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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Valley's Largest Asian American Social Services Agency Turns 30!

Asian Americans for Community Involvement celebrates its 30th Anniversary and Honors Community Stars on May 2

Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI), the Silicon Valley's largest provider of social services for Asian Americans, is celebrating its 30th birthday with a special bash at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose on Friday, May 2. AACI's event is one of the activities commencing Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The masters of ceremonies for the evening will be Lorna Ho (LMH Consulting) and Robert Handa (KTVU Channel 2). The reception begins at 6:00 p.m. The dinner and awards follows at 7:00 p.m.

As part of its celebration, AACI will be presenting its Community Star Awards for 2003 in the areas of Arts & Athletics, Communication & Media, Community & Volunteerism, Education & Technology, Youth Leadership, and Business & Entrepreneurs. The 2003 recipients are San Jose Taiko, Steve Yamaguma, Lucia Cha, Mai Le Ho, Akemi Flynn, and Dr. Kenneth Fong. The Gordon N. Chan Leadership Award will also be awarded this evening. The recipient will be named at a later date.

For tickets and information, please contact Hung LeDang, Special Projects Coordinator at (408) 975-2730.

INFORMATION ON COMMUNITY STAR RECIPIENTS

Arts & Athletics Community Star

San Jose Taiko (SJT), under the direction of Roy and PJ Hirabayashi has been mesmerizing audiences with the powerful, spellbinding and propulsive sounds of the taiko drums. Inspired by traditional Japanese drumming, SJT performers express the beauty and harmony of the human spirit through the voice of the taiko as they strive to create new dimensions in Asian American movement and music.

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Communications & Media Community Star

Steve Yamaguma is Founder and President of YAD2M Creative. Steve has over 22 years of marketing communications experience as a veteran of Silicon Valley promoting semiconductor and IT companies in the global market. Steve has been active in the Silicon Valley community having served on various boards including the Japanese American Chamber of Commerce of Silicon Valley, the Silicon Valley Charity Ball Foundation, and the Board of Contributors to the Mercury News.

Community/Volunteerism/Public Service Community Star

Lucia Cha is the CEO of Lumiere Investments LLP, Land Development. Over the past 20 years, Lucia has been a founding member of the Board of Directors for the Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose, and worked on the Capital Fund of the San Jose Repertory Theater. She is presently a Trustee of the Arts Council Silicon Valley, Board Member of the Contemporary Asian Theater Scene where she established the Endowment Fund and on the Board of the CM Capital Foundation.

Education & Technology Community Star

Mai Le Ho is a warm, generous, effervescent woman involved in a wide range of activities for the community. At San Jose State University, as a counselor and adjunct faculty in Asian American studies and Women Studies, she was the advisor for the Vietnamese Student Association for fifteen years.

Youth Leadership Community Star

Akemi Flynn is the Executive Director of The Cornerstone Project, a countywide, collaborative movement aimed at changing personal behavior, programs and policies by engaging all sectors of our community in providing support for and building assets in all our children and youth. For her leadership in advocating for APA youth and communities, Ms. Flynn received the Unity in Diversity Award (May 00), and the Outstanding Women of Silicon Valley Award (May 98).

Business/Corporate/Professions/Entrepreneurs Community Star

Dr. Kenneth Fong is an outstanding member of our community. He is the founder and former CEO of Clontech Laboratories, Inc. a biotechnology company with about 400 employees, 65 of whom are Ph.D. scientists. He is a great philanthropist and has contributed significant funding to many projects from the Silicon Valley Tech Museum to the establishment of the Fong Optometry and Health Science library at U.C. Berkeley; from building funds for the Chinese Historical Society in America to scholarships for students at San Francisco State University; and from the Indiana University Medical School Student fund to the documentary on roles played by Chinese Americans in World War II (shown on hundreds of PBS stations nationwide).

Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI), founded in 1973, is a California non-profit corporation, based in Santa Clara County, California. AACI is the largest provider of culturally competent health, welfare, social and advocacy services to the Asian Pacific Islander community in the Silicon Valley. Its services include mental health counseling, a general health clinic, a domestic violence shelter and counseling, a senior center, youth and after-school programs, health education, HIV/AIDS prevention, drinking driver program, community leadership training and advocacy services.

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