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Welcome to the Center of Hope

From the desk of the Executive Director

Dear Reader,

On behalf of Annam Community Development Corporation, we offer our sincerest gratitude to our local communities marking the turn of a new decade. In addition to being a visually balanced and appealing year with many momentous events to come, 2020 also brings forth a personal milestone: Annam CDC's 20th year of conception as well as 15 years of establishment.

From its inception as a non-profit organization, our aspiration has always been to go beyond simply meeting the needs of community members by delivering benefits to low-income families. Our activities and programs reflect the relationships we have held over these past years. These significant contributors include the Board of Directors, Advisory Board, Administration team, sponsors, volunteers, and other supporting community members. This project continues to reach new heights.

Earlier this summer, we initiated the KidsZone program with the purpose of combining learning, fun, and creativity. This was mostly directed at grade-school children from low-income families. Volunteer robotics coaches spent days equipping young minds with fundamental computing skills and problem-solving in hopes that the children will be well-prepared for their high technology futures. For many, it was the first time they have coded or worked with robots. In the years to come, we hope to broaden and strengthen such programs.

We also invite readers to participate in community-centered activities and encourage all to contribute their ideas to better the community center. We are here to serve, and the voice of the community is ultimately what matters most. By partaking in this venture, you would be creating opportunities for populations who are largely marginalized for their ethnicity, religion, or socioeconomic status. We hope you feel inspired to reach out, volunteer, contribute, learn, and participate in the offered programs in 2020. Together with you, we can pursue our mission in promoting a better quality of life for all whom we serve.

We are deeply grateful for the dedication of our direct support staff and leadership team who provide vital services to over 5,682 low income children and adults throughout Harris County, and we thank our Board of Directors for their generosity and unwavering support. We express gratitude to our donors, sponsors, and organizations who have contributed millions of pounds of food as well as legal, and public health professional services in the past year. We are also thankful for every person we serve, their family members, and our community partners.

We look forward to continuing to serve the community and develop relationships with established and future partners. We wish you all a happy, healthy, and hopeful new year.

Best regards,

Joseph Do Executive Director

SHEILA JACKSON LEE 18TH DISTRICT, TEXAS COMMITTEES:

JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEES:
Ranking Member
Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and
Investigations
Immigration and Border Security

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Technologies

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House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515 HELSINKI COMMISSION MEMBER

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FOUNDER AND CO-CHAIR
CONGRESSIONAL CHILD REN'S
CAUCUS

February 2, 2020

Greetings:

As an Advisory Board Member, I am pleased to have the opportunity to send greetings and Happy New Year to all of you. I hope that you all gleefully celebrate this New Year at the wonderful Tet event hosted by Annam Community Development Corporation, with your family and friends.

I have personally been involved with Annam CDC for many years and know of the tireless efforts of the Executive Director, Board Members and its volunteers as it serves the community admirably for over 20 years. I am grateful for their efforts that help the community through the various CDC programs, most notably the monthly food bank which supplies the community with thousands of pounds of food.

I am excited that the CDC's community service has not gone unrecognized, as Annam CDC was recognized as the recipient of many awards including the prestigious Bandini Award as the 2016-2017 Houston Food Bank Agency of the Year. I am also excited that the CDC has expanded its community outreach by initiating a KidsZone program this past summer. This program helps grade-school aged children from low-income families, by equipping their young minds with fundamental computing skills including coding and robotics so that they are properly equipped for the workforce.



Your work and dedication is truly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of the United States Congress.

Judan La

Sincerely,

Sheila Jackson Lee Member of Congress



The Senate of The State of Texas

To all to whom these Presents shall come, this

Certificate of Recognition

Is Presented to the

Vietnamese American Community Center

in honor of the Lunar New Year celebration Commemorating the Year of the Rat

> In testimony in hereof, I have hereunto signed my name and caused the Seal of the State of Texas to be affixed at the City of Austin, This 24th day of January 2020.

> > John Whitmire State Senator



CITY OF HOUSTON-

Sylvester Turner

Mayor

P.O. Box 1562 Houston, Texas 77251-1562

Telephone – Dial 311 www.houstontx.gov

February 2, 2020

Greetings,

As Mayor of the City of Houston, I welcome you all to the **Annam Community Development Corporation (CDC)** Lunar New Year celebration. This organization has been a pillar of the community for more 20 years and its Executive Director, Joseph Do, has worked daily to improve the lives of individuals throughout the greater Houston area.

