

Family Reunited, Thanks to the American Civic Association

In 1939, a group of 11 immigrants founded the American Civic Association (ACA) to provide aid and support to refugees, immigrants and the community as a whole. Since its inception, the American Civic Association has helped countless families throughout the Southern Tier.

American Civic Association helps families every step of the way

Recently, the ACA has helped reunite the Viall family of Apalachin, NY. When Mr. Viall married Zhaoxing Luo in China, he hoped to bring her, along with her son, Wen Zhao, to the United States. He turned to the American Civic Association who gave him advice, helped him complete forms, and assisted him in every step of the immigration process.



First, the ACA assisted Mr. Viall with paperwork from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to petition to permit his wife and stepson to immigrate to the US. With the help of the ACA, Mr. Viall completed forms required by the National Visa Center (NVC) in New Hampshire. Finally, he and his wife and stepson completed paperwork for the US Consulate in Guangzhou, China.

Family reunited, from China to the US

The entire process took over a year of arduous and time consuming dedication from both the ACA and the Viall family. After months of communication between Mr. Viall and the USCIS, his wife and stepson were given visas and permanent resident cards to live in the United States. It was a happy, long awaited reunion.

ACA provides a wide range of services to immigrant families

In addition to helping individuals like Mr. Viall with immigration and naturalization issues, the ACA also provides services to families once they arrive in the United States. The ACA offers 5 areas of core services: helping individuals find clean, affordable and safe housing; insuring the availability of adequate food for nourishment; insuring the availability of sufficient clothing and toiletries; facilitating the availability of medical care and treatment; assisting with the search for gainful employment.

The ACA is about helping new arrivals to the Southern Tier become self-sufficient, contributing members of the community.

ACA's Mission: to promote cultural awareness and understanding

The mission of the American Civic Association is to encourage the spirit of brotherhood among nations and people; to sponsor citizenship education; to promote racial, religious and political understanding; to cultivate fellowship between native and naturalized citizens and to safeguard and defend the Constitution of the United States.

ACA funding comes from United Way, as well as from various grants and fundraising events. Its mission, like that of United Way, promotes the ideals of selfless community service. Supporting United Way means supporting the services of organizations such as the American Civic Association.

The American Civic Association, like United Way of Broome County, is a not-for-profit agency that focuses on community development. It offers invaluable services to families and individuals around the Southern Tier. To learn more about the ACA, stop in to visit at 131 Front St. in Binghamton, or call 723-9419.

To obtain this newsletter by e-mail, contact pr@uwbroome.org. Current and back issues also available on our website: www.unitedwaybroome.org

what matters is published monthly by United Way of Broome County to highlight the positive results of your contributions to United Way on the people in our community.

United Way of Broome County, Inc.

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United Way
of Broome County

If you live in Broome, Chenango, or Tioga
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or help you need . . . quickly and confi-
dentially.

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729-9100

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with any technology problems they
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If you are a nonprofit organization in
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all are needed for:

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- office assistance
- organizing
- tutoring
- animal care
- committee work
- mentoring

. . . the possibilities are endless!



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