For over 35 years of working on behalf of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) elders, NAPCA is more committed than ever to promoting their dignity, well-being, and quality of life.

What motivates us? Respect. Honor. Love. We want to ensure that AAPI elders have the programs and services they need wherever they live in the U.S. That’s why we’re building the capacity of mainstream service providers to be culturally competent and linguistically appropriate. And that’s why we’re adamant that the input of our elders are taken into account in all decisions that affect them.

There are over 25 AAPI ethnicities that speak over 50 languages. As diverse as we are as AAPIs, the common thread that ties us together is our families. Our parents, and grandparents before them, have instilled the value of family above all things, and that’s what makes our AAPI elders so special.

Over the generations, AAPI families who have immigrated to the U.S. have given us gifts from their host cultures, including language, cuisines, arts, religion, talents, customs, music, and courtesies. As a result, our lives are richer because of the elders who have come before us.
Fostering Employment Training Assistance

Since 1989, NAPCA has fostered economic security among AAPI older workers through the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). SCSEP assists low-income unemployed adults aged 55 years and older by providing job training through temporary paid work experiences that lead to unsubsidized employment.

In fiscal year 2015, NAPCA SCSEP served 1,150 participants through 10 project sites nationwide. We partnered with over 420 nonprofit organizations that contributed over $1.3 million of in-kind support back into their communities. Approximately 668,000 hours of community services were provided by NAPCA SCSEP participants at a value of over $15 million.

93 percent of SCSEP participants are below the poverty guideline
83 percent have limited English proficiency
55 percent female, 45 percent male
32 percent are 65 years old and older
32 percent do not have a high school diploma

Mr. Steve Kang, who emigrated from South Korea more than 20 years ago, was laid off in 2008. Through NAPCA SCSEP, his community service assignment was in kitchen aid and food service. Through his training, he became skilled in food preparation and customer service. Subsequently, Mr. Kang was hired by a senior center as a kitchen supervisor.

“For three years, I could not find a job because I was getting old and had limited work experiences in the U.S.,” said Mr. Kang. “NAPCA SCSEP provided me with a good training plan and led me to a new employment goal. The most important feeling of my life now is that I can still serve the community well. Without NAPCA SCSEP, I do not believe this would have happened in my life. I received a second chance.”
Older workers are improving the environment in areas such as air, water, pollutants, pesticides, radiation, and asbestos through NAPCA’s management of the Senior Environmental Employment (SEE) Program. Our management of the Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services (ACES) Program gives adults age 55 and over opportunities to assure food safety and to promote forestry and agricultural production.

SEE and ACES enrollees bring their varied and extensive experiences, strong work ethic, and interpersonal and managerial skills that have been honed over years, into an intergenerational workplace focused on protecting human health and the environment, and protecting our nation’s natural resources.

Our federal partners tell us that they appreciate the expertise and skills of our SEE and ACES older workers, as well as their opinions, wisdom, and practicality. And our enrollees enjoy finding solutions for environmental challenges, the social and technical interactions, and the opportunities for learning and contributing.

Our SEE enrollees work in various positions of administrative support and records and database management. They are also technicians, research assistants, writers, editors, researchers, scientists, inspectors, and program assistants. Enrollees in the ACES program serve as conservation planners, easement specialists, foresters, ecologists, and biology and engineering technicians.

SEE enrollees in 12 states have contributed over 765,000 hours of protecting the environment.

ACES enrollees in nine states have given over 17,000 hours of protecting our natural resources.
Mr. Phan*, a former Vietnamese refugee who emigrated in 1979, lives in Indiana and has been assisted by NAPCA’s Helpline for several years. In April 2015, he learned that two of his medications would not be covered by his prescription drug plan. Without coverage, Mr. Phan would have to pay $2,444 to continue receiving these medications through the end of the year. After contacting the Helpline, he successfully switched plans, giving him access to complete coverage of his medications with no premiums. As a result, Mr. Phan saved $2,378 in his 2015 prescription costs.

* Name changed to protect caller’s identity.

Cumulatively, the Helpline saved callers an estimated total of $505,284 on 2015 prescription drug costs during the 2014 open enrollment period.

Individual savings on prescription drug plan costs through the Helpline’s assistance during the annual open enrollment period has grown exponentially, averaging $838 per person in 2012 and rising to $4,282 per person in 2015.

NAPCA’s Helpline is an invaluable resource for low-income AAPI older adults, many of whom are immigrants with limited English proficiency. The Helpline fosters health promotion and economic security by helping AAPI older adults access senior benefits such as Medicare Part D and low-income subsidies, often resulting in a reduction in their healthcare costs.

Health Promotion and Education

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Giving

NAPCA’s culturally appropriate and specialized programs are as important today as when we were founded over 35 years ago. The cultural, economic, and linguistic barriers faced by AAPI seniors are overwhelming and often prevent access to resources for which many are qualified and eligible to receive. Please join us in working toward a more secure and vibrant future for all AAPI seniors by supporting NAPCA in our mission to preserve and promote the dignity, well-being, and quality life of AAPIs as they age. Donate online today at www.napca.org/giving.