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## OAPIA Bi-Weekly Newsletter

*News Updates from the DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs*

### A Message from the Director

**Dear Community Members,**

I hope everyone had a joyous and cherished Thanksgiving holiday with loved ones. Thanksgiving is often a time for us to reflect back on the things we are thankful for in life. For those less fortunate or experiencing hardship, they may be thankful for the generous support from individuals like you that helps them with their struggles.



With over 3,000 Filipino Americans in the District of Columbia, many people have been and continue to be affected by the terrible tragedy of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. The Mayor and I encourage everyone to make monetary donations to reputable disaster-relief organizations, such as [UNICEF](#) and the [American Red Cross](#), or through the [Embassy of the Philippines](#). We hope that through these efforts we can help bring relief during this difficult time.

And as the upcoming winter holiday season approaches, OAPIA is collecting toys to benefit local kids in the District for our 7th annual ["Share a Smile, Give a Toy" Holiday Toy Drive and Year-End Celebration](#) on Thursday, December 12, 2013. Please consider donating new, unwrapped toys for children between 3 and 15 years old. Toy donations should be dropped off at the OAPIA office at 441 4th St NW, Suite 721 North, Washington, DC 20001. These toys help local, disadvantaged AAPI children have a wonderful and memorable holiday season.

If you are unable to contribute financially or make donations, please consider participating in DC-based community service opportunities that can be found through [Serve DC - The Mayor's Office on Volunteerism](#).

By giving back to those in need through volunteerism, community service, or donations, we can help to inspire others to act generously, and to ensure the quality of life for all. May everyone have a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,

Soohyun "Julie" Koo  
Director, DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

## OAPIA in the Community

### **OAPIA Attends "The Great Debate: Marijuana - Legalization and Decriminalization" Policy Forum**



*A policy forum on marijuana legalization and decriminalization.*

OAPIA attended a policy forum entitled, "The Great Debate: Marijuana Legalization and Decriminalization," on November 20, 2013 at the United Medical Center Hospital Auditorium in Ward 8. The event was organized by the DC Department of Behavioral Health, the Ward 7 & 8 DC Prevention Center, and the Ward 8 Drug-Free Coalition. The forum discussed the potential community impact of implementing the marijuana decriminalization and marijuana legalization provisions contained in recently introduced legislation from DC Council.

This fiscal year, OAPIA partnered with various DC agencies and community groups such as the Ward 7 & 8 DC Prevention Center and the Ward 8 Drug-Free Coalition to conduct the "Right Choice" campaign. The "Right Choice" campaign aims to provide outreach education to small retail businesses about the consequences of synthetic narcotics and other drug paraphernalia. OAPIA will collect pledges from businesses who agree not to sell synthetic narcotics and other drug paraphernalia.

### **OAPIA Speaks at the DC Health Link Citywide Information Day and Enrollment Fair**



*Mayor Vincent C. Gray participating in the ribbon cutting ceremony.*



*OAPIA Director Koo making remarks about DC Health Link.*

On November 23, 2013, OAPIA Director Soohyun "Julie" Koo gave remarks at the DC Health Link Citywide Information Day and Enrollment Fair at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library. The fair provided individuals, families, and small businesses with information on the Affordable Care Act and the opportunity to enroll in affordable healthcare insurance plans through DC Health Link, the District of Columbia's newest online health insurance marketplace.

For more information on [DC Health Link](#), please visit [here](#).

### **OAPIA Participates in Georgetown University Asian American Student Association's Internship Panel Event**



*OAPIA Community Outreach Specialist Andrew Chang (far left) sharing his insights regarding an internship at OAPIA.*

OAPIA participated in a panel on internship opportunities at Georgetown University on November 25, 2013. The panel was organized by Georgetown University's Asian American Student Association and allowed students to learn about Asian American and Pacific Islander internship opportunities available to them in the District of Columbia.

For information about [OAPIA internships](#), please visit [here](#).

## Spotlight: Filipino Young Professionals of Washington, DC (FYP-DC)



The Filipino Young Professionals of Washington, DC (FYP-DC) is dedicated to developing the professional, social, and service aspects of the Filipino and Filipino American community. FYP-DC hosts many recreational, social, educational, and charitable events. Recently, FYP-DC held fundraiser relief events to collect monetary donations for the victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

FYP-DC strives to:

- Create a network of young professionals in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area
- Provide education about Filipino American heritage through social and recreational activities
- Contribute to the Washington DC Filipino American community through social and charitable events and volunteer activities

For more information about [FYP-DC](#), please visit [here](#).

## December is World AIDS Month



Every December is World AIDS Month, and December 1st is known as World AIDS Day. World AIDS Month aims to raise awareness of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) caused by the spread of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) infection. World AIDS Month is a great opportunity to learn the facts about HIV/AIDS and further, put knowledge into action. A red ribbon is the international symbol to express HIV awareness and support to ending HIV/AIDS.

For more information on World AIDS Month, please visit:

- [DC Department of Health \(DOH\): DC AIDS Drug Assistance Program](#)
- [DC Department of Health \(DOH\): HIV Prevention Planning Group](#)
- [DC Department of Health \(DOH\): Directory of HIV/AIDS Services in the District of Columbia and Surrounding Areas](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\): HIV Infection among Asians in the United States and Dependent Areas](#)
- [Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum \(APIAHF\): National Asian American and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Infographic](#)
- [Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations \(AAPCHO\): HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Hepatitis B Coinfection and the AAPI population](#)

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