

Donor Corner: Meet Kay Ko



This month's Donor Corner spotlight is on Mrs. **Kay Ko**, Regional Network Lead for the White House Initiative on Asian Pacific Islanders and APCF Board Member.

Kay immigrated from South Korea to the United States as a teenager and overcame many barriers - including language, cultural and gender barriers. She remembers how her parents, her church and her community supported her throughout her educational journey and wants to provide the same support and opportunities for the next generation of Asian American students.

Kay's parents are her lifelong role models for giving to those in need. Kay recalls how her parents never had enough for themselves but always found ways to give to others, through the church or by providing free shelter, food and goods. Kay states, "I watch them and I learn every day that you don't need to have a lot to give, you just need to have a giving heart."

Kay was first introduced to APCF in 2018 and immediately recognized the importance of APCF's role in supporting Asian & Pacific Islander (API) communities in need. Kay is now a passionate advocate for cultivating philanthropy amongst the API community and claims that her new life goal is "to plant a small seed of the giving spirit so that more members of our API community can learn, practice and encourage the culture of giving." Kay has witnessed how much the API community has grown in size and stature and believes that the timing is ripe for our community to think beyond our personal wellbeing and about taking care of those in need. She asserts, "I think we can all leave a positive legacy if we can set more examples of the giving spirit."

Kay recently set up a Donor Advised Fund entitled "Center for Global Leadership and Learning". Kay's hope is that this center can provide leadership training, internship opportunities and scholarship opportunities for API students who need help in obtaining their higher education. Her plea to the next generation of young leaders is "never give up on your dreams to do good for others, and always be mindful of the needs of others...there will never be enough time and resources to help everyone in need, but we should never give up trying."

Kay has been in the federal workforce for over 25 years and holds a doctoral degree from UCLA and a JD degree from Loyola Law School.

APCF is thankful to have such passionate advocates for cultivating philanthropy as Kay. For more information or to set up a Donor-Advised Fund, please contact Chun-Yen Chen at (213) 624-6400 ext. 2 or chunyen@apcf.org.

(This article was featured in APCF's September 2018 Newsletter – [click here](#) for the full issue.)