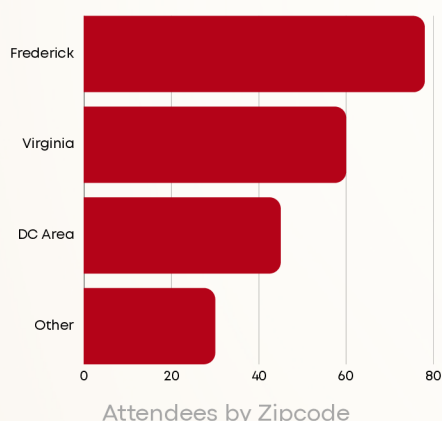
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Celebrating Culture and Community

In 2025, cultural celebrations strengthened community connections, honored diverse traditions, and fostered a deeper sense of belonging for all.




8,000
Attendees


+100
Vendors and Community Partners


+200
Volunteers

Lunar New Year



The Year of the Snake celebration at Frederick High School offered a vibrant showcase of cultural performances, traditions, and shared experiences, highlighting the richness and diversity of Asian heritage. **(450 attendees)**

Nowruz



The Nowruz 2025 celebration at the New Spire Arts brought the community together to honor Persian heritage through cultural performances, traditions, and shared experiences. **(400 attendees)**

Intl Women's Day



The International Women's Day celebration at Frederick Community College provided an opportunity for the community to honor and uplift women through inspiring stories, recognition, and a collective call to accelerate action.

Asia on the Creek



Asia on the Creek 2025 transformed Carroll Creek into a vibrant celebration of Asian cultures. The community enjoyed food, entertainment, and immersive cultural experiences. **(3500 attendees)**

Indonesia Day



The 2025 Indonesia Culinary Day. In partnership with the Indonesian Education and Cultural Network, brought the community together through authentic cuisine and cultural exchange, celebrating Indonesia's rich culinary heritage and traditions. **(3000 attendees)**

Moon Festival



The 2025 Mid-Autumn Festival marked a milestone as the first official Moon Festival celebration for Frederick, sharing traditions and culture through, storytelling, and shared moments under the harvest moon. **(850-1000 attendees)**

Strengthening Families



In 2025, Family Support Services expanded its reach and impact by providing culturally responsive programs that supported families with young children. Through initiatives such as Welcome Baby, diaper distribution, parenting education, early childhood activities, and community partnerships, families were equipped with essential resources, knowledge, and support. These efforts strengthened family stability, promoted healthy development, and fostered a more connected and resilient community.

Our Impact in Numbers

95

Families served (45 FSS & 50 Community)



50

Children enrolled: FSS ONLY



12

Baby Showers



Number of diaper kits/baby supplies distributed:

720

Diaper Packs

60 Kits

Baby kits: 60 (diaper bag, socks, hygiene products, baby bottles, wipes, etc.)



12

Parenting classes/workshops

Empowering Older Adults

For many older adults, retirement is not a time to slow down. It’s an opportunity to stay active, connected, and give back. At AACF, the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Senior Companion Program (SCP), both part of AmeriCorps, continue to create meaningful engagement opportunities for seniors to thrive while strengthening the community.

In 2025, AACF expanded its senior programming with a wide range of new activities designed to support wellness, learning, and social connection. Participants took part in Health in Your Hands sessions, chair yoga, and sound bowl experiences that promote physical and mental well-being. Creative and social opportunities also grew through board games, crafting groups, and a variety of educational workshops tailored to seniors’ interests.

A notable addition this year was the creation of a Chinese elderly group, where participants learn English while volunteering in the community. This initiative fosters confidence, cultural connection, and a strong sense of purpose.

Through RSVP, seniors are matched with volunteer opportunities that align with their skills, passions, and availability. They support community gardens, assist at events, and lead workshops that benefit individuals and families across Frederick.

Through SCP, trained volunteers provide companionship and essential support to older adults who may be isolated. From sharing meals and attending appointments to offering everyday assistance, these connections promote independence, dignity, and meaningful human connection.

