

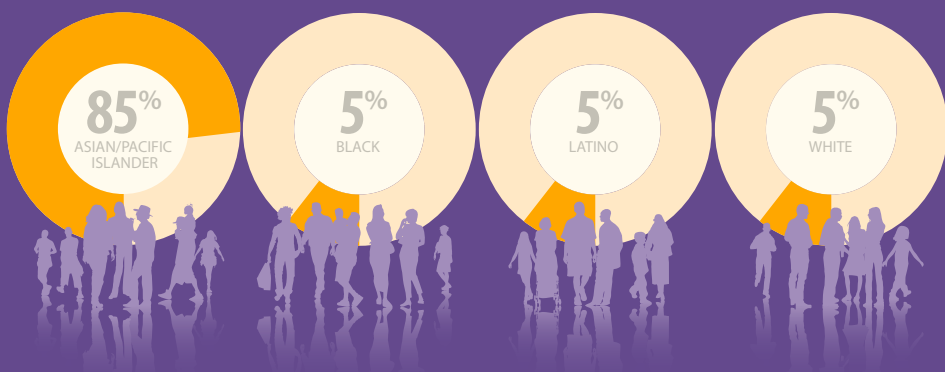
Our mission includes:

- **promoting civic engagement** and community building
- **developing affordable housing** and commercial space
- **providing small business technical assistance** and micro-enterprise development
- **offering high-quality child care services**

Housed within the Vietnamese American Community Center, we sit at the heart of a multicultural neighborhood and work to provide accessible, affordable services to the Fields Corner community, including preschool, after school programs, summer camp, youth leadership programs, first time home buyers' courses, and more.

We serve people of all backgrounds, ethnicities and heritage.

Our program constituency:



Community Investment Tax Credit (CITC) program

Through the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development, VietAID has been selected for the past four years as one of the Massachusetts-based community development corporations (CDCs) that is eligible for a state-tax credit program. Donors who contribute \$1,000 or more are able to get a 50% tax credit on their state tax return for their contribution in addition to the standard federal tax deduction for charitable contributions.

For more information:

Call **(617) 822-3717** or email admin@vietaid.org
www.vietaid.org

VietAID

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VietAID

Building a strong Vietnamese American community and transforming Fields Corner into a vibrant, diverse neighborhood.



“

I understand that I do have a voice
in this community.

”

The Vietnamese American Initiative for Development (VietAID), in the Fields Corner neighborhood of Dorchester, is an organization dedicated to taking action—for and with our multicultural community. We help people in many areas of life, including financial development, education, cultural celebration, social and emotional advancement, and civic engagement. We serve nearly 1,000 community members of all ages annually.

Our History

Founded in 1994, VietAID was the first grassroots community development corporation founded and operated by Vietnamese refugees and immigrants in the United States.



Youth Services

Âu Co' Preschool

Established in 2005, Âu Co' is the first and only Vietnamese bilingual and bicultural preschool program in Massachusetts. It is a Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care certified program, and most of our students receive tuition support from the government. The school is run by experienced, bilingual and bicultural daycare providers and prepares our students to enroll in kindergarten in the Boston Public Schools.

Current enrollment: 58 children ages 2 years 9 months through 5 years

Student-teacher ratio: 5:1

90.5% of students graduate prepared to start kindergarten

99% of parents express satisfaction with the school

VietAID Scholarly Program for Youth (VSPY)

Established in 2009, VSPY offers a licensed summer and afterschool program for children in grades 1 – 8. Our programming fosters a sense of belonging and independence through a combination of experiential learning, family involvement, educational support, and community engagement. Students have homework time, one-on-one tutoring, extensive sports and fitness offerings and academic enrichment classes in English language arts (ELA), social sciences, and the STEM fields—science, technology, engineering, and math.

Average student-teacher ratio: 12:1

Enrollment: 65-70 elementary and middle school students with as many as 90 during summer months

Of our students in 2016:

71% felt their academics improved through our program

78% felt connected to the community

81% felt more connected to their family and valued their education more

81% developed friendship and teamwork skills

97% said they planned to go to college

VietAID Leadership Alliance (VALA)

VALA is a youth leadership program for high school students focusing on leadership development and community engagement. Youth engage with a social justice curriculum about their identity, family and community histories, issues of oppression and social movements. Then youth apply their knowledge in a community project that engages the larger community. Additionally, youth have opportunities in workforce/career readiness, financial literacy, and college access/readiness workshops.

In 2016, all seven of our high school seniors graduated from high school
and were accepted to four-year colleges

In the 2015-2016 school year:

87.5% of students completed VALA Peer Leadership training

85% of students remained in the VALA network after completing Peer Leadership Training

50% of the Peer Leaders became involved in other community organizations

“I appreciated the work-shops that taught me so much about my culture that I didn't learn in school.”

“

Being part of VietAID has changed my life, and I to improve my English as well as

Community Services

Housing Counseling

A Massachusetts Homeownership Collaborative-approved counseling agency, VietAID supports families through the process of renting a home or acquiring affordable housing, including understanding tenant and landlord's rights and responsibilities and navigating the contract between the housing agent, landlord, and tenant. Our first-time homebuyer training teaches about basic home purchasing, financing application procedures, building credit, mortgage qualification, financial literacy, and home-ownership.

- **Assisted more than 400 families** through housing counseling programs
- **Certified approximately 633** limited English proficient individuals in our ten-hour workshops

In 2016, 281 households were served through pre-purchase, first-time homebuyer counseling.

Real Estate Development

VietAID has developed four significant, mixed-use affordable housing projects, all of which are located within a half-mile radius of public transportation in Dorchester. We work with a real estate company, Trinity Management, to match interested renters with one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments. We help applicants navigate low-income housing credits and the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program.

- We professionally manage **123 affordable rental housing units**
- We provide affordable and quality housing to more than **241 individuals**
- We have developed **five commercial condos and own three rental retail spaces**, all occupied by local businesses—in the Field's Corner neighborhood

Celebration and Engagement

We participate in and host several events throughout the year, celebrating a variety of occasions to build a sense of unity and belonging within the community.

Celebrations include:

- **Tết**, the Vietnamese Lunar New Year
- **Love Your Block**, a city-wide community service initiative
- **Dorchester Day Parade**, an annual parade celebrating the Dorchester community

“Now I’m less afraid of speaking up. Back then I would never say anything because I thought no one would listen, but now I’m willing to speak publicly.”

grew up with the program. It was a place for me to engage with my heritage.”

- Hung, VALA alum, UMass Amherst student