



Annual Report

July 2019 – June 2020

Chinese American Parent Association
Of Howard County



CAPA

Celebrates 5th Anniversary

Five Years of Journey of
The Howard County Chinese Immigrants

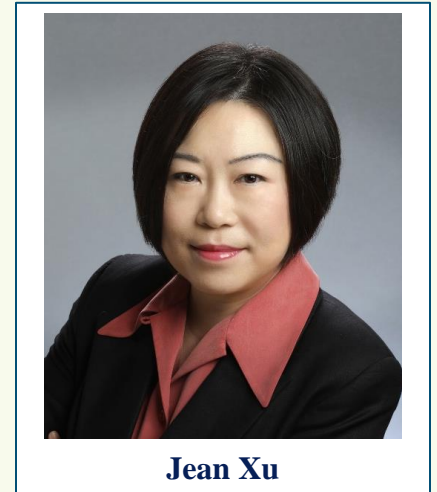
Inspiring Stories Woven Through Action
with Courage, Compassion, and Dedication

www.capa-hc.org

From the President

I am honored to have served CAPA for five years and I fulfilled my terms on June 30, 2020. FY 2019 - 2020 marks the 5th year of CAPA, a time to celebrate our milestones, achievements, and contributions. It turned out to be a year that was full of events.

First, CAPA was awarded a state grant to promote 2020 Census. We engaged hundreds of volunteers through events, workshops, and sub-grants. It marks a milestone that has CAPA transitioned from an all-volunteer organization to a professionally managed non-profit entity. Furthermore, CAPA's renowned program Achieve Success Together continued to grow, partnered with additional schools, and engaged more volunteers. In addition, with funding from the Howard County Department of Health, we initiated a new project, WE CARE and expanded our services to the seniors. We also navigated a controversial school redistricting that caught the attention of national media and became a strong and independent voice in the local community.



Just when we planned to conclude our journey of five years, the COVID-19 pandemic hit everyone nationally and locally. We immediately dived in and helped out in every possible way. We donated to the frontline medical workers and first responders and initiated food distribution effort to help the disadvantaged population. We also offered online academic instruction and virtual educational talks to assist students in need of additional learning opportunities.

We finished FY 2020 strongly by celebrating the Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in a creative way during pandemic. Our celebration demonstrated that we have a high hope, even during such a challenging time, that we will get through this together as a community by encouraging and supporting each other. Our effort was recognized and highly regarded by government agencies, elected officials, community leaders, and the media.

As a young organization, our vision has evolved in the past few years, from a network and information provider to a major influencer in our community. We believe Asian Americans, especially Asian immigrants, should be a vibrant part of the growing Howard County community. We must engage in all facets of the community, including community services, civic engagement, and the decision-making process. In that way, immigrants can fully integrate to the community and therefore have a better quality of life. This vision has tremendously resonated with our community members. In the past five years, our membership increased to nearly 3,000. We have engaged hundreds of volunteers in contributing to over 10 CAPA programs.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to our members, volunteers, and community for your trust on CAPA. It is because of you that CAPA has grown so rapidly; the amount of growth we have seen has gone completely beyond my imagination from when CAPA was first founded five years ago. I believe together we can build a stronger CAPA and a better community.

I deeply appreciate all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve you in the past five years.

Milestones

September 2015 CAPA was officially launched after a successful 2-year advocacy for a school day off on Chinese, Indian and Jewish traditional holidays. HCPSS is among the first school districts to honor Lunar New Year as a school holiday.

June 2016 Achieve Success Together was launched. It later developed into a renowned education program in Howard County, expanding CAPA's service to a diverse population. It also offers immigrants a unique opportunity to serve the larger community and thus help them to develop a sense of belonging to the community

October 2016 CAPA held its first Board of Education candidate forum. It was the first candidate forum in Howard County history that was organized by Asian immigrants and demonstrated that immigrants are civically engaged as well as promoting to the immigrant community awareness of their civic duties.

