

Helen Luu

Special Recognition, 2022 AAWC Annual Meeting

Helen Luu was born and raised in Saigon, Vietnam, and migrated to the USA with her family in 1976 after the fall of Saigon in 1975. She is a pioneer in advocating for and providing mental health services for Asians in Philadelphia.

For nearly 30 years, Helen served as psychiatric clinician and case manager at Hall Mercer Community Behavioral Health Center of Pennsylvania Hospital for Asians and Southeast Asian patients. Prior to this, she supported refugees in their resettlement efforts while working for the Jewish Family Services, the Jewish Employment & Vocational Services, and the Southeast Asian Mutual Assistance Associations Coalition (SEAMAAC).



Throughout her career, Helen conducted educational workshops and seminars for the Asian community on topics such as mental health, Alzheimer's, breast cancer, lung cancer, HIV and AIDS, smoking cessation, managing gambling addiction, and Medicare benefits for low income families.



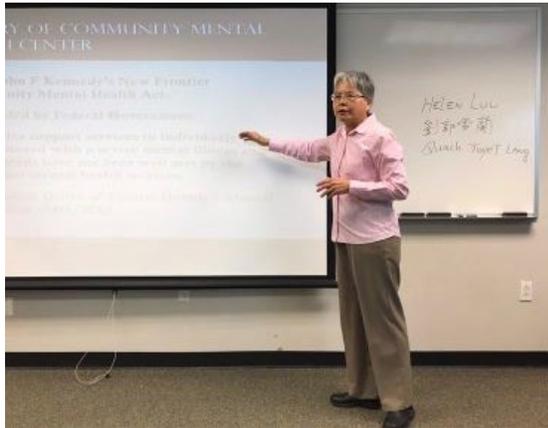
Helen retired from her professional career in 2016, but remains an active member of the Asian community in Philadelphia Chinatown, where she continues to share her knowledge, skills, and experience.

As an active Board member and former President of the Chinese American Women's Sisterhood Society of Philadelphia, she conducted voter registration drives; helped

raise funds for families affected by 9/11, the 2004 tsunami that ravaged Indonesia, Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy; and volunteered to escort and interpret for women during their free mammogram examinations. More recently, she delivered masks and free lunch boxes to health care workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, and conducted annual interviews to support the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program.



In addition, Helen provides interpretation services at the Crane Chinatown Vaccination Site at 10th & Vine, and serves as volunteer for the Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation (PCDC).



Helen completed her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Social Work at Temple University. She has an Associate Degree in Mental Health and Mental Retardation Technology at Hahnemann University, where she was awarded a Fellowship to provide mental health and behavioral services in the various Asian communities. She also received Family Therapy Training at the Philadelphia Child

Guidance Clinic in Philadelphia. Helen is fluent in English, Chinese (Mandarin, Cantonese, and Hakka), and Vietnamese.

Helen's exemplary work and dedicated service has earned her numerous awards including the Hope Outstanding Professional Service Award from the Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania in 2010, the Carl C. Gasta Memorial Award (Hall Mercer Community Mental Health Center) in 2000; and the Emil L Lynn Hubschman Award (Pennsylvania Hospital) in 2004. She also represented the Asian community in briefings at the White House on Asian women refugees with President Reagan in 1980, and on the Asian Pacific American health care providers with Vice President Al Gore in 1994. Helen was among those invited to attend the 53rd Presidential Inaugural of President Bill Clinton in 1997.