Houston is proud to be a diverse city that attracts attention from people all over the world and **Annam CDC** represents the spirit of diversity in all that it does. I commend the organization's selfless work over the years, as its commitment truly embodies the Houston spirit of community.

Annam CDC embraces Houston's diversity by addressing the varying needs of people in our community who have the least. Through its service, families are fed and clothed, and senior citizens have a center that embraces their unique cultural experiences.

I thank **Annam Community Development Corporation** for its tireless dedication to our community and extend best wishes to who celebrate the Vietnamese New Year and Tet Holiday. May you enjoy prosperity, happiness and good health in this New Year.

Sincerely,

Sylvester Turner

Mayor



Controller: Chris Brown

The Annam Community Center

The Annam Community Development Corporation (ACDC) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, established in August 15, 2000, with the purpose of enhancing and promoting healthy living conditions for disadvantaged families and senior citizens. In 2003, ACDC was granted \$1,052,000 through Harris County CDBG funds for the construction of The Vietnamese American Community Center for Seniors. In 2005, the Center was built and furnished with continuous support from Houston Endowment, Sisters of Charities of the Incarnate Word, and local businesses. As the need for development and community service grew, the Board of Directors changed the name of the Center to Annam Community Center in 2015.

The Annam Community Center is comprised of a cafeteria which can be converted into an auditorium and is equipped with a commercial kitchen including a walk-in cooler and freezer, extensive library, fitness room, medical room, computer lab, food pantry, storage rooms dedicated for gifts-in-kind, courtyards filled with tropical fruit trees and exotic plants, and a community garden.

Under One Roof

Currently, the Center is a hub for the Seniors, Culture, and Community Garden Clubs, Zen Tai Chi Association, Mutual Aid Fund and the Hispanic Community. There are 15 programs/ services/activities offered at the Center, including Computer Training, Field Trip for Seniors, Wellbalanced Meal Services (free breakfast, lunch, and meals-on-wheels), Photography Class, Food Fair, CSFP (Commoditive Supplemental Food Program, a federal food program designed for seniors), Bingo, Go Western, Monthly Birthday Parties for seniors, Haircuts, Mammogram Screening, Community Heathcare, Referrals, and the International Festive designed to unify all people at the Center in October. The newest program, KidsZone, seeks to inspire youths by introducing coding technology.

Zen Tai Chi Association celebrates its tenth anniverary



The Existence of the Center

The Center seeks to impact and enrich the lives of the local community. Yet, the Center would not be able to achieve this purpose without the many kind-hearted people and companies who endlessly volunteer their time and resources. It is no wonder that the Center has survived nearly fifteen years of operation.

The Center started from a small gathering of about five people who wanted to serve the community. Since then, the Corporation has managed many programs and activities, converged many different cultures, welcomed hundreds of volunteers, and has been honorably recognized by government officials. In particular, the Center received two awards fighting for social justice: The Agency of the Year from Houston Food Bank and The Marcia Johnson Outstanding Public Service Award



What motivates us to continue to serve?

To help our readers understand the current situation, it is necessary to look back at the historical formation of the Vietnamese-American Center from its beginning in 2000. At that time, the Center was established to meet the needs of non-English speaking seniors in Northwest Houston. In exchange for receiving help for construction, the Annam CDC completed a five-year service agreement with the Harris County government (2005-2010), but it has never received any operating funds from any government agencies.

The Center exists now through the generosity of private charities, such as the Sisters of Charity and many others. However, in the past few years, the Annam CDC no longer received financial assistance from these organizations that experienced their own financial hardships. The Center had to adapt to support its vast network of more than 2,368 low-income families. In essence, the Center has fulfilled its promise to help Vietnamese-American seniors 20 years ago, and now it extends its outreach to other citizens from marginalized communities through the generosity and dedication of members and volunteers.



