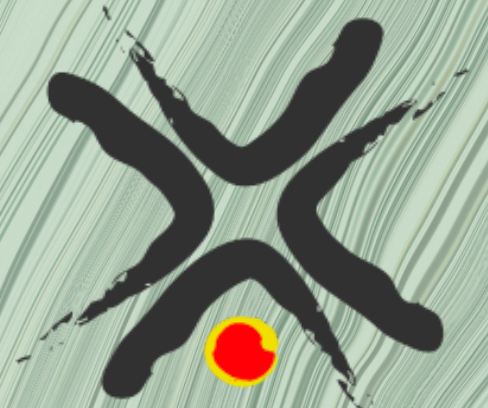




**Asian Community
& Cultural Center**

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

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Fatma Alnedawi

Dear Friends,

In 2025, the Asian Community & Cultural Center marked 33 years of service to Lincoln's newest neighbors, continuing our mission to embrace and empower immigrants and refugees on a path to success. Despite a year of significant challenges for organizations like ours across the country, the Asian Center remains rooted in the work of our community.

Thanks to the generosity of partners like you, we were able to serve 1,817 clients representing 42 ethnicities. Together, our dedicated staff and volunteers provided more than 34,000 hours of support—helping newcomers build stability, skills, and a sense of belonging in our community.

Beyond direct services, over 5,300 Lincolniters participated in our cultural events, strengthening connections and celebrating the vibrant diversity of our city.

I am deeply grateful for your partnership in this welcoming work.

Sincerely,



Sheila Dorsey Vinton

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO



Mission

The Asian Community & Cultural Center supports and empowers all refugees and immigrants through programs and services, and advances the sharing of Asian cultures and other cultural heritages of our clients with the community at large.

WHO WE ARE

STAFF

Alina Pestushko
 Almas Khan
 Amal Al-Gharib
 Brisa Rios
 Dewan Rashid
 Donna Reed
 Esmatullah Sahak
 Hajar Kero
 Hsa Eh K'lu Soe
 Hser Moo Paw
 Htoo Say
 Jenn Worley
 Jenny Phoon Chan-Ng
 Joy Oyebefun
 Jueyezi (Rebecca) Reinhardt
 Kevin John Cheek
 Khamisa Abdalla
 Lanetta L Edison-Soe
 Linh Bui
 Lisa Guill
 Lwe Ku Say
 Meena Shams
 MJ - Mohammed Jabbar
 Mushtaq Aldhafer
 Natalie Wiebelhaus
 Nico Le
 Nyabuoy Chan
 Ommohal Koko
 Roel Navarrete
 Sabrina Salrin
 Sadaqat Abdulrahimzai
 Samia Ahmed Abdel Mawla
 Sheila Dorsey Vinton
 Thu Le
 Thuy Ho
 Xinxin Li
 Yuliia Rabets

37 STAFF MEMBERS

**188 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
WITH THE ASIAN CENTER**

23 LANGUAGES SPOKEN

15 ETHNICITIES REPRESENTED

118 VOLUNTEERS



CERTIFIED WELCOMING

In 2025, Lincoln was designated a 4-Star Certified Welcoming community by Welcoming America. This honor set us apart as one of only two communities in the nation to earn the coveted Certified Welcoming designation at a four-star level. What an outstanding achievement!

The Asian Center is proud to have been a major contributor to this community effort, which involved hundreds of individuals, and dozens of nonprofit, city, and county partners.



HIGHLIGHTS



**1,817 total clients served,
representing 42 ethnicities**

761 new clients

**Over 34,000 hours spent
supporting, teaching,
and empowering
New Americans**

**5,300+ Lincolmites attended
cultural events**



AREAS OF FOCUS

Health Education & Advocacy Youth

Mental Health Essential Resources

Cultural Events **Driving Classes Elders**

Women Domestic Violence Support

Citizenship Classes Cultural Education



RESILIENCE AND CALLING: POEPOE'S JOURNEY



PoePoe's story begins long before she ever called Asian Center home. As a young girl, she and her family fled violence in Burma, crossing into Thailand in search of safety. In those early days, before refugee camps were even established, survival meant sleeping under trees and waiting, uncertain of what would come next. Her family, led by a father deeply committed to caring for others, held tightly to hope even in the most unstable conditions.

Growing up in a large family, PoePoe learned resilience early. Life in the refugee camps brought both hardship and community, shaping her understanding of what it means to rely on one another. Even as a child, she witnessed the strength of people navigating loss, displacement, and the long road toward rebuilding their lives.

