

Close Up

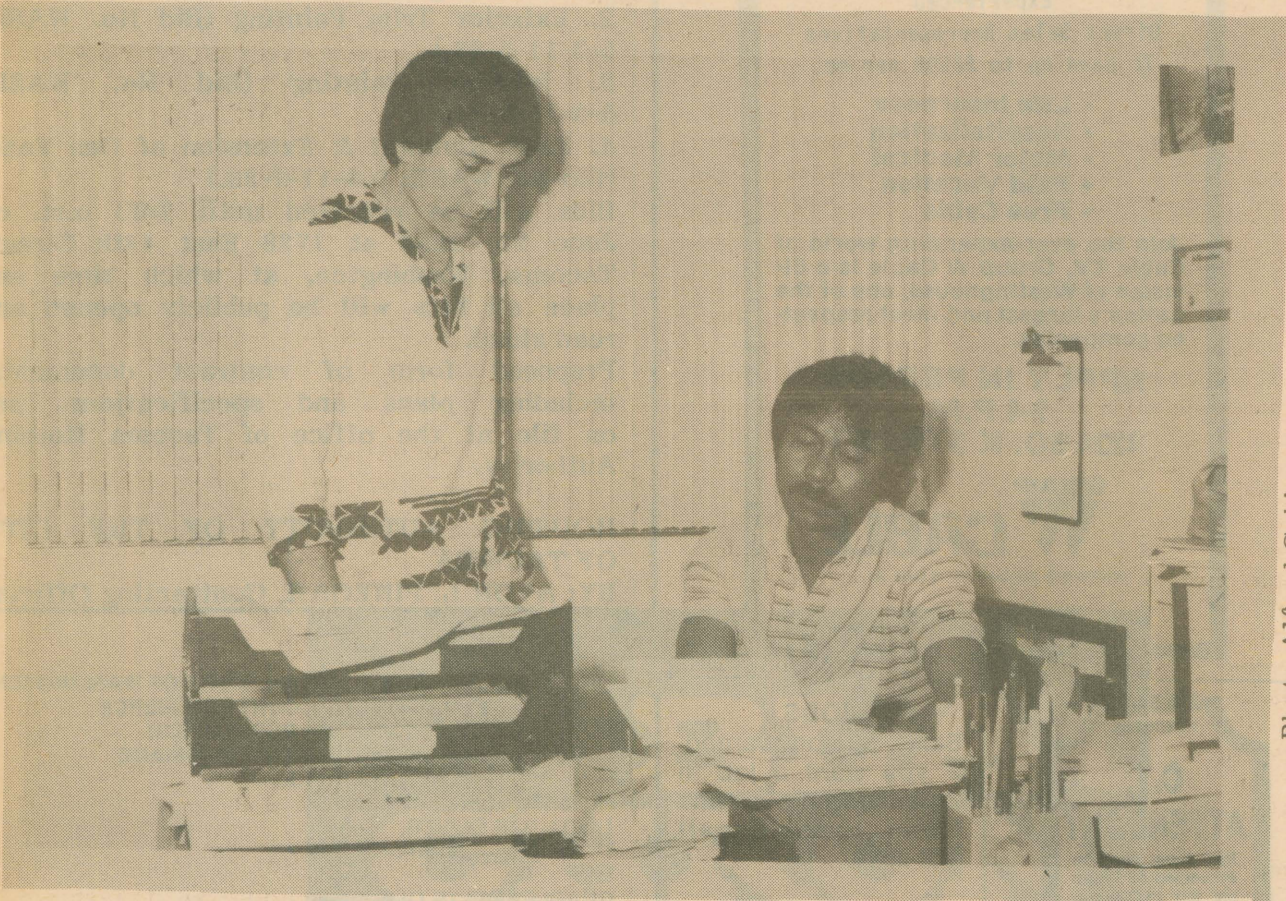


Photo Alfred Cab'uang

Joe Pascual, Director of the Asian American Alliance (R) talks with outreach worker.

P.C.R.R. And A.A.A. Write Grant

By Val Gordon

The Minority Outreach Task Force of Pierce County Rape Relief has submitted a grant to the Commonwealth Foundation requesting funding for an Asian Outreach worker position. Working against sexual assault, the Task Force, in conjunction with the Asian American Alliance, hopes to employ an Outreach worker who would develop a program providing specific services combatting sexual assault to the Asian/Pacific community. Another component of the Asian outreach position would be to coordinate the transcription of sexual assault information into various languages.

