



Supporting Immigrant and Refugee Families:

A Holistic Approach to Youth and Family Case Management

Presented by ACCC Youth & Family Advocates:

Lanetta (Poe Poe)
Edison-Soe



Lwe Ku Say



Nico Le



Sabrina Salrin



Samia Ahmed Abdel Mawla



Our Mission:

The Asian Community & Cultural Center supports and empowers all refugees and immigrants through programs and services and advances the sharing of Asian culture and the other cultural heritages of our clients with the community at large.



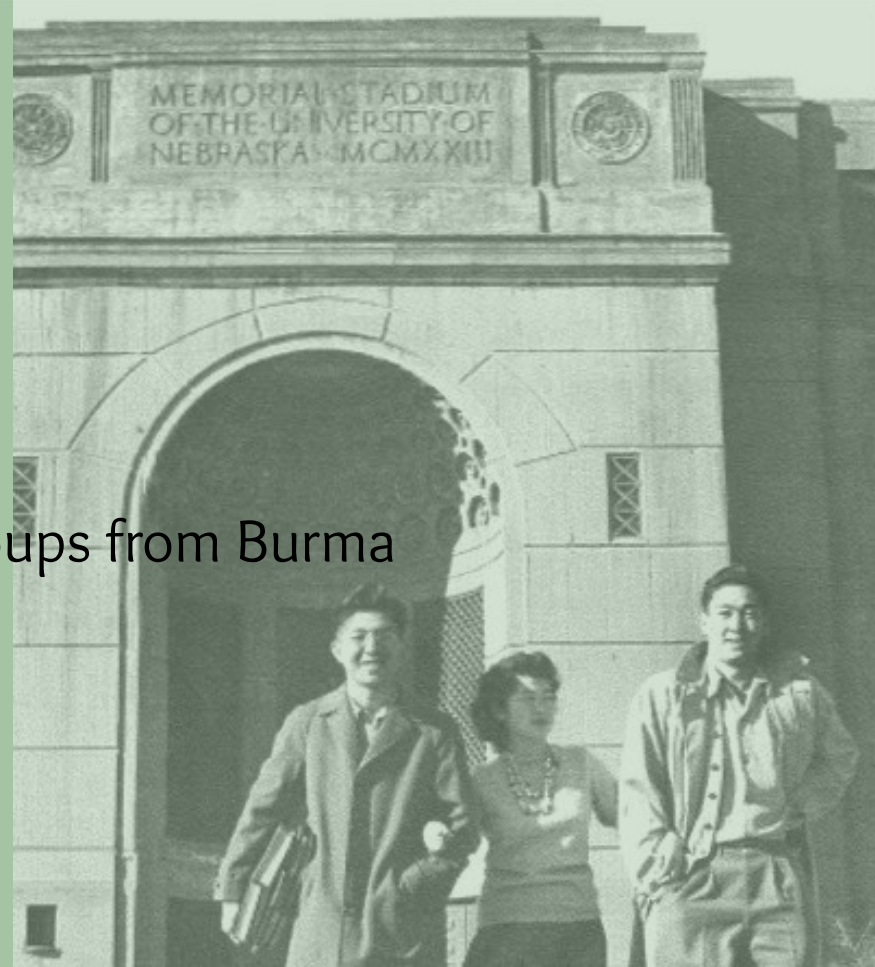
Our Vision:

Immigrants in Lincoln and surrounding areas will have access to the resources and support they need to lead better lives.



Recent Waves of Migration in NE

- 1850-1880 Chinese
- 1990-1995 Vietnamese
- 2001-2002 Sudanese & Somali
- 2006 - Karen and other ethnic groups from Burma
- 2014 - Yazidi
- 2021-2022 Afghan
- 2022 - Ukrainian



ACCC Programs & Services

The Asian Community & Cultural Center provides provide culturally sensitive services to **Karen, Vietnamese, Chinese, Ukrainian, Sudanese, Afghan (Dari/Farsi and Pashto), and Yezidi families**, and other **Central Asian/Middle Eastern families that speak Arabic**.