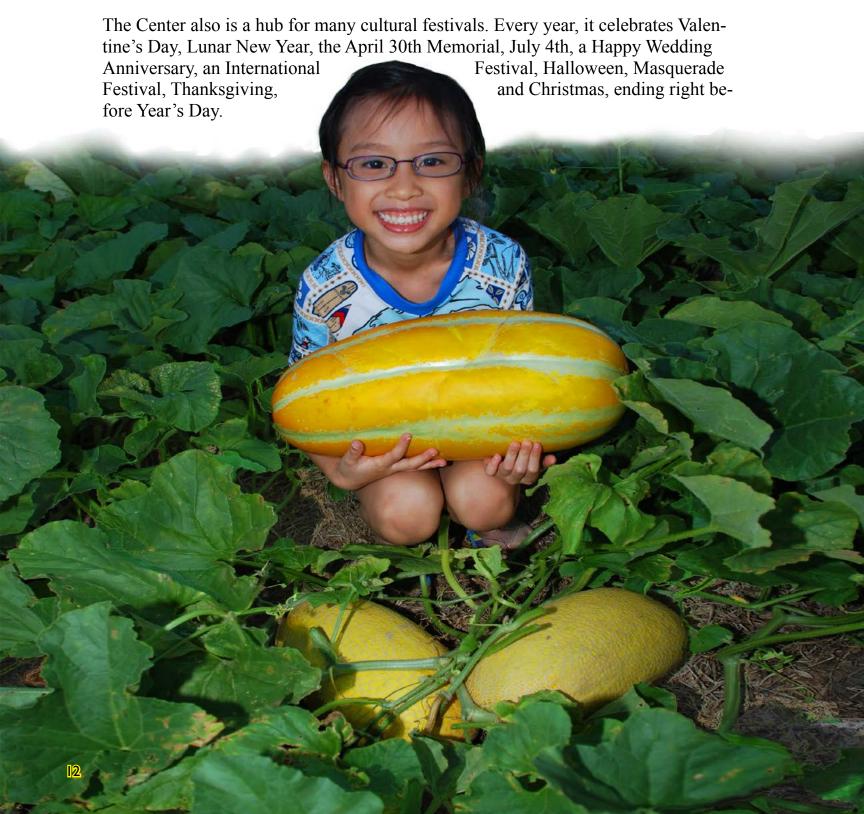


The Volunteer Team which helps the Annam Community Center fulfill its promise



The Center of Hope

The self-sufficient Annam Community Center has a full schedule to provide benefits to low-income families. At many of its food fairs, the Center even offers healthcare services and awareness programs. Additionally, the Center provides field trips, balanced meals, and a community garden to all of its members. In order to staff and support these programs, the Center relies on its volunteers and providers, not government assistance funds.





With the success of its outreach, the Center constantly has to cope with an ever-growing community in need. On average, the Center has more than 50 new families seeking help each month, adding to a demanding schedule. This consequence is typical of charitable organizations and demonstrates a real need to serve the local community.

To address the crowding, the Board of Directors suggested increasing the distribution date and time. Effectively, the Center went from hosting food fairs once a month to twice a week, totaling to a frequency of eight times more than that of the previous year.

This growth in food fair recipients not only increased physical supplies, such as space, but also increased human resources like volunteers with management skills or physical labour. In particular, loading and unloading in the Center's 100-space parking lot is quite difficult. The issue

is so severe that the parking lot often reaches full capacity, forcing recipients to find space in other areas.

Likewise, the addition of food fair recipients can also lead to disorganization. English, Vietnamese, and Spanish are frequently spoken among visitors at the Center, necessitating language-specific schedules. In effect, these language-specific instructions and timetables are important to ensure proper administration and public safety.

The Center is incredibly fortunate for the endless time and effort of the Houston Food Bank Foundation, supermarkets such as Sam's Club, and the community gardens for always meeting the food needs of the community. In addition, the Center is also blessed by its large team of enthusiastic and excellent volunteers. In the end, the Center hopes to leave a generous and impactful legacy, whether it be through its volunteers or recipients.

ANNAM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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Lorena Solis Public Relations



Lanh Nguyen Coordinator Vietnamese American Community



Christina Ochoa Coordinator Hispanic Community



Tuyetnga Lephuoc Coordinator General Community Food Fair

Lunar New Year Celebration

To celebrate with everyone, regardless of their background within the Vietnamese-American Community, the Center hosts an all-inclusive annual Lunar New Year. Contrary to the common belief that it is a one-day celebration, Tet is a multi-day series of various events and aspects of Vietnamese culture.