The outreach worker would be supervised by the Director of the Asian American Alliance, Joe Pascual and Pierce County Rape Relief Advocate Coordinator, Jan

Jiles. The position would be half-time for a year with hopes of continuation when subsequent funding is found.

The Minority Outreach Task Force hopes to hear from the Commonwealth Foundation by the end of June. Located in Seattle, the Foundation funds groups and/or programs who place community organizing as a priority and are experiencing difficulties in receiving funding elsewhere.

P.C.R.R.'s Minority Outreach Task Force is composed of both members of the agency and individuals from the community. The Task Force invites anyone who's interested in working against sexual assault and/or have ideas of how a program can be implemented in any of the minority communities, to contact P.C.R.R. Advocate Coordinator, Jan Jiles at 627-1135.

VA Alert

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following are representative questions answered daily by VA counselors in Washington State. Full information is available at any VA office or from your local service organization representative.

Q — How does one define a "service-connected disability"?

A — A "service-connected disability" is any physical or mental disease or injury incurred or aggravated during active service in line of duty, providing the veteran was discharged or separated under other than dishonorable conditions.

Q — If I do not agree with a decision the VA makes on an application for benefits, what can I do?

A — You may file an appeal regarding any benefit decision with which you disagree. All that is necessary to start the appeal

procedure is for you to write the VA stating why you disagree with the decision and include information you believe should be considered by the VA.

Q — I have been receiving education benefits for the past three years claiming my wife and two children. Now the VA is suddenly asking for a marriage certificate and birth certificates for my children. Why are they asking now when they have already been paying me for them?

A — VA regulations now require the submission of verification for veteran's dependents. This is to insure that veterans are receiving the appropriate amount of monthly benefits for the proper number of dependents. Failure to furnish the requested documents could result in reduction of monthly benefits.

ALFRED S. CAB'UANG

Editor
Third World News

REFUGEE FORUM GEARS TOWARD ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Pierce County Refugee Forum recently developed programs that can assist refugees in job experiences and entrepreneurship. Economic Development is the thrust of the Forum's comprehensive program as an outcome of the present Refugee Act that provided refugees in America only 18 months of public assistance. David Alger, Director of Associated Ministries of Tacoma - Pierce County in a statement issued, said "they (refugees) have to adapt to the American way of life in literally half the time that they have been given in previous years." Furthermore he stated, "the leaders of the refugee community and the members of the Pierce County Refugee Forum realize that it is of critical importance that programs be developed where the refugees can learn to help themselves."

The Refugee Forum under the auspices of the Associated Ministries has developed three economic development projects such as: Graceful Flower Catering Service, Asian Janitorial Services and Paula's Cleaning Service. Loyd Roberts, Economic

Development Consultant operates the three businesses for a little less than six months. The purpose of these projects is to develop refugee owned businesses which employs and trains fellow refugees.

One of the key guidelines to secure personnel who will operate these businesses has been that participating refugees must no longer be eligible for refugee assistance in accordance with the new Federal provisions. Presently, all of these businesses are part of a single, non-profit corporation called "Pierce/Tacoma International Training and Careers, Inc." The board is chaired by Trong Tang and majority of its members are from the refugee community.

The Three Economic Projects

Graceful Flower Catering Company provides a wide variety of catering Services. It also provides frozen foods that can be ordered by phone by simply calling Grace Flower at 591-2782. Asian Janitorial Services, in addition to contracting with businesses for janitorial services, is also involved in summer landscaping. Paula's Cleaning Service is predominantly doing home cleaning and expanding its business into small offices and companies.

Those who are interested to know more information about the different projects can contact the office of Associated Ministries at 383-3056 or Asian Janitorial Service, 5410, Tacoma, Washington, 98407, telephone (206) 759-5407 and Paula's Cleaning Service, 3435 - 52nd Avenue, N.E. Tacoma, WA. 98422, (206) 927-7479 and Graceful Flower Catering, 2520, 6th Avenue, Tacoma, WA. 98406 (206) 591-2782.



25th & Pacific

Tacoma, WA

VALUE STORE

1118 So. K Street

Peoples Bank

An Equal Opportunity Employer



PONY EXPRESS

COURIER SERVICE

1102 So. Yakima Ave.
Tacoma, Wa. 98405
Phone (206) 272-2762