

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 3, 2005 CONTACT: Thang Nguyen
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592-4140, NCVA VIETNAMESE-AMERICAN GROUPS RECEIVE \$200,000 GRANT FROM
FREDDIE MAC TO HELP VIETNAMESE, CAMBODIAN, AND LAO FAMILIES DISPLACED BY RECENT
HURRICANES Coalition Helps Victims Break Language, Cultural Barriers and Access
Existing Relief Efforts Falls Church, VA - Three national Vietnamese-American organizations
receive a \$200,000 grant from Freddie Mac in an effort to break down cultural and language
barriers separating public and private hurricane relief programs from hundreds of Vietnamese,
Cambodian and Laotian families whose Gulf Coast homes and businesses were wrecked by
Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The three groups are the National Congress of Vietnamese Americans
(NCVA), Boat People SOS , and the National Alliance of Vietnamese American Service Agencies
(NAVASA). Freddie Mac's \$200,000 corporate grant will enable the three
Vietnamese-American groups to provide culturally adept and language proficient staff to bridge the
gap between government resources and the Asian Americans who speak little or no English and
have no understanding of how to access programs available to those impacted by the hurricanes.
Assistance will help nearly 1000 families find temporary shelter and to apply for federal, state, local
and private aid. In order to address the rebuilding/reconstruction phase and how to address the
community's intermediate and long-term housing needs, a critical assessment of housing needs will
be conducted. "With the Asian American community's infrastructure and resources limited
throughout the Katrina storm area, many victims are relying on APIA community organizations that
lack funding for an extended recovery effort," said Congressman Mike Honda , Chair of the
Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. "I want to thank Freddie Mac for their leadership in
providing this grant which is the first step in providing an adequate response." "I applaud
Freddie Mac for the grant they awarded to the National Congress of Vietnamese Americans (NCVA),
Boat People SOS (BPSOS), and the National Alliance of Vietnamese Americans Service Agencies
(NCVA)," said Congressman Tom Davis , Chair of the House Committee on Government Reform.
"I know firsthand these three highly regarded community organizations will work tirelessly to ensure
this grant money helps Vietnamese Americans rebuild their homes and communities in the
aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and Rita." "The devastation from Hurricane Katrina is a great
challenge for our nation," added Congressman Jim Moran , a member on the House Committee on
Appropriations. "We will rebuild the Gulf Coast and bring New Orleans back as one of this country's
most vibrant, culturally infused cities. But it will take a collective effort, one in which people of all
races, creeds and ethnicities must pitch in to help. I am especially concerned about helping state
and local officials house those in need and applaud Freddie Mac for moving us in the right direction."
"By working with these three widely-respected organizations, we can provide an essential
bridge between displaced Asian families and the hurricane relief efforts Freddie Mac and other
organizations launched in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita," said Dwight Robinson, Freddie
Mac's senior vice president of corporate relations and housing outreach. "Today's announcement
further underscores Freddie Mac's mission to foster financial stability for America's lenders,
borrowers and communities in all kinds of weather." Robinson added that the bi-lingual staff
the three organizations can now deploy aim to place 700 Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Lao families
in temporary housing in Bayou La Batre, Alabama and Biloxi, Mississippi, provide housing assistance
to an estimated 250 additional families returning to New Orleans, and help the Vietnamese
community assess its rebuilding needs in areas affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. "This
timely grant will help us transition from emergency relief to recovery," said Dr. Nguyen Dinh
Thang , president of Boat People SOS, Inc. "One of our focuses in the recovery phase is temporary
housing for hurricane victims. Due to language barrier, hundreds of Vietnamese, Cambodian and
Lao families have not been placed into FEMA-provided trailers. They continue to live in their
damaged residence under absolutely unhealthy conditions." "Freddie Mac has taken great