Preparation for Tet

Traditionally, Vietnamese people believe that everything must be orderly for the New Year. Therefore, at least two weeks before the New Year, families often clean and decorate their homes, buy flowers, and cook fancy meals for a prosperous New Year. All unnecessary items or supposedly ominous items are thrown away.

End of the year

Although the celebration of Tet starts on the last day of December, preparation for the holiday may start as early as the 23rd of December, with the Kitchen Gods (Ông Táo) Farewell Ceremony. According to legend, Ông Táo is both a kitchen god and a recorder of deeds, both good and bad, that people have committed in the past year. Ông Táo then reports these deeds to Ngoc Hoang, who judges his doers.

Traditionally, Cây Nêu, or bamboo plants, were weaponized to combat demons and ominous signs. Currently, these trees are often decorated with things that are considered to scare away bad spirits: garlic, cacti, mannequins, and pineapple leaves.

During Tet, Vietnamese people also prepare hearty dishes to feed their families and their ancestors. Most famously, they stuff, wrap, and steam rice cakes called bánh chung and bánh giầy, as well as the cylindrical southern-style bánh tét, before serving them to both the living and dead.

New Year

The New Year's Day can be December 30th for a regular year or December 29th for a leap year. On this day, families gather to eat rice and make offerings for a fortuitous next year. Beginning at midnight, the intersection of the old and new year is called Giao Thừa. At this time, family members are supposed to give one another best wishes and light fireworks together in the night sky.



The Main Activities

Three New Year Days

"The first day of the first month" is referred to as New Year's Day and is celebrated worldwide in countries that have adopted the Gregorian calendar. Families often organize parties and exchange inspirational goals. Within separated families, this day can also be used to spend time with fathers. Similarly, "the second day of the second month" can be used to spend time with mothers. Lastly, "the third day of the third month" can be considered an all-encompassing day of renewal and gratitude. During these days, people often reunite and reflect upon the past and present years.

Luck and Fortune

During Tet, it is customary for adults, especially grandparents and parents, to give children lucky money enclosed in red paper bags called "lì xì". These iconic red envelopes congratulate children on growing up and wish them good fortune and health in the new year. Lì xì is almost always red, the color which symbolizes luck, joy, and happiness among many Asian cultures.

Happy New Year

On the first day of Tet, the New Year's Day, children and grandchildren typically gather at one household to celebrate the Feast of the Ancestors and wish Tet to their elders. According to this concept, every new year increases every person's age by one year. Therefore, on the first day of the Lunar New Year descendants are expected to "wish a prosperous life" to their elders.

The Custom of Visiting

Visiting close ones and wishing them good health, fortune, and luck during the New Year is a tradition of both Western and Eastern cultures. These visits bring people together, eliminate problems of the old year, and happily welcome the new year. In essence, the New Year should be as much about self-reflection and self-improvement as about expressing gratitude for loved ones.

Traditionally, Tet is a long series of festivals that includes both spiritual and worldly elements. Since the central theme of the New Year involves presenting the souls of the deceased with the opportunity to return home, it is reasonable that many Vietnamese families will participate in the curation of altars filled with food and gifts, ancestral veneration, prayers, and visits to cemeteries. On the other hand, Tet is also an exciting, entertaining holiday that encourages dressing up, decorating flowers, lion dancing, and cooking and eating delicacies.

Paying respect to the long-standing practices of Tet, the Annam Community Center has retained the main features of the Lunar New Year with many Vietnamese and non-Vietnamese community members alike. At the Center, Tet includes a mesmerizing a lion dance, musical performance, feast, and the exchange of good wishes.



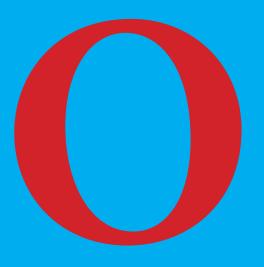
Joseph Do, Executive Director welcomes the Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee, U.S. Congress and Advisory Board member to the center to celebrate the Lunar New Year

































Multiculturalism

As a sociological term, multiculturalism describes the coexistence of different cultures. It operates under the basic assumption that members of society from different backgrounds are able to live together peacefully and add meaning to each others' lives.

The Center believes that we should all be proud of our respective cultures. In multicultural communities, people are able to contribute and share their unique cultural, linguistic, artistic, traditional, and behavioral ways. It is through these differences that we can create a vibrant community and an opportunity to come together though shared experiences. This is the spirit that we try to capture at our annual International Festival in October. The Center is especially proud of our community's eagerness to celebrate that which makes us distinct.





