May 2017 The first Dragon Boat Festival celebration was held at Centennial Park and later became an annual joint celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month that involved a large group of Asian community organizations

June 2017 CAPA received its first grant funding from the Howard County government. This marked as the first step to collaborate with the local government.

January 2018 CAPA organized a Lunar New Year celebration in partner with the Korean community, which was the first community initiated joint LNY celebration in Howard County.

November 2018 CAPA signed a partnership agreement with HCPSS.

December 2018 CAPA was enlisted as a Combined Federal Campaign Charity.

February 2019 CAPA was certified as a President's Volunteer Service Award organization.

April 2019 CAPA received grant funding from the Maryland state government to help promote 2020 Census to the local community. CAPA was one of the three grant recipients in Howard County.

January 2020 CAPA launched its political counterpart, CAPA PAC.

February 2020 CAPA signed an agreement with Howard County Department of Health as one of the four WE CARE initiative partners.

March 2020 In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, CAPA launched a variety of online educational program including AST online tutoring, the AST virtual summer camp, and the weekly educational talk series. Multiple GoFundMe fundraising were created to support local health care frontline workers, first responders, and local restaurants.

May 2020 CAPA, in partnership with local organizations, initiated food distribution efforts to assist populations in need.

Vision

For every resident in Howard County and every family in Howard County public schools to be equally represented in the community and to have equitable access to services and resources.

Mission

To advance, empower, and unite the Chinese and other immigrants in Howard County by advocating for the underrepresented, leading in civic activities, promoting greater community engagement, and supporting integration into the larger community.



501(c)3 Entity

HCPSS Partner Organization

Combined Federal Campaign Charity

Certifying Organization of President's Volunteer Service Award

Leadership



Leadership (2019-2020)

Board of Directors

Jean Xu, Chao Wu, Hongling Zhou, Lily Zhang, Lan Deng, Tony Du,
Xinning Yang, Jodie Wang and Feng Ouyang

Executive Officers

President: Jean Xu

Vice President: Hongling Zhou and Chao Wu

Treasurer: Lily Zhang

Secretary: Lan Deng

Legal Counsel: Steve X. Chen

2020 Census Promotion

CAPA received \$50,000 from the Maryland State government to promote the 2020 Census to the local community. In collaboration with the Howard County government, local organizations, and community-based groups, we conducted presentations, showcased at local events, involved youth and children, and promoted through social media platforms. We continued our effort through the COVID-19 pandemic by conducting virtual information sessions, advertising at virtual events, and passing out promotional materials at pop-up food pantries.



CAPA Senior Member Census Information Session / Family Night at Zen Garden



Partner Organization Information Session at Howard County Library Miller Branch

2020 Census Promotion: Events and Activities

CAPA engaged over 300 volunteers who contributed thousands of hours in organizing more than 10 events and passing thousands of promotional materials. About \$10,000 was given to a variety of neighborhood, culture, or youth groups to help organize promotional events and activities.



With support by our partner organizations, CAPA had strong presence in the Annual River Hill Independence Day parade.

2020 Census Promotion: Events and Activities (Cont'd)



During the COVID-19 pandemic, we continued to reach out in different ways, including organizing on-line information sessions and combining pop-up food pantries with Census promotion events.



Run for Census: Middle and high school students running at Centennial Park

2020 Census Promotion: Partner Organizations in Action



League of Korean Americans passed out promotional materials at Korean supermarkets and posted newspaper advertisements



Training at Peiying Chinese School



Exhibits at the Diwali celebration and the Annual Korean Festival

COVID-19 Responses

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented challenges worldwide. CAPA, as an organization of immigrants, is committed to contributing in every way possible to help locally. Within two weeks of declaration of a state of emergency in Maryland, CAPA began taking action. Its heroic efforts were featured in the Baltimore Sun on July 1, 2020.