Together, these programs empower older adults to lead active and purposeful lives, demonstrating that their time, talents, and experiences remain invaluable to the community.

8,277

RSVP Service Hours

3,667

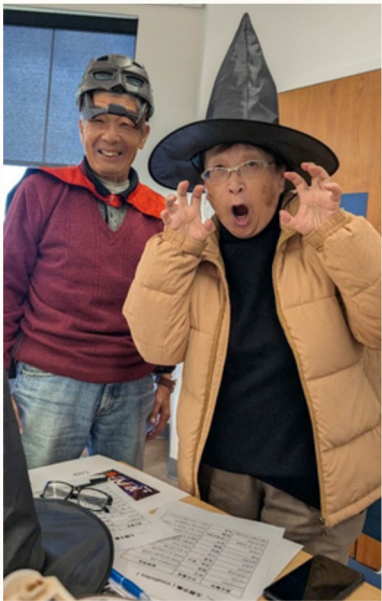
SCP Service Hours

116

Active RSVP Volunteers

22

Active SCP Volunteers



Supporting senior services has become vital!

Supporting senior services has become increasingly vital as more older adults seek to age safely and independently in their homes. AACF continues to help bridge critical gaps in care, connection, and daily living support for the senior community.

1 Social interactions	2 Medication management	3 Personal care	4 Chores	5 Cognitive health
6 Meal preparations	7 Financial management	8 Transportation	9 Mobility	10 Home modifications and safety

AACF DIRECTLY MEETS

8 out of 10

Aging in place needs **at no cost to seniors**, refers seniors for the other 2!

Transportation for non-medical reasons within and outside Frederick remains the most requested yet underserved need.

Workforce Development

In 2025, AACF's Workforce Integration Services for Empowerment (WISE) program continued to expand access to meaningful careers in healthcare and community health. Through hands-on training, strong employer partnerships, and individualized support, WISE equips community members with the skills and confidence needed to achieve long-term employment and self-sufficiency.

Over the course of the year, WISE delivered a total of **12 training cohorts**, including:

- **4 Career Readiness (pre-apprenticeship)** trainings
- **5 Community Health Worker (CHW)** trainings
- **2 Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)** cohorts
- **1 Clinical Medical Assistant (CMA)**, Medical/Community Interpreter, and Certified Peer Recovery Specialist (CPRS)

Career Readiness training supported **70 participants**, who gained basic knowledge of the American healthcare system, hands-on CNA simulation experience, received guidance in resume writing, job interview preparation, and professional development navigation. This class serves as a stepping stone for future careers in conventional healthcare and community health.

Program Outcomes

In 2025, WISE contributed significantly to the regional workforce:

- **100+ Community Health Workers trained**
- **40 Medical Interpreters supporting over 10 languages**
- **23 Certified Nursing Assistants**

More Medical Assistants and Peer Recovery Specialists will be graduating soon. We proudly stand by the quality of our graduates, who are employed by Frederick Health Hospital, the Frederick and Montgomery County Health Departments, and leading nursing and assisted living facilities in Frederick and across Maryland.

Registered Apprenticeships

Through the Registered Apprenticeship Program under the Maryland Department of Labor, we support our students' professional growth and provide employer partners with the quality workforce we strive for. In 2025 alone, the AACF WISE team registered forty-two apprentices in four occupations: CHW, CNA, CMA, and CPRS.

Looking Ahead

The impact of WISE in 2025 demonstrates the power of combining education, opportunity, and community support. Looking ahead to 2026, AACF remains committed to expanding training, deepening partnerships, and helping more individuals build rewarding careers that strengthen Maryland families and communities.

12

Training Cohorts

250+

Students enrolled

42

Apprentices in 4 occupations



5901 Old National Pike Building Renovations

In late 2025, AACF obtained access to another portion of the building on Old National Pike. The additional space will expand its Family Support Services facility to meet growing community needs. This expansion follows the relocation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) to their new facility, and AACF congratulates them on this milestone transition.