Consulate On Wheels

With increased immigration laws, the legal needs of Hispanic people in the USA are increasing. The Center therefore actively helps those in need by contacting volunteer immigration lawyers for low-income families. However, our measures alone could not meet the community's urgent needs, so the Center asked the Mexican Consulate in Houston for help. We work closely with this group to bring related services to our community, and in turn make the Center a more ideal place for all minorities.





Food Programs

Currently, the Center has the following food programs –

Nutrition Program: This program provides lunches from Mondays to Fridays to seniors and low-income people.

CSFP Program (Commodity Supplemental Food Program): This federal program is run by the Houston Food Bank, in collaboration with the Center, to serve about 10,000 elderly people at maximum in Houston. Currently, the number of participants has exceeded this limit, making the second Thursday of each month incredibly busy.

Food Fair Program: This program provides supplies from the Houston Food Bank and Community Garden on Tuesdays and Thursdays every week. Due to the program's magnitude, each family can only receive goods once a week.

Emergency Assistance Program: This program helps out families in emergency situations such as fires, storms, medical emergencies, and even unemployment.









Christus Living Health Mobile Clinic provides free basic health services to low income families

Annual Meeting of the Mutual Aid Fund



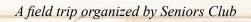
Commemorating the Fall of Saigon





Computer Class

Our kitchen staff is dedicated to providing daily nutrition and balanced meals.







Mammogram

Breast cancer is the second most common cancer among women worldwide and is the fifth leading cause of cancer-related deaths. It is also the foremost reason for cancer-related deaths in Hispanic women within the United States, although the current incidence of breast cancer is significantly lower in Hispanics compared to that of non-Hispanic Whites.

The Center provides education about breast cancer and implements risk reduction strategies in culturally-aware environments to help reduce cancer-related mortality. Since Hispanics constitute the largest minority group in the United States, this could have a significant impact on the nation-wide breast cancer incidence and mortality. Attempting to further this cause, the Center collaborates with the Rose Network to provide on-site mammogram screenings to low-income women in the local community. Last year, 78 women had participated in this program.

Mammograms are important, and often life-saving because doctors use them to screen for early signs of breast cancer. Mammograms are one of the most reliable tests that can detect breast cancer up to three years before physical abnormalities can be found.



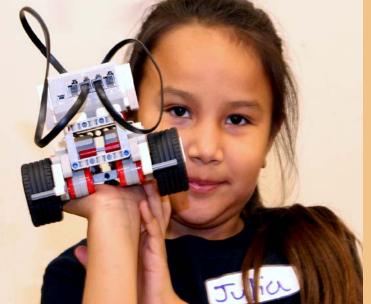


The summer can be a wonderful opportunity for families to relax and take off on well-deserved vacations. However, it can also represent a financial burden to many low-income families who cannot afford childcare. To mitigate this effect, the Center experimented with the Summer Activity Program 2019 to help disadvantaged students from low-income families. This program focused on technical education in the field of robotics. Following the program's objective, the Center also opened a special program called The KidsZone Maker Space for young children to learn and experiment with new concepts in technology.

The Summer Activity Program 2019, which was partially supported by the Harris County Office of Education, was led by Ms. Lollie Garay, the President of LABRATS Robotics & Engineering. Ms. Garay currently works at Baylor College of Medicine who has recently received the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) for her professional contributions over the past year.











Team names and icons, as chosen by students



The free KidsZone Maker Space program gives students the opportunity to learn about and explore the fundamentals of robotics and engineering. More than 100 students signed up to attend, but due to limited space and resources, the program could only accommodate 48 students. Participants were taught basic programming and participated in a very exciting competition.





Community Garden

The Community Garden at the Center fosters mindful eating, recreational activity, and community engagement. People working together towards a common goal not only increases the harvest, but also allows their neighbors to get to know one another. In addition, these volunteers develop a healthy hobby and improve their physical and mental health. Together, these benefits raise community spirit and morale.







Holiday Gifts To Share Program

This marks the third year that the Center, sponsored by the Houston Food Bank, Prince of Peace Parish, Dr. Alicia Bordon, Box A Lot Company, and Vietnamese-American Seniors Club has organized a special program for the Christmas season to bring joy and hope to 358 children from low-income families. The program includes free food, entertainment, and presents. On this occasion, the Center also has a tradition of especially aiding three of our most critically low-income families.









