

WOW – WOMEN OF THE WORLD

By Gerrye Wong

August 18, 2017

We all have recognized that the women in our lives have been foremost in the memories of our early childhood. Don't you agree that your first memories usually revolve around mommy, mother, mama? Yet how often was the spotlight turned on them to acknowledge their much deserved acclaim? Luckily in our lifetimes women in the work force have come to the fore also and today we want to spotlight those who have made a difference in many people's lives within the Chinese communities of their cities.



SHERRY HIROTA

Improving the health of the underserved communities has been **Sherrie Hirota's** mantra throughout her career. As the Chief Executive Officer of **ASIAN HEALTH SERVICES (AHS)** since 1982, Sherry has been the driving force in advancing the concepts of linguistic and cultural competence among her workforce. Under her leadership the AHC budget has increased from a mere \$100,000 to \$40 million and the staff numbers have increased likewise from 9 to 400. Of those workers, over 90% are bilingual with English and at least one other language to help serve their clients.

Sherry has been an advocate and pioneer in the Asian American and Pacific Islander health movement with her national experience in public policy and advocacy. She has been an important adviser to Congressional leaders on health issues ranging from eligibility criteria for indigent care population-based medically underserved communities and has counseled others on the importance of language access standards and the stabilization of core infrastructure funding for community based organizations. Her award are numerous, such as being inducted into the **Community Health Center Network's Hall of Fame** in 2017, but we're sure her best rewards must be derived from seeing how many clients the Asian Health Services now helps with their medical needs.



CORINNE JAN

A Bay Area native, **Corinne Jan** has spent the past 20 years serving her Chinatown community as Chief Executive officer at **Family Bridges, Inc. in Oakland, CA**. She admits her 17 year career as a Public health nurse administrator has been heightened by her experience in and passion for caring for chronically ill frail elders. Her primary goal for the past three decades has been to promote cultural sensitivity and awareness in specifically the Asian communities in which she serves.

Prior to leading the programs at Family Bridges, she worked at **On Lok Senior Health Services in San Francisco's Chinatown** as an Adult Day health Care nurse and health educator at Lifelong over 60's. Continually working and bringing joy to the adult seniors, Corinne volunteers as the Vice President for the **California Association of Adult Day Care Services** and serves as president of **Alliance for Learning and Education**.



GRACE LI

Grace Li's position as CEO of **On Lok** gives her the opportunity to provide strategic and operational direction to On Lok's family of not-for-profit corporations, which focuses on helping older seniors remain living in the community. Before joining **On Lok**, she was Director of Operations for **EMPATH**, a national healthcare consulting firm, where she managed project timelines and deliverables for a \$5.8 million engagement spanning 40 locations. In addition she was the administrative director of **UCSF's Department of Orthopedic Surgery** from 1997-2000.

Always devoting her energies in the health care field, Grace was a health center administrator of **Orlando Health Care Group in Orlando, Florida**. Before that she was an administrator of **Chesapeake General Hospital's Georgian Manor**, a 40 bed assisted living facility in Chesapeake, Virginia from 1991-1994. Joining the leadership of On Lok in 2001 as Director of Program Operations, she next took on COO duties 10 years later, bringing her expertise in overseeing multi-site complex systems and healthcare programs, orchestrating new site openings and managing implementation of software application. Residing in the East Bay with husband and son, somehow besides her career responsibilities, she finds time to enjoy music, travel, sports and cooking.



ANNI CHUNG

For the past 35 years **Anni Chung** has been the president and CEO of **SELF HELP FOR THE ELDERLY**, overseeing and managing this community-based organization that provides a comprehensive range of health, educational, social and recreational services to over 40,000 seniors annually. Besides its one-stop, multi-service home office in **San Francisco**, Anni can be seen racing from Self Help's 70-unit Senior Housing Complex called **Lady Shaw Senior Center in San Francisco** and an 82-unit affordable housing project in Oakland called **Lincoln Court**, which are both under her leadership and vision.

Through her three decades heading SHE, Anni Chung has received every accolade out there, but most recently in 2013 received the **Community Service Innovation Award** from **Community Living Campaign** for her work in bridging the Digital Divide. In 2011 she was named Woman of the Year by San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee and was featured on ABC-TV in its **Profiles of Excellence** show celebrating Asian Heritage month. Continuing to bear the heavy weight of responsibility of the multi programs serving seniors under Self Help's auspices, Anni still finds time to produce and host a weekly public affairs television program called "**Chinese Journal**" for KTSF Channel 26.

Let's take time to applaud and let these four ladies take a bow as we praise them for their dedication to the social and health needs of the growing number of Asian American seniors. Your leadership has been the deciding factor in the fine services being extended to the community's growing senior population. Thank you.

<http://dingdintv.com/news/wow-women-of-the-world/>