Scheduled for completion June 2026, the project includes exterior improvements and interior upgrades to create a welcoming, functional environment. The 11-hundred-foot room will serve primarily as a rental space, but also be used to support program growth and provide classroom areas as needed.

This development represents AACF's commitment to deepening its local impact. The enhanced facility will allow for expanded program offerings, a better client experience, and greater operational efficiency. By investing in this space, AACF is positioning itself to more comprehensive, culturally responsive services.

Ultimately, this milestone marks an important step forward in AACF's mission to empower individuals, support families, and build a stronger, more inclusive Frederick community.



Beyond expanding community space, the renovation creates new opportunities for sustainable revenue that will help support AACF's mission for years to come.



AACF's Family Support Services building is getting a fresh new look, creating a more welcoming and expanded space for the families we serve. Stay tuned for what's ahead!



Financial Overview

Highlights

AACF's financial picture in 2025 reflects both resilience and growth. While grant funding remains the cornerstone of AACF's operations, encouraging momentum is building across other revenue streams. Language resources income grew from \$14,831 in 2024 to \$18,567 in 2025, and donations saw a remarkable increase from \$40,109 to \$72,964, a testament to the growing generosity and trust of the community AACF serves.

These gains reflect AACF's deliberate efforts to diversify its funding base and reduce reliance on any single source of support. Looking ahead, AACF anticipates additional revenue from its newly renovated rental gathering space, an exciting development that will create a sustainable income stream while serving as a welcoming hub for the community. Despite these positive strides, the need for continued investment remains critical. Every dollar contributed to AACF directly fuels programs that empower immigrants, strengthen families, and transform lives. AACF warmly welcomes new donors, funders, and partners who share our vision of thriving, inclusive communities. Together, we can ensure that AACF's mission not only continues but grows to meet the needs of those who depend on us most.



Grant Revenue
\$4,641,483.03
Donations
\$72,964.13
Non-Grant Income
\$232,313.14

Breaking Barriers Through Language Access

In 2025, the Asian American Center of Frederick's Language Resources program continued to strengthen language access and culturally responsive communication across the community. The program served 6 active clients and supported interpretation needs in 13 repeatedly requested languages through a network of 39 active interpreters.

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\$18,567.36
Net Profit from
Interpreter Services
with 6 ACTIVE CLIENTS

The most requested languages included Spanish, American Sign Language (ASL), and French, reflecting the growing diversity and multilingual needs of the region. Key partners and clients included Frederick Surgical Center, United Way of Central Maryland, and Frederick Health Hospital (FHH), highlighting AACF's trusted role in supporting healthcare and community-based organizations. Through professional interpretation services, AACF helped bridge communication barriers and improve access to essential services for individuals and families with limited English proficiency. The continued growth of the program demonstrates AACF's commitment to equity, inclusion, and community-centered support throughout Frederick County.



Expanding Our Impact

Citizenship Integrated Services

In early 2025, AACF's Citizenship Integration Services helped ten individuals achieve U.S. citizenship through classes, application assistance, and personalized guidance. Among them were Lekan and Christianah Sofolahan of Nigeria, who credited AACF's support as instrumental in reaching this life-changing milestone. While the need for these services remains strong, funding ended in 2025, limiting AACF's ability to serve additional community members. AACF is actively seeking new support to restore this vital program and help more aspiring citizens achieve their American dream.

Co-Opportunities Accelerator

Through support from the Maryland Rural Council's Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF), the Asian American Center of Frederick (AACF) launched an initiative to explore cooperative development as a pathway to economic empowerment and community resilience.

In November 2025, AACF hosted the Co-Opportunities Accelerator kickoff event in partnership with Keystone Development Center. The event convened 14 representatives from six regional organizations, all committed to advancing the creation and sustainability of locally rooted cooperatives.