March 18 – launched a GoFundMe fundraiser to donate meals to the Howard County General Hospital staff

March 23 – launched a second GoFundMe fundraiser to support first responders.

April 9 – launched the Virtual Weekly Educational Talk series.

May 9 – Initiated food distribution effort to help the needy population.

HEROES OF THE WEEK CORONAVIRUS

A Howard County community group pulled together to raise money for police department supplies

By MIKE KLINGAMAN
BALTIMORE SUN | JUL 01, 2020 AT 5:00 AM



Jean Xu, president of Howard County Chinese American Parent Association, is pictured with samples of supplies donated to the county's police department. (Kenneth K. Lam)

In just five days with the help of a GoFundMe site, Howard County's Chinese American community raised \$11,000, delivering a trunkload of protective gear to county police officers on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic.

The act of generosity, Jean Xu said, was triggered by the department's response to concerns that Chinese Americans were the targets of racial abuse.

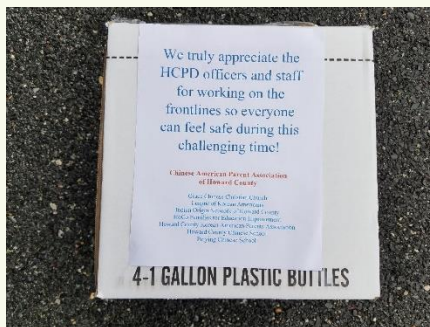
Support for Healthcare Workers

On March 18, CAPA launched a GoFundMe fundraiser and raised over \$11,000. We purchased 5 meals from local restaurants and delivered them to the 350 Howard County General Hospital staff. This event demonstrated our strong support for our frontline healthcare workers who have sacrificed their health and safety for the community.



Support for First Responders

Energized by the success of the GoFundMe initiative, CAPA launched a second fundraising campaign on March 23 and raised almost \$12,000. We purchased thousands of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as face masks, gloves, hand sanitizers, disinfection wipes for the Howard County Police Department, Howard County Department Fire and Rescue Services, Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, and Howard County Food Bank. The remaining funding is scheduled to be used to donate meals to the COVID-19 test sites staff and volunteers during the FY 2020-2021.

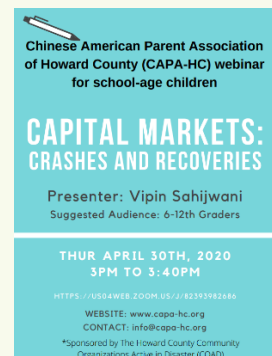


Weekly Educational Talk

At the beginning of the school closure in the spring, children were in an urgent need of education programs to help them to learn regularly and safely. In collaboration with the Howard County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD), CAPA initiated a virtual Weekly Educational Talk. We invited experts in a variety of disciplines to offer live webinars.



As of June, 2020 we have held 12 webinars and served hundreds of K-12 children and their parents. The topics included: Coronavirus, Pandemics, Magic Show, Capital Markets, Our Court System, The Magic Kingdom of 1s and 0s, Hidden Pictures, Automobile Services and Maintenance, Frog in Our Watershed, The Powerful Pollinator, Cybersecurity, and Pancake Party.



Gaining popularity from the families with school kids, we are committed to continue this program through the summer and fall in FY 2020-21.

Food Distribution

Many Howard County residents are struggling with basic needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. CAPA took the leadership to recognize the challenge and encourage our members to contribute and volunteer to help the needy population.



CAPA collaborated with Indian Origin Network to deliver thousands of tons of fresh produce to population in need

Witnessing the needs of the community first-hand, CAPA is in the process of planning collaborations with more community organizations to leverage resources and expand our services to target broader population, such as seniors. At the same time, we plan to provide teenagers a platform to serve the larger community and foster volunteerism among the youth. This initiative will continue into FY 2020-21 and future years as long as there is a need in Howard County.

