

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Bonnie Kwong | 415.501.0776 | bkwong@niwapr.com
AARP Media Relations | 202.434.2560 | media@aarp.org

**AARP Celebrates
Asian American & Pacific Islander Community Heroes**
AARP Honors Individuals Who Serve AAPIs Age 50-plus



Dilafroz Nargis Ahmed
India Home, Inc.
Glen Oaks, NY



Shongchai Hang
South East Asian Mutual Assistance
Associations Coalition, Inc.
Philadelphia, PA



Linda Mayo
Pan-American Concerned Citizens
Action League Inc.
Jersey City, NJ

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 27, 2017 – AARP is proud to announce the winners of its 2nd Asian American and Pacific Islander Community Hero Awards that were created to acknowledge the hard-working staff and volunteers of non-profit organizations serving AAPIs age 50-plus.

Three AARP Asian American and Pacific Islander Community Hero Award winners and their organizations will each receive a \$1,000 cash prize:

- **Dilafroz Nargis Ahmed, Desi Senior Center Director, [India Home](#), Glen Oaks, NY**
Dilafroz Nargis Ahmed has helped new immigrants in the Bangladeshi community in Queens, New York for three decades. At Desi senior center India Home, Ahmed works to improve the quality of life of vulnerable South Asian seniors in a culturally appropriate environment. Since 2014, Ahmed has strived to make India Home a comfortable place for immigrant seniors to come together, adjust to living in a new country, and build community. Ahmed also helps Bangladeshi older adults access services and find jobs.
- **Shongchai Hang, Outreach Worker, [South East Asian Mutual Assistance Associations Coalition](#), Philadelphia, PA**
Shongchai Hang has been dedicated to serving Southeast Asian refugee and immigrant elders for more than 30 years. For the past 11 years, Hang has worked as SEAMAAC's Lao Outreach Worker to help diverse low-income communities in Philadelphia. At weekly Elders Gatherings, he plays an integral role in building bridges between elders from diverse communities. He helps community members to see their own leadership potential, by recruiting and supporting Lao



elders to serve on SEAMAAC’s Elders Council. Hang also helps seniors apply for social services and navigate the health care system. Hang’s ability to speak Lao, Hmong, Thai, and English allows him to serve diverse groups of seniors.

- **Linda Mayo, Founder and President Emeritus, [Pan-American Concerned Citizens Action League \(PACCAL\)](#), Jersey City, NJ**

Linda Mayo has served the local Filipino & Asian American community for more than 30 years. In 1992, Mayo found PACCAL, the first organization in Jersey City to address the health and human service needs of Filipinos and other Asians with a focus on senior citizen and veterans’ programs. It holds the distinction of being the only Asian Provider Agency recognized by the Hudson County Dept. of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Office on Aging. PACCAL is a multi-service organization that organizes social and recreational activities for seniors, assists seniors and veterans apply successfully for affordable housing, coordinates citizenship and voter registrations, helps victims of domestic violence, and holds education, art and cultural workshops.

“Congratulations to Dilafroz, Shongchai, and Linda for their exemplary contributions and dedication to our seniors,” said Daphne Kwok, AARP Vice President of Multicultural Leadership, Asian American and Pacific Islander Audience Strategy. “They are unsung heroes who every day are improving the lives of seniors and their families. They devote their time, talents, and passion to making a difference—not only to the elders and their families— but to the greater community. AARP commends all of our 2017 Heroes and all of those who were nominated for inspiring each and every one of us.”

AARP received submissions from around the country including Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington, and Washington, DC. The stellar nominees included executive directors, staff, and volunteers who work in healthcare, housing, social services, education, and media. Ten finalists were selected by AARP, and the winners were chosen by AARP AAPI Facebook visitors.

ABOUT AARP

AARP is the nation’s largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With nearly 38 million members and offices in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, AARP works to strengthen communities and advocate for what matters most to families with a focus on health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment. AARP also works for individuals in the marketplace by sparking new solutions and allowing carefully chosen, high-quality products and services to carry the AARP name. As a trusted source for news and information, AARP produces the world’s largest circulation publications, AARP The Magazine and AARP Bulletin. To learn more, visit www.aarp.org or follow [@AARP](#) and [@AARPadvocates](#) on social media.