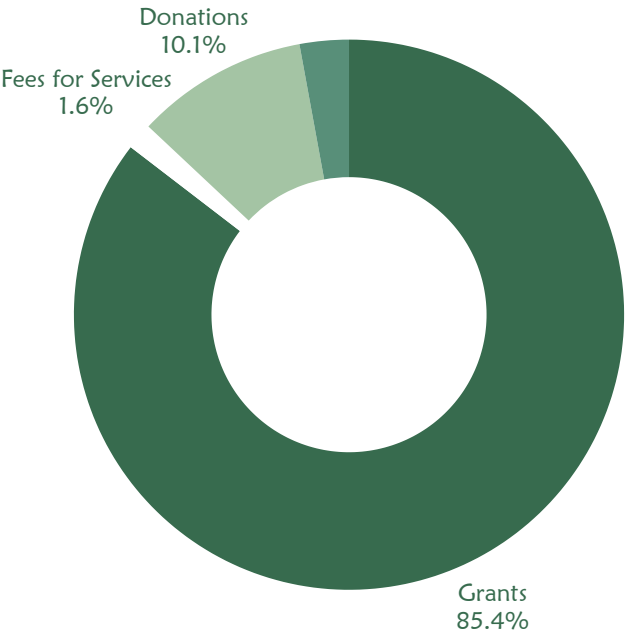
Eventually, her journey brought her to the United States, where new challenges emerged - language barriers, cultural adjustment, and the pressure of forging a new path while honoring the past. Through each transition, PoePoe carried forward the values instilled in her early years: compassion, perseverance, and a deep desire to serve others.

Today, her story is still unfolding. It is a journey marked not only by survival, but by purpose. Her story continues to impact the lives of others in ways that reflect where she began, and hint at something even more powerful still to come.



For the full story visit lincolnasiancenter.org/stories/poepoe

FINANCIALS

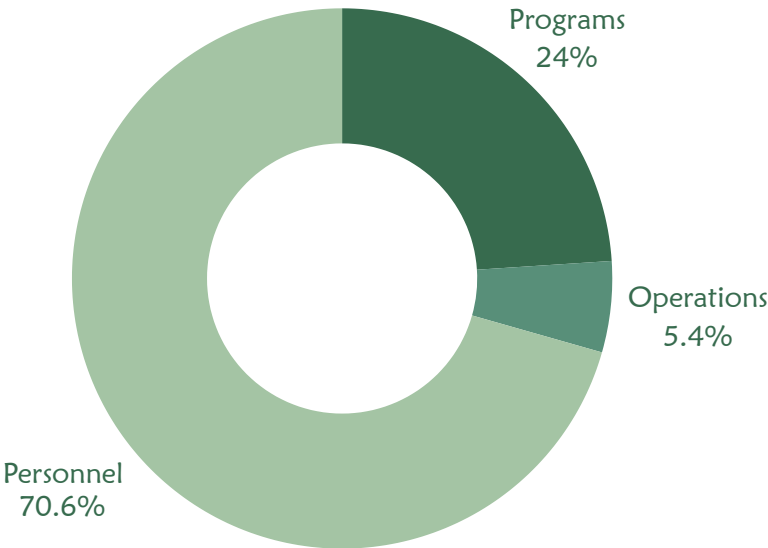


TOTAL INCOME
\$2,053,954.66

Grants: \$1,754,406.02
Fundraising & Donations: \$207,876.39
Fees for services: \$32,389.56
Other income: \$59,282.69

TOTAL EXPENSES
\$1,994,972.86

Personnel: \$1,408,322.04
Programs: \$478,045.71
Operations: \$108,605.11



2025 PARTNERS

Huge thanks to the 103 funders and collaborators who supported and grew the Asian Center's work in 2025!

FUNDERS

Abel Foundation/ NEBCO | Acklie Foundation | Asian Americans Advancing Justice | City of Lincoln: Aging Partners | City of Lincoln: Transportation & Utilities | Community Health Endowment | Cooper Foundation | Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services | ECHO Collective | Humanities Nebraska | Lancaster County Human Services | Lancaster County Joint Budget Committee | Legal Aid of Nebraska | Lincoln Arts Council | Lincoln Community Foundation | Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department | Lozier Foundation | MENTOR Nebraska | Nebraska Arts Council | Nebraska Blue | Nebraska Crime Commission | Nebraska Presbyterian | Nebraska Table | Nebraska Wesleyan University | Nebraska Office of Refugee Resettlement | Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) - Federal | Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln | ProLiteracy | Region V Systems | Sherwood Foundation | United Way of Lincoln/Lancaster County | United Way of Lincoln/Lancaster County: Women in Philanthropy Group | Voices of Hope | Woods Charitable Fund | World Education Services