Achieve Success Together (AST)

AST was founded in 2016 through the creation of the AST Enrich program, where high school students instructed younger students in subjects such as public speaking and writing. AST soon opened a second program, AST Shine, where elementary school students who are part of the FARM or ESOL programs were able to receive small group academic support at no cost. Receiving county grants and partnering with eight elementary schools, AST became a collaborative effort among CAPA, HCPSS and the county government to close opportunity gaps among disadvantaged students. Since its establishment, over 250 FARM and ESOL students have been served, with over 100 student volunteers engaging in the program.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, AST launched two new programs: AST Solo and AST Summer. AST Solo was launched after schools closed in March, offering free, virtual one-on-one tutoring for students. The program worked to provide extra support for students outside of the classroom in lieu of the lost in-person support from teachers. In June, AST launched AST Summer to offer virtual summer enrichment opportunities for students to explore new interests despite cancelled in-person activities. Financial aid was offered to the needy families in our summer program.



AST 2019-2020 Opening Ceremony at Homewood

AST



To ensure quality of the services, AST instructors were recruited and trained by an HCPSS teacher.

Class materials were created based on guidelines provided by the teacher.



High School Instructions in Session with Students

WE CARE Initiative

In partnership with the Howard County Health Department and the Department of Community Resources and Services, CAPA is designated to serve the residents living in the Park View Columbia apartment complex who have been identified as frequent and high-risk health individuals. As one of the grant recipients of the WE CARE initiative, CAPA, along with organizations representing the Korean, Persian, and Russian populations will provide classes and site visits to the Park View residents and is committed to promote healthier living to the senior citizens.



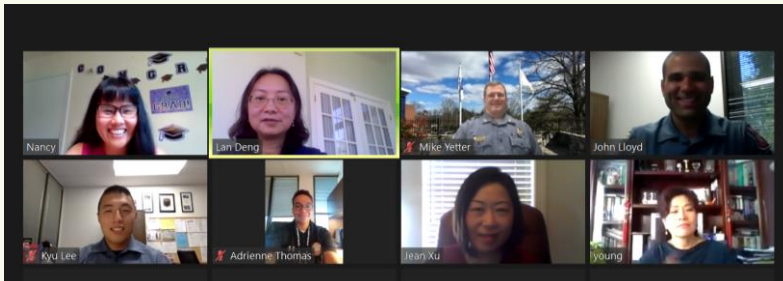
An opening ceremony was held in Park View on February 11th. Thanks to the leadership of Dr. Ball, DCRS Director Jackie Scott, and Health Officer Dr. Maura Rossman for recognizing the diverse needs of the immigrant community and taking initiative to reach out to the community organizations for a collaborative effort.



Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

The month of May is designated to recognize the contributions and influence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) to the history, culture, and achievements of these communities in the United States. The AAPI community is part of the diverse fabric of our nation. Its contributions, resilience, and compassion are especially noteworthy in this challenging time during the COVID-19 pandemic. To honor AAPI Heritage Month while also ensuring the safety of the community during the pandemic, CAPA-HC altered its traditional way of celebration to a creative virtual format which includes virtual webinars, an interactive online arts contest, and a video featuring Howard County elected officials, government agencies, HCPSS school officials, non-profit organizations, and community leaders recognizing the contribution of the local AAPI community.

Webinars



To address the concerns of increasing report of hate crimes targeting Asians during the pandemic, CAPA invited the Howard County Police Department to present an information session.

The Howard County Office of Human Rights conducted a special presentation on how the Office of Human Rights protects and educates its citizens around discriminator/hate based realities.

LEARNING INTO OUR HUMANITY

FEATURING:
Trent Hall, Howard County Office of Human Rights

During this time of uncertainty, hardship, and confusion, people may often find themselves in situations where it is obvious that our humanity or the humanity of others is not being honored. Join the Office of Human Rights as we honor the Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month and aim to explore the true essence of humanity.

