

我們期待未來克利夫蘭有更美好的亞洲城

記華人隊 MidTown 負責人之一 Karis Tzeng 曾加憐



克利夫蘭中國城華人隊 MidTown 的負責人之一的 Karis Tzeng (中文名曾加憐), 總是有着陽光燦爛的笑容, 她對人也是和藹可親, 樂於助人, 2021 年也積極幫助伊利華報求得生存, 尤其在冠狀病毒疫情發展過程中, 她總是跑在最前面幫助發放食物和幫助支持餐廳營業。

衆所周知, 對於大多數人來說, 冠狀病毒的影響始於 2020 年 3 月, 包括旅行禁令、學校關閉等。冠狀病毒引發的人們恐懼心理導致從 1 月和 2 月開始, 亞洲城商人的生意嚴重下降, Karis Tzeng 看到了這個情況, 她表示: 近 50 家亞洲人擁有的企業中有許多是小型家族企業, 甚至在國家關閉之前就暫時關閉了, 這給整個社區蒙上了一層不安全感。我們身在亞洲城, 真的很想做一些事情來滿足附近亞裔也包括其他族裔的人們對的食物獲取的需求, 並在心理層面上創建一些社區能相互理解相互交

流的機會, 幫助人們不感到孤立和孤獨。

Karis Tzeng 不僅說而且用行動做到: Tzeng 率先發起了 Feed AsiaTown 快閃食品配送計劃。每隔一周, MidTown Cleveland 與附近的餐館合作, 每次購買 100 份盒裝餐幫助餐廳生意, 然後將食物免費分發給居民。

她說: “這也成爲與居民進行登記並做諸如分發口罩之類的事情的機會。”

Karis Tzeng 本科畢業於賓夕法尼亞大學, 並在密歇根大學獲得了碩士學位, 然後在密歇根州安娜堡和費城唐人街鍛煉了她的社區發展技能。更重要的是她熱愛與人相處。她的組織領導人 Joyce Huang 說她: 在 Karis Tzeng 的帶領下, MidTown Cleveland 已爲 AsiaTown 項目籌集了近 200,000 美元, 包括用於 COVID-19 救濟、商業支持、語言訪問和翻譯、公共基礎設施和文化節目的資金。

Karis Tzeng 富有創造力, 她善良、善解人意, 她用體貼和包容的態度對待亞洲社區發展協會, 社會承認她的工作和能力, 並給予她很高的榮譽。

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Karis Tzeng,
Director of Asia-Town Initiatives,
MidTown Cleveland Inc.

For most of us, the impact of coronavirus began in March 2020, with travel bans, school closings and lock-

downs. The racial fear and mistrust spawned by COVID, however, caused “a serious decrease in business for AsiaTown merchants beginning in January and February,” according to Karis Tzeng, a community development specialist with MidTown Cleveland who focuses her work on the near East Side neighborhood.

Many of its 40 Asian-owned businesses are small, family-run establishments that had temporarily closed even before state shutdowns, Tzeng explained, casting a cloud of insecurity over the entire community.

“We really wanted to do something to both meet the needs of food access in the neighborhood and to kind of create some community connection points, because we were hearing that a lot of residents were feeling isolated and alone,” she said.

In response, Tzeng spearheaded the Feed AsiaTown pop-up food distribution program. Every other week, MidTown Cleveland partners with neighborhood restaurants, gives them a boost by buying boxed meals and then distributes those to residents for free.

“It also became an opportunity to sort of check in with residents and do things like pass out masks,” she said.

For the newish AsiaTown Initiatives — launched when Tzeng joined MidTown Cleveland in June 2019 — Tzeng said the pandemic provided an unexpected boost to her fledgling efforts to foster relationships with the residents and busi-



nesses.

Tzeng did her undergraduate work at the University of Pennsylvania and earned a master’s degree from the University of Michigan before honing her community development skills in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and in Philadelphia’s Chinatown.

Under Tzeng’s leadership, MidTown Cleveland has secured close to \$200,000 for AsiaTown projects, including funding for COVID-19 relief, business support, language access and translation, public infrastructure and cultural programming, said the nonprofit’s vice president, Joyce Huang.

“She is creative, kind, empathetic and scrappy, while also approaching community development with thoughtfulness and inclusion, meaning that she is able to build upon relationships and partnerships,” Huang said.

— Judy Stringer



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