Our main program areas include:

- **Essential Resources Program** (includes case management, Citizenship classes, English for Driving, and more)
- **Elders Program**
- **Women's Empowerment Program**
- **Youth Program**
- **Health Education & Advocacy Program**





Youth Program Overview

- Juvenile Justice Prevention through programs, support services, and ensuring youth have a trusted adult in their life.
- 3 High Schools
 - Lincoln High School
 - Northeast High School
 - Northstar High School
- 5 Middle Schools
 - Culler Middle School
 - Dawes Middle School
 - Park Middle School
 - Lefler Middle School
 - Goodrich Middle School



Our Youth Program Staff and Programs

- Staff
 - Youth Program Coordinators
 - Youth Advocates
 - Community Advocates (Afghan, Karen, Sudanese, Middle Eastern, Ukrainian, Vietnamese, Chinese)
- Programs
 - Life After High School
 - Untold Migrant Stories
 - Culture Clubs (MENA, Yezidi, Karen, Ukrainian, and Asian)
 - Curricula: WRAP, CLFC, Compass for Courage



Youth Program Services

- **Services**
 - **In-School Mentoring**
 - **College and Career Readiness**
 - **Financial Aid Assistance**
 - **Goal Setting and Personal Development**
 - **Homework Help**

Our Approach to Individual Services: Mentoring

We meet one-to-one in-school with youth with a Youth Program Coordinator or Advocate

- Academic support
- Emotional and mental health support
- Connection with a trusted adult
- Skill building
- College, job, and planning for life after high school
- Goal setting
- Resource sharing



Our Approach to Individual Services: Family Case Management

To holistically support youth, we connect families with Community Advocates and our Essential Resources, Women's, and Health Programs

- Case management includes:
 - Interpretation and translation services
 - Health and human services assistance
 - Educational classes
 - Peer support
 - Resource referrals and warm hand offs, and more



3 Case Examples

Supporting an Arabic Speaking Youth on Diversion

- Received referral that youth was interested in getting driver's license and a job
 - Details about the case were still unclear when we got involved
 - Noted struggles with school attendance and aggression towards family
- **Supports to address truancy:**
 - Conducted a home visit with Youth Program Coordinator and Community Advocate
 - Introduced our in-school mentoring program
 - Contacted EL teachers and social worker for more context
 - Transportation to school
 - The family lost bus transportation
 - We requested bike donations

Supporting an Arabic Speaking Youth on Diversion (cont.)

- **Supports provided to mom**
 - Community Advocate – translation, interpretation, basic needs
 - Built trust with Advocate and then opened up about what was really going on
 - Encouraged her to make a police report
 - Addressed barriers and struggles with making a police report
- **Informed the youth of consequences**
 - He spoke about his fear regarding his status as an immigrant
- **Outcomes**
 - Youth reported being motivated to attend school and stop aggression towards family
 - Connecting with sister to provide support and continuing to support mom

Supporting a Karen Youth with Prevention

- **Karen family from Thailand - single mother and three children**
 - **Initial involvement with our agency through an after school program**
 - Eldest daughter joined the program when she was in 6th grade
 - Identified to be struggling with mental wellness
 - Conducted home visit to meet family and gain insight into home life
 - **Support provided for mother and younger sisters**
 - Application Assistance
 - Transportation Assistance
 - Mentoring and Summer Programming
 - Emotional support for mother and eldest daughter
 - Continued home visits from Youth Program Coordinator(s) and a Karen Community Advocate

Supporting a Karen Youth with Prevention Cont.

- Outcomes
 - Supporting the whole family has better helped us to support the individual youth
 - Youth successfully transitioned from middle school to high school and is working a part time job
 - Supporting younger sister through mentoring and an after school program
 - Increased family involvement with our services

Supporting a Karen Youth through the Juvenile Justice System

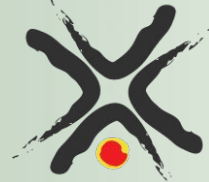
- **Started working with youth in 6th grade in Youth Program**
 - Attended after school program and met with a Youth Advocate for 1:1 in-school mentoring
 - Youth started to show some behavioral issues instigated by 8th grade peers
 - Substance abuse and aggression increased
 - Transferred to another middle school in 7th grade
- **Supports Provided to Family**
 - Karen Advocate began supporting the youth's mother, a single parent, throughout Juvenile Justice involvement
 - Regular home visits
 - Youth is still under probation, as he did not successfully graduate middle school

Supporting a Karen Youth through the Juvenile Justice System Cont.

- **Outcomes**
 - Youth is still under Probation in a 6 month out of home placement, as he did not successfully graduate middle school
 - Support is still provided to family and Advocate visits youth regularly for updates and support

Q&A

Thank You!



**Asian Community
& Cultural Center**

Website: <https://www.lincolnasiancenter.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LincolnAsianCenter/>

Instagram: [@lincolnasiancenter](https://www.instagram.com/lincolnasiancenter)

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/asian-community-and-cultural-center>