

亞洲人平等會

ASIAN AMERICANS FOR EQUALITY

98 East Broadway • New York, NY 10002 (212) 226-8960

Dear Friend:

I am writing to seek your support of a most important project to New York City's homeless population.

After one year of planning and preparation, Equality House, a project to serve homeless families and senior citizens in New York's Asian community, has been selected by the New York State Department of Social Services Homeless Housing and Assistance Program to receive \$1 million towards the renovation of a city-owned building at 176 Eldridge Street. Total development cost is estimated at \$1.5 million.

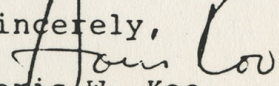
Equality House will be the first shelter in the country to address the problem of homelessness in the Asian community. It will also be unique in its design by integrating transitional and permanent housing to provide a supportive environment of stability and hope for families in distress.

Equality House will provide 16 units of one and two-bedroom apartments for homeless families on a temporary (3 to 6 months) basis, and 18 permanent Single Room Occupancy (SRO) units for senior citizens. On site program staff will provide all necessary social services. Our goal is to strive to keep families intact in face of crisis and to help them regain control of their lives. More importantly, we will be providing a much needed service to a population who are being shut out of the existing system of city shelters because of language and cultural barriers.

The problem of homelessness in the Asian community has sharply increased in the last three years as a result of the housing shortage. This problem affects working families who are victims of fires and natural disasters; senior citizens who are asked to relocate when their apartments or single rooms are being converted; new immigrants who become homeless after prolonged doubling up with relatives and friends. And this problem will inevitably get worse.

We need your help now in raising the remaining \$500,000 needed for construction by January 31, 1986 in order for the project to go forward. Any support you can give -- a grant, a loan, a means to secure a loan, a fundraising event, will be instrumental in realizing this first major project to benefit a long neglected population.

I look forward to presenting the project in more detail to you and your Board of Directors in the near future.

Sincerely,

Doris W. Koo,
Executive Director

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The structure of the program provides an opportunity to respond to many diverse needs. There are three major components of the CED program. These components are:

- grants
- technical assistance
- revolving loan fund

Each component is important in that it can assist programs and initiatives in most stages of development; they all can help transform the work of a local entity and make the difference in its ability to meet critical local needs.

The primary funding for the CED program is derived from the General Advance. Therefore, the majority of the funds that will be utilized are those that are contributed to the program. The 1985-86 asking for the program is \$162,500 per year.

Twenty-six projects have been approved for 1985-86 under the General Advance structure of the CED program. They are very diverse in program objectives and location. The projects range from an entity that develops housing for the poor to a youth-owned enterprise (a bakery). They are located in every Methodist Jurisdiction and serve every major ethnic group.

While a large portion of the program funds will be allocated to the selected twenty-six projects, 25% of the yearly funds will be undesignated. These monies will be used to fund new projects and to give the CED program a capacity to respond to the new and creative community economic development initiatives that are being continually developed. *The ability to make grants and provide the desired level of technical assistance are associated with the undesignated funds.*

In conclusion, the CED program is a very new mission program for the General Board of Global Ministries. It is designed to serve as a bridge between the church (local, district, conference) and the communities it serves. As the program grows, both financially and in the number of entities that it supports, it can truly become a tool through which positive systematic change can occur, specifically, the advancement of minorities and other disadvantaged to persons toward greater self-sufficiency.

For more information contact:

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*Information from
8pp - 10518*

- IN APPRECIATION -

- All contributions of over \$500 will be given an inscription (for the donor or a designated person) in a marble plate at the building entrance;
- Each of the 18 senior citizens rooms will be named after donors of \$10,000;
- The Community Center and each of the six floors will be named after donors of \$50,000;
- The building will be named after a donor who contributes the entire amount of \$500,000.