"Since my involvement at the Center, I have been so grateful for the opportunities that come with volunteering: making new friends and learning about different cultures. During the 2019 Christmas Event, I was amazed at how much joy the local children seemed with their new toys. They were incredibly warm, bright, and hopeful – everything that the holiday season should represent."

Catarina Do

Our Hope

Annam Community Development is a non profit organization committed to helping low-income families achieve lasting independence.

Poverty is a very complex issue that cannot begin to be solved without using an intergrated approach. It begins with meeting immediate needs, then addressing its root causes in order to help people achieve independence.

The Center believes in the power of relationships, collaboration, communication, and teamwork. When we work together, we are able to achieve much more than we ever could alone.

Last year, the Annam Community Center distributed 1,354,432 lbs of goods from the Houston Food Bank, including produce, meat, dairy, pastries, and more to low-income families. At the same time, the Center provided 32,422 meals for breakfast, lunch, and meals-on-wheels. We collaborate with other organizations to also facilitate basic healthcare services such as blood test, HIV, TB, and mamogram screenings as well as computer training, educational programs, referral services, and community awareness.

We believe that each person has extraordinary skills and talents just waiting to be recognized. By working together, we invest in low-income families. And by working closely with our youth, we are able to create the healthy environments and empowerment needed to foster lasting change.

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to share our work with you. Annam hopes that we can continue to make our society better with your continued support.

Annam Community Development Corporation

Nếu quý vị có những loại thẻ này, sẽ được thêm nhiều quyền lợi.

Quý vị có thể được nhiều quyền lợi hơn so với chương trình Medicare và Medicaid Nguyên thủy mà quý vị đang có bằng cách ghi danh vào chương trình UnitedHealthcare Dual Complete® (HMO D-SNP). Chương trình này kết hợp cả bảo hiểm về khám bác sĩ, bệnh viện và bảo hiểm thuốc theo toa của quý vị trong cùng một chương trình – với \$0 lệ phí bảo hiểm hàng tháng.



Quyền lợi phụ trội có thể bao gồm:



Quyền lợi Sản Phẩm Sức Khỏe: Mỗi năm sẽ có \$940 tín dụng lợi ích được nạp vào thẻ OTC Debit của quý vị để sử dung mua các sản phẩm chăm sóc sức khỏe không cần kê toa của bác sĩ tại các nhà thuốc Walgreens.



Đài Thọ về Nha Khoa: \$2,500 cho các dịch vụ chăm sóc nha khoa toàn diện (bao gồm cả làm răng giả và điều trị tủy răng).



Đài Tho về Thính Giác: \$2,000 cho các thiết bi trơ thính cứ hai năm một lần.



Trợ Giúp Chuyên Chở: Được đài thọ 60 chuyến đi một chiều mỗi năm.

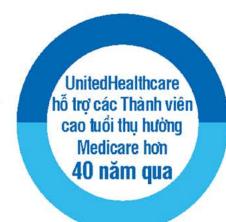


Đài Thọ về Rèn luyện sức khỏe: \$0 tiền đồng thanh toán để đăng ký trở thành hôi viên tại các phòng tập gym.

713-569-0590



Hẹ thong ưng pho khan cap cá nhân (Áp dụng cho điện thoại di động và điện thoại cố định): Có sẵn 24/7 và không phải trả thêm chi phí.



Gọi ngay hôm nay để ghi danh hoặc để được giải đáp các thắc mắc của quý vị.

Lan Than

Licensed Agent

713--569-0590, TTY 711



Chương Trình Cộng Đồng

UHCCommunityPlan.com/TX

uhcAsian.com

Các chương trình được bảo hiểm bởi Công ty Bảo Hiểm Sức Khỏe Hiệp Nhất - UnitedHealthcare hoặc một trong những công ty chi nhánh, một tổ chức Medicare Advantage có hợp đồng với chương trình Medicare của liên bang và hợp đồng với chương trình Medicaid của Tiểu Bang. Việc ghi danh tham gia vào chương trình này phụ thuộc vào việc gia hạn hợp đồng của chương trình với Medicare. Những loại trừ và hạn chế được áp dụng.

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