COLLABORATORS

American Civil Liberties Union | BikeLNK | Bluestem Health | Boys and Girls Club Lincoln/Lancaster County | BraveBe | Bryan Health | CareerLadder | Catholic Social Services | CEDARS Youth Services | Center for Legal Immigration Assistance | Center for Immigrant & Refugee Advancement | Center for People | CenterPointe | City of Lincoln/Aging Partners | Civic Nebraska | Community Health Endowment | Cultural Centers of Lincoln Collaborative | Department of Health & Human Service | Dialysis Center of Lincoln | ECHO Collective | Educare | El Centro de las Américas | Family Service Lincoln/Community Crops | Food Bank for the Heartland | Friendship Force | Friendship Home | Good Neighbor Community Center | Healthy Partner Initiative | Indian Center, Inc. | International Quilt Museum | Juvenile Justice Institute | Juvenile Probation | League of Women Voters | Legal Aid of Nebraska | Lincoln City Libraries | Lincoln Commission on Human Rights | Lincoln Hygiene Network | Lincoln International Football Club | Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department | Lincoln Lancaster County Welcoming Plan | Lincoln Literacy | Lincoln Public Schools | Lutheran Family Services | LUX Center for the Arts | Malone Center | MENTOR Nebraska | Milkworks | MyCity Academy | Nebraska Appleseed | Nebraska Children & Families Foundation | Nebraska Table | Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence | NeighborWorks Lincoln | New Americans Task Force | Ponca Tribe of Nebraska | Salvation Army | Sheldon Museum of Art | Southeast Community College: Adult Education | University of Nebraska Lincoln: Diversity and Inclusion; Global Integrative Studies; Modern Languages & Literatures; Nebraska Extension; Public Policy Center | Voices of Hope | Wellbeing Initiative | World Education Services | YWCA

2025 DONORS

Kind Neighbor Society

The Kind Neighbor Society was founded in 2021. Kind Neighbor supporters enable the Asian Center to strategically meet emerging needs and expand our capacity.

Gratitude to our 2025 Kind Neighbor Society donors for your generous support!

227 Kind Neighbor Society Donors in 2025

Compassionate Neighbors \$3000+

Duncan Aviation Family Trust | Angie Muhleisen* | Amy Williams | Yvonne N Norton-Leung & Kam Ching Leung* | Marilyn Cintani* | Abel Foundation/ NEBCO | Duncan Aviation | Eagle Printing & Sign | First Interstate Bank | Union Bank & Trust* | Heartland Optical | Nelnet | Kissel, Kohout ES Associates | ALLO Fiber* | Bryan Medical Center* | LLCHD Tobacco Free Lancaster County

Gracious Neighbors \$1000-\$2999

Ameritas* | Anonymous | Beth Rawlings | Bluestem Health | Brent Korte | China Buffet | Claire Baker* | Daizaburo Shizuka and Alice Kang* | Deni & Mike Lautenschlager | Dorothy Wycoff | Eastridge Presbyterian Church | Eleanor Creative | INSPRO/Marsh & McLennan Agency LLC | Jennifer & Brian Cintani* | Jim Stuart | Joseph Ruthven | Lincoln Electric System* | Liz Lange Consulting | Mapes Industries | Michele Wu | Montooth-Meiklejohn Family* | Partners for Insightful Evaluation | Pinnacle Bank | Ricarda Scully | Sampson Construction Co., Inc. | Savor Restaurant LLC | Sinclair Hille Architects | Warhorse Gaming Lincoln

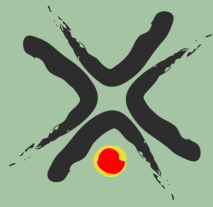
Caring Neighbors \$500-\$999

Bennie Shobe & Kate Heltzel* | Cait Naberhaus* | Connie & Todd Duncan* | David Quade | David Spinar & Anne Perlman | Harvey Perlman | Ingrid Kirst & Jeff Epler* | ISoft Data Systems* | Janell Walther & Bryan Seck | Joe Billesbach | John Robbins | Kayla Abel | Lisa & Russ Guill* | Liz Shotkoski | Mark & Kylie Hatten | Marti Lee* | Michael Wunder* | Nan & Lew Kaye-Skinner* | Rosemary & Fred Ohles* | Stephanie Kersten-Rivera & Roy Rivera | Tracy Bohaboj | Umeda Islamova

