



C O U N C I L O F A S I A N P A C I F I C A M E R I C A N S

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For Immediate Release

Contact:

Jen Hilzinger
248.649.4310

CAPA announces its latest program to aid those most effected by the recent natural disasters. This is a great example of what The Starfish Program – Helping families one by one is designed to do.

As CAPA reflected upon these recent natural disasters and how we might be able to best reach those in need, one thing was clear. We wanted to use our gifts and unique perspective to reach out to those who just may fall through the cracks in the clean up and financial assistance phase of the humongous task of rebuilding lives. At CAPA we represent most of the countries that comprise Asia. Many of us have very strong ties within the Asian American ethnic communities throughout the US.

We asked, “How have these disasters effected the first or second generation Asian Americans in the region?” The answer became clear within a very short period of time.

One of the most highly impacted Asian Pacific American communities in the gulf coast region is the Vietnamese American community. A community of over 25,000 first and second generation immigrants, largely displaced to the US originally through the ravages of the Vietnam war, this tight-knit and vibrant largely fishing & shrimping community in Louisiana is now all but wiped out in what is now being called the greatest natural disaster in American history. To compound this community’s history peppered with tragedy is that they were for a time the favorite targets by the KKK in Louisiana, in unprecedented violent racist rampages that lasted throughout most of the early 1980’s.

This working-class Vietnamese American community, like many immigrant communities in the US, is very close and has a history of helping one another in times of crisis. Also like many other first generation Asian communities, language and cultural barriers often have impeded this community from garnering the information and support they might need to reach out for help in times like this.

CAPA wants to cut through these barriers and improve the lives of these families and help to rebuild this community one family at a time.

At this time, we have sponsored a relocated Vietnamese American family for a time until they are able to re-build and we are currently awaiting another group relocating to Michigan from Louisiana.

We are doing what we can do best, not promising a million dollars in relief, but reaching through language and cultural barriers and assisting families one by one. This is one example of how our new endeavor, The Starfish Program – Helping families one by one is designed to help.

Please visit our website to learn more about this project and to join us in our efforts by making a generous donation. www.capa-mi.org

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P.O. Box 196 Farmington, MI 48332
Phone/Fax: (248) 816.6780 Email: info@capa-mi.org
www.capa-mi.org

CAPA unites Asian Pacific Americans and the community at large.