

Press Release

New Comprehensive Study of Asian American Giving Circles Released

Arlington, Virginia, December 2, 2008 – Asian American Giving announces the publication of a new research paper studying eleven prominent Asian American giving circles across the United States. The popularity of giving circles in the past 10 years has spawned a small but growing number of Asian American giving circles. Groups of Asian Americans, typically highly educated, urban young professionals, pool their funds together and collectively decide to give back to community organizations benefiting Asian American community organizations in cities across the United States. While Asian American giving circles are relatively small and give modest grants, what they do give is highly appreciated by Asian American communities. Other studies on giving circles have been completed, but this is the first research study exclusively on Asian American giving circles and their leaders and participants.

The paper, **Asian American Giving Circles: Building Bridges Between Philanthropy and Our Communities** was presented at the 37th Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) Conference this November in Philadelphia by Andrew Ho of the Council on Foundations.

The research paper shows that these Asian American giving circles enjoyed enthusiastic responses from community organizations. They also faced many common challenges, including volunteers' lack of time to devote to building the giving circle, leadership succession, attracting members not already familiar with philanthropy, and educating members about philanthropy. Asian American giving circles, as a vehicle for philanthropy, are effective for bridging philanthropy to the community. The potential for increased Asian American philanthropy is clear from demographic trends, but tapping into this potential remains elusive. More research is needed to further the knowledge of Asian American philanthropy in all its forms, in order to build a greater body of knowledge to benefit the philanthropic sector.

To download the full paper or to post your comments on the paper, please visit www.asianamericangiving.com/asian-american-giving-circles-study.html. For additional information on the study, contact Andrew Ho at andy@asianamericangiving.com or 703-879-0743.

Asian American Giving serves as the link between Asian American donors, leaders, and the non-profit community. We promote stories of individuals engaged in philanthropy, draw attention to the issues in our community, and highlight trends and patterns in charitable giving. We aspire to be the ultimate source for Asian American philanthropy.

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