

COMPASSION IN ACTION

Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team celebrates 10 years of service in Orange County

WESTMINSTER, CA—The Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team, Southern California's largest provider of HIV/AIDS services to Asian and Pacific Islanders, celebrated its 10-year anniversary serving Orange County. . APAIT-OC acknowledged the need for culturally-sensitive programs, especially in the area of health for Asian and Pacific Islanders (API). APIs is a growing community in greater Orange County.

It would be incorrect to say APAIT-OC works alone. It is with the assistance of others that make services possible. For this reason, APAIT-OC recognized various individuals and organizations for their commitment.

Chuck Dewitt, REACH Program Community Health Assistant, was one of the honorees at the APAIT-OC's 10-Year Anniversary Luncheon in Westminster. He received the "Unsung Hero Award" for his contribution to the agency's HIV Testing program. Kieu Chinh, a

legendary Vietnamese American actress, presented the award to Mr. Dewitt.

"Chuck's dedication to the HIV/AIDS community continues to be an inspiration to our work. His dedication to our work has been integral to the life of our HIV Testing and outreach programs," said Elizabeth Mediano, Manager of APAIT-OC.

Also honored at the luncheon were The Center Orange County, an organization serving the lesbian, gay, transgender, and bisexual community received the "Community Service Award." Mary Anne Foo, Executive Director of the Orange County Asian Pacific Islander Community Alliance, presented the award to The Center Orange County.

APAIT-OC also recognized "Viet Bao," a Vietnamese newspaper, for covering the Banyan Tree Project, a five-year HIV anti-stigma campaign funded by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Quyen Tran, Viet Bao's General Manager, accepted the "Banyan Tree Project Media Award" on behalf of Viet Bao. The award was presented by Mayor Margie Rice of Westminster, CA.

Asian and Pacific Islanders (A&PI) make up about 16% of the total population in Orange County. Yet out of that 16%, 6% of those individuals contributed to the total number of AIDS cases in 2007.

A&PI accounted for 6% of 2007 AIDS cases, representing a 200% increase compared to the proportion of cases among A&PI prior to 2003.

APAIT positively affects the quality of life for Asian and Pacific Islanders living with or at-risk for HIV/AIDS by providing a continuum of prevention, health and social services, community leadership and advocacy to the Southern California region. For more information, call 714-636-1349 or apaitoc@apaitonline.org. ■

Family Appointment with Yahweh El Shaddai

EVERYONE is invited to join a family appointment with Yahweh El Shaddai, the God who is more than enough where Jesus Christ is Lord, on the first, second and third Saturdays of the month from 6:30pm-9pm at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in 2020 East San Antonio Street, San Jose CA 95116.

For more information, please contact Ann Pascua at (408) 987-9610. ■

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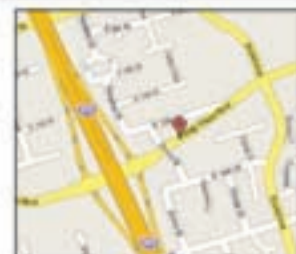
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