Cultural Canvas

AACF expanded inclusive community programming through the Cultural Canvas Adaptive Painting Series, in partnership with The Arc of Frederick County. Using adaptive tools and techniques, participants of all abilities were encouraged to "discover their voice through art," creating meaningful, one-of-a-kind pieces that reflected their personal stories and cultural identity. The series not only fostered creativity but also strengthened a sense of belonging and connection among participants.

ENOUGH Community Convenings

In 2025, AACF supported the Frederick County ENOUGH initiative by hosting five community convenings, including two planning and recruitment sessions and three community discussions. Conducted in six languages—English, Spanish, French, Dari, Russian, and Chin—these gatherings expanded access and ensured diverse community voices were heard and represented.

Emergency Assistance

Through support from a Community Foundation grant, AACF distributed \$30,000 in emergency assistance to eight households experiencing medical hardships. These funds helped families access essential care, medications, and critical support, strengthening resilience during times of crisis.

Problem Gambling

AACF's Problem Gambling Prevention Project reached 40 families and 20 seniors through education and outreach efforts. To increase awareness and access to support, more than 3,000 resource flyers were distributed throughout the community during regularly scheduled outreach activities.

Circle of Security (COS)

In the first half of fiscal year 2025, AACF's Circle of Security Parenting program made meaningful progress in strengthening relationships between caregivers and children. Following the completion of facilitator training, three eight-week cohorts launched successfully, serving 28 caregivers and 44 children. Meeting two hours per week, the program supports caregivers in building secure, nurturing bonds with their children and developing the confidence and skills to meet their children's emotional needs. The strong start across all three cohorts reflects the program's growing impact and the community's engagement with this vital family support service.

Parent-Child Connect (PCC)

In 2025, AACF proudly launched the Strengthening Families program following a successful planning and recruitment phase in the first quarter. Designed to foster stronger family bonds and nurture positive relationships between parents and children, the seven-week online program quickly gained traction in the community. Meeting two hours per week, the program provided parents with practical tools, meaningful conversations, and a supportive environment to help them show up more confidently for their children.

By mid-year, the program had already served 21 parents and 18 children, a strong indicator of both its accessibility and its relevance to the families AACF serves. Outreach efforts through flyers, partner organizations, and direct family communication played a key role in connecting participants to this valuable resource, ensuring that families who needed it most were able to take part.



COMBINED MID-YEAR REACH:

Total caregivers/parents served: **49**

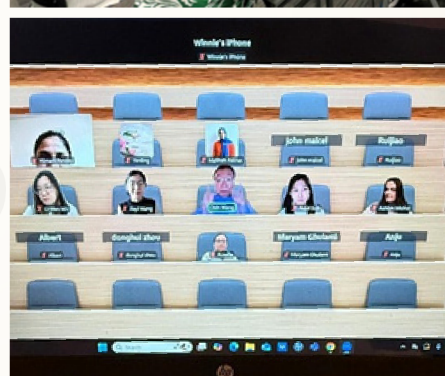
Total children served: **62**

Race to Infinity

In fall 2025, AACF piloted the Power Up Race to Infinity Math Game as an afterschool program at FSS in partnership with Christine Bond of Kids Excelling In College (KXIC). The program served 13 students in grades 2 through 6 over 12 sessions across six weeks, focusing on building math facts fluency in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. The pilot reflected AACF's commitment to providing enriching academic support that helps young students build confidence and foundational skills for long-term success.

Free Insurance Benefits

In 2025, AACF continued to administer the Kaiser Permanente Community Health Access Program (CHAP), providing free medical assistance to uninsured community members with household incomes up to 300% of the federal poverty level. The program successfully recertified a significant number of existing members and enrolled new applicants from an active waitlist, offering benefits valued at up to \$20,000. Enrollments this year were limited by the number of available openings, though demand remained high, reflecting the program's critical role in the communities AACF serves. AACF remains committed to connecting community members with this vital resource and expanding access as opportunities arise.





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