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AARP 表揚三位亞太裔社區英雄 熱心服務 50 歲以上民眾獲獎



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【華盛頓哥倫比亞特區 2017 年 7 月 27 日訊】—AARP 隆重宣布第二屆亞太裔社區英雄獎的三位獲獎者。此獎項旨在表揚在非營利組織中辛勤工作，全心服務 50 歲以上亞太裔民眾的職員和義工。

亞太裔社區英雄獎的三位得獎者及其所屬機構將各獲\$1,000 現金獎：

- **紐約市 Glen Oaks 社區印度之家南亞裔老人中心主任 Dilafröz Nargis Ahmed, Desi Senior Center Director, [India Home](#), Glen Oaks, NY**
Ahmed 服務紐約市皇后區的孟加拉新移民社群三十年。自從加入印度之家南亞裔老人中心以來，他一直致力於提供一個符合文化的環境，幫助改善弱勢南亞裔耆老的生活品質。自 2014 年起，Ahmed 更努力把印度之家打造成為一個適合老年移民共聚交誼、在新國家互相扶助適應生活、並建設屬於自己社區的場所。Ahmed 還幫助稍為年長的孟加拉裔民眾獲得社會服務及找到工作。
- **費城東南亞裔互助協會聯盟外展職員 Shongchai Hang, Outreach Worker, [South East Asian Mutual Assistance Associations Coalition](#), Philadelphia, PA**
Shongchai Hang 致力服務東南亞難民和移民長者超過 30 年。特別是在過去的 11 年中，Hang 一直在東南亞裔互助協會聯盟擔任老撾裔移民外展工作，協助費城不同的低收入社區民眾改善生活。在每週的長者聚會上，他鼓勵不同文化背景的長者建立溝通橋樑，在這方面發揮不可或缺的作用。他還幫助社區成員發揮自己領導潛力，例如招募和支持老撾裔長者擔任東南亞裔互助協會聯盟的長者委員會成員。與此同時，Hang 還幫助老年人申請不同的社會服務和



善用醫療保健系統。Hang 深諳多種語言，他通曉老撾語、苗族語、泰語和英語，因此能夠為多個不同文化背景的長者社群提供服務。

- **新澤西州澤西市泛美公民行動聯盟創始人及榮譽會長 Linda Mayo, Founder and President Emeritus, Pan-American Concerned Citizens Action League, Jersey City, NJ)**
Linda Mayo 服務澤西市菲律賓裔和亞裔社區超過 30 年。1992 年，她並創立 PACCAL，成為澤西州第一個關注菲律賓和其他亞裔健康和公眾服務需求的機構，並特別著重老年人和退伍軍人等方面，使得 PACCAL 成為哈德森縣衛生局（DHHS）老人服務辦公室轄下唯一承認的亞裔服務機構。PACCAL 是一個多功能組織，除了為長者舉辦社交和娛樂活動，並協助耆老和退伍軍人成功申請可負擔房屋、協調公民入籍和選民登記、及幫助家庭暴力受害者、和舉辦教育、藝術和文化講座。

“恭喜 Dilafroz、Shongchai 和 Linda，感謝他們對亞太裔耆老的無私奉獻和提供的卓越服務，” AARP 多元文化引領亞太裔受眾副總裁 Daphne Kwok（郭為婉）說：“他們是無聲的英雄，每天都努力地改善老年人及其家屬的生活。他們付出了無法衡量的時間、才能與熱情，不單改善長者和其家屬的生活，更造福整個亞太裔社區。他們的獲獎實至名歸。AARP 讚揚 2017 年社區英雄獎三位獲獎者和所有被提名人士，他們啟發我們每個人更進一步，更好的服務長者。”

AARP 收到了來自亞利桑那州、加州、科羅拉多州，佛羅里達州、喬治亞州、夏威夷、伊利諾伊州、新澤西州、紐約州、賓州、德克薩斯州，華盛頓州和華盛頓哥倫比亞特區等全國各地的提名表格。這些傑出的候選人包括在醫療保健、住房、社會服務、教育和媒體工作的行政總監、職人員和義工。AARP 挑選了當中 10 名佼佼者進入決賽，並由 AARP 旗下的亞太裔 Facebook 網友投票選出最終三名社區英雄。

關於 AARP

AARP 是全美最大的非營利機構及無黨派組織，旨在強化美國 50 歲以上的民眾以使他們在逐漸年長的過程中能夠選擇各自的生活方式。AARP 擁有將近 3,800 萬會員，及在全美 50 州、華盛頓特區、波多黎各和美屬維京群島均設有辦事處，藉此增進各個社區及致力倡導和改善與大多數家庭息息相關的議題，尤其是：醫療保健、財務安全、及個人發展。我們並關注在市場上的個人權益，因此不斷推出新的方案及悉心挑選值得冠以 AARP 名稱的優質的產品和服務。作為可靠的消息和資訊來源，AARP 並出版全球發行量最大的《AARP 雜誌》(AARP The Magazine) 及《AARP 通報》(AARP Bulletin)。瞭解詳情，請瀏覽網站：www.aarp.org 及通過社交媒體 @AARP 及 @AARPadvocates 關注我們。

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