Kind Neighbors \$100-\$499

Abi & Adam Henke | Adelle Burk | Allison Goering | Amanda Schaefer | Amy Swoboda | Anne Davis | Alynne & William Sampson | April Bayer | Arpi Siyahian & Bedross Der Matossian* | Art & Carol Thompson* | Art Wilson Coaching | Arthur and Chris Zygielbaum* | Assurity Life Foundation* | Barb Johnson Frank & Al Frank* | Barbara Baier & Lin Quenzer | Betsy Chambers | Brian Wilson | Brittany Planos | Brown Immigration Law* | Bruce & Elizabeth Bavitz | Casa Property Management | Casey Conrad | Cassie Price | Catherine Ward | César García | Charles & Barbara Francis* | Chi Bui | Christina Grosshans | Christine Weeks | Christopher & Kathy Kovach | Claude & Karen Berreckman* | Creighton Intercultural Center | D'Arcy & Jim Blosser | David Hansen* | Deanna Sincovec | Deb Higuchi* | Denise Wiemer* | Diane Wiebelhaus | Dillon Sadofsky & Heather St Clair | Don't Panic Labs | Dustin Oltman* | Emeka & Brandy Anyanwu | Emily Moore | Emily Willett | Eric & Mackenzie Savaiano | Frances O'Leary | Gary Riggs | Gerise Herndon* | Giving Realty | Halley Kruse* | Heather Hallen-Adams | Heidi O'Connor | Here For the Food LLC | Jackie Allen | Jacqueline Kehl* | Jake Kirkland | James ByBee | Jamie Snell | Janet Chung & Pat Raybould* | Janet Hayes | Jason Otto | Jason Varga | Jenny Chan-Ng & Choo Ng | Jessica Anderson | Jess & Nate Howland | Jim & Georgianne Mastera* | Joanna Stahl | JoAnne Hranac* | Jodie Gomez | Joel & Monique Ruiz | John & Jana Hughes | Johnny & Maegan Pitts | Josh Karges | Dr. Karla Lester | Kathleen Wingard | Kathleen Rutledge | Katie Dolan | Katie Zulkoski | Kelli Bacon | Kevin Wailes & Boots Primavera-Wailes | Kristen Windle | Kristina Faimon | Laura Suhr | Laurel Erickson | Lauren Pugliese | Leah Droge | Leirion Gaylor Baird & Scott Baird | Lincoln Community Foundation | Linda Guill | Linda Nguyen | Lindsey & Joshua Hruby | Lindy & Jerry Jameson | Lisa & Mitchell Lee | Lisa Davis* | Lois & Don Baldwin | Lori and Bryan Seibel | Maggie Dunlap | Marcee Metzger* | Margaret Davis | Marjorie & Matt Bruck | Mary Hoppe | Mary Pedersen* | Matt & Sunny Karges | Matthew Hansen | Maureen Brase-Houchin | Megan Bollish | Megan McGuffey | Michelle Dorsey & Aaron Gatzemeyer | Michelle Paulk | Michelle Hassler | Nancy Heiser | Narin Ehrisman | Nelle Jamison | Nicholas Mizeur | Pamela Hunzeker | Pamela Murphy | Pat Kurtenbach | Patricia Hawk* | Paula Christensen | Peggy & Kent Aphrope* | Rachel Hayes | Rachel Garver | Rebecca & Seth Perrett | Rebecca Showalter | Rev. Dr. Melodie Jones Pointon | Riggs & Associates* | Rita & Lee Thompson* | Rust Consulting Inc. | Ryan & Molly Wieber | Erin & Ryan Dobesh | Sally Mason | Samantha Bergman | Samuel Lewis-Monkman | Sarah & Chris Dyer | Sarah Cada | Kelen-Bloom Family | Sarah Howell | Sarah Mccurley | Sean Flowerday & Kate Bolz | Slim Chickens | Stefanie Spirk | Stefanie & Mark Geist | Sung Shin | Susan Ugai* | Susan Wortmann* | Susan Barnason | Susan Anderson | Susan Wilkinson | Tanessa Kubat | Teng Zhang | Thomas Green | Thomas Dummermuth | Thuy Ho | Todd & Dianne Karges | Tom Randa | Tran Teri* | Vine Congressional Church | Wendy Hou & Chunlan Yu | Whitney & Andy Fritzinger | Women's Foundation of Lincoln and Lancaster County | Zachary Wells

**indicates founding member of Kind Neighbor Society*



ASIAN COMMUNITY & CULTURAL CENTER

Supporting and empowering all immigrants and
refugees. Celebrating Lincoln's rich cultural diversity.



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newcomers
in Lincoln?



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