This presentation will focus on providing culturally relevant data, tangible ways to humanize and combat "bystander effect", and information on how the Office of Human Rights protects and educates its citizens around discriminator/hate based realities.



Meeting Info:
<https://howardcountymd.webex.com/howardcountymd.php?MTID=mf25af6e298840d4b2cf0f6d50959>

Meeting number: 160 714 1939. Password: CAPAHC

ALL AGES EVENT

WHEN
Tuesday,
June 2, 2020
4 pm – 5:30 pm

SPONSORS
The Howard County Office of Human Rights
The Chinese American Parent Association of Howard County (CAPA-HC)



Virtual AAPI Month Celebration

Representative of

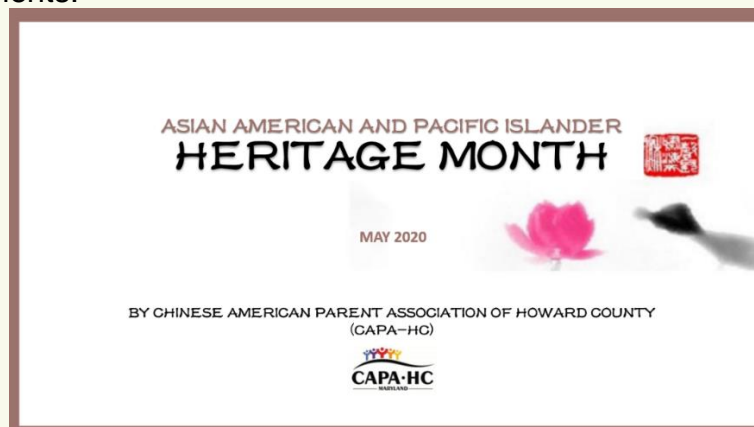
Governor Larry Hogan

As director of the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs and the Governor's Commission on South Asian American Affairs in Maryland, I would like to sincerely appreciate the Chinese American Parent Association of Howard County. Your dedication to mitigating the effects of COVID-19 in Howard County has saved lives. Your generous donation has benefited medical professionals and first responders on the frontlines.

This year, proclaiming May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, Governor Larry Hogan recognizes the great diversity and contribution brought by Asian American communities to Maryland at this difficult time in particular. He is proud of community organizations like CAPA-HC which has played an instrumental role in making our state stronger.



To celebrate AAPI Heritage Month, CAPA created a video featuring CAPA's president Jean Xu and other community leaders, including the President of Indian Origin Network Pravin Ponurri, the President of League of Korean American Young Smith, and the President of Korean American Parent Association Seon Ok Lee, who spoke to the AAPI community to honor our achievements.



Governor Larry Hogan, Howard County Executive Calvin Ball, Maryland State Senator Katie Fry Hester, Senator Clarence Lam, Delegate Courtney Watson, Delegate Jessica Feldmark, HCPSS Board of Education Member Dr. Chao Wu, Howard County Police Department Chief Lisa Myers, Health Officer of Howard County Health Department Dr. Maura Rossman, Vice President of Development of Howard County General Hospital Jennifer Smith, Howard County Food Bank Resource Development Assistant Ashley Groves, Howard County Library System President & CEO Tonya Aikens, Office of Human Rights Administrator Yolanda Sonnier, and HCPSS Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Dr. Kevin Gilbert acknowledged the contributions of the local AAPI community especially the donation and volunteering during the pandemic.

AAPI Virtual Contest

To promote AAPI awareness and engage families, we organized weekly contests on five themes: culture, community, celebration, myths and legends, and civic duty. Weekly and overall winners were selected by audience. We received over 50 entries in the format of Essay, Video and Visual Arts, over a thousand votes by audience and about \$2,000 were awarded to the winners. We promoted the 2020 Census awareness simultaneously with the contest



CAPA-HC
AAPI MONTH
CONTEST

- New themes weekly
➤ Video ➤ Essay ➤ Art
- Everyone of all ages is welcome
- More instructions in the QR code or at capa-hc.org/aapicontest
- Weekly Prize: \$20 Amazon Gift card
- Overall Prize: \$30-\$800



June 1st - June 7th
Theme

MYTHS & LEGENDS



HAVE YOU
FILLED OUT THE
CENSUS YET?
my2020census.gov

Sponsored by the MD 2020 Census Grant

e: capahc.aapi@gmail.com
w: capa-hc.org



CAPA-HC
AAPI MONTH
CONTEST

- New themes weekly
➤ Video ➤ Essay ➤ Art
- Everyone of all ages are welcome
- More instructions in the QR code or at capa-hc.org/aapicontest
- Weekly Prize: \$20 Amazon Gift card
- Overall Prize: \$30-\$800



May 18th - May 24th
Theme

COMMUNITY



HAVE YOU
FILLED OUT THE
CENSUS YET?
my2020census.gov

Sponsored by the MD 2020 Census Grant

e: capahc.aapi@gmail.com
w: capa-hc.org

Annual Tour to the State House and Meet the Legislators

To encourage children to learn about and be engaged in the democratic process and civic activities, CAPA developed this annual event three years ago. Senator Katie Fry Hester hosted our event this year with 15 elementary and middle school students and their parents joining the tour. The group was invited to the balcony of the Senate and Delegate Chambers to observe how legislators work. CAPA is honored to be recognized in the session. The young children enjoyed the guided tour in the state house and the fun talk with Senator Hester and her staff members. Participants had an opportunity to learn about Maryland history and the legislation process.



Horizon Foundation Mental Health Community Engagement Grant



The primary objectives of this project are to promote mental health awareness among Chinese Americans in Howard County, to encourage communication between parents and children, to reduce stigma, and to encourage parents and youths to seek professional help when needed.

We shared foundation-supplied mental health awareness materials with community members monthly in both English and Chinese via the member email list, our Facebook page, and WeChat groups. We encouraged members to attend the suicide prevention training QPR provided Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center. We also helped to promote the Foundation's events, such as 2020 Mental Health Film Festival.

Lunar New Year Celebration

Collaborating with the county government, county executive and community organizations, CAPA co-organized the Lunar New Year celebration at the Columbia Mall.



In partner with Dayton Oaks Elementary School Chinese families, CAPA brought a day of celebration to the children at DOES. Superintendent Dr. Michael Martirano joint the celebration.



Assateague Island Camping

An annual camping trip at Assateague Island became CAPA's tradition as a social bonding event. Families enjoy a Labor Day weekend with other CAPA members participating in fun beach activities. This year, we added a new element, trash collection, to educate the young people about our duty to protect the environment as responsible citizens.



Advocacy

CAPA testified in front of HCPSS Board of Education in the following public hearings.

- HCPSS Superintendent's Proposed Attendance Area Adjustment
- HCPSS Operating Budget FY 2020-2021

CAPA submitted written testimony to the Howard County Council on

- CB1-2020

Committees, Commissions and Boards

CAPA promotes equal representation and encourages its members to participate in decision making process on local issues. CAPA members served on the following committees, commissions and boards either representing CAPA or as individuals.

As a CAPA representative:

- HCPSS Operating Budget Review Committee
- HCPSS Academic Calendar Committee
- HCPSS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

As an individual citizens:

- HCPSS Textbook Advisory Committee
- PTA Council of Howard County
- HCPSS Community Advisory Council
- Howard County Ethics Commission
- Howard County Human Rights Commission
- Howard County Alcoholic Beverage Commission
- HCPSS Recovery Plan Committee
- Howard County Police Department Citizen Advisory Committee
- YMCA Community Leadership Board



**CHINESE AMERICAN
PARENT ASSOCIATION OF
HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND**

**www.capa-hc.org
info@capa-hc.org**