

## **FOREIGN-BORN AMERICANS SHARE IN PAIN, URGE TO GIVE**

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### **Body**

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This week, many foreign-born in America stopped feeling like hyphenated Americans. Their adopted country had been attacked, and their fellow countrymen were in pain. They -- immigrants from other lands -- shed real tears.

And after the crying, came the giving.

Susie Swen sat down and wrote a check to the American Red Cross.

"I don't feel like I owe this country anything," said the Taiwan-born woman. "I just feel like this is my country and I need to give."

Dana Hanh Nguyen couldn't bear to continue with her wedding planning. The 29-year-old marketer sent out mass e-mails to Vietnamese professionals in Silicon Valley for a fundraiser she organized Friday night in San Jose.

And Hersh Mehta will tell the 1,500 theater patrons gathered for an Indian play in Hayward on Sunday night to stop by the Red Cross booth during intermission. His company, Performing Arts International, will start the fundraising efforts with a \$2,500 check.

"There is an enormous amount of efforts on the part of all ethnic communities across the country, the likes of which we haven't seen before," said Kailash Joshi, president of the IndUS Entrepreneurs, the Santa Clara-based business group known as TiE. "I've been here 38 years. I don't think the community has mobilized this fast and this strong in recent history," Joshi said. "It's in every corner of the United States, with the same intensity."

#### Events planned

The American India Foundation, backed by dozens of Indian-American organizations and businesses in the Bay Area, will hold a prayer vigil and fundraiser from 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday at Plaza de Cesar Chavez in San Jose. Leaders from five religions will lead a collective prayer. The foundation hopes to raise \$1 million for victims' families.

And this weekend, Chinese for Christ Church of San Jose expects to top the \$7,500 its 300-member congregation raised last week, said Pastor Job Lee.

"No matter whether we are first-generation immigrants or second-generation, once we chose to live in this country, we feel it's our home, too," Lee said. "So if the country has a big tragedy, that is our tragedy, too."

Fundraising efforts generated from within ethnic communities tend to be very successful, said Janine Sauer, chief development officer for the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross.

"They speak the language and have built trust in their people," Sauer said.

## FOREIGN-BORN AMERICANS SHARE IN PAIN, URGE TO GIVE

At least three Vietnamese and Vietnamese-American groups have raised funds for the Red Cross, which expects to receive two \$100,000 checks this weekend from the Vietnamese emigre community.

"They just called and said, 'Can you come? We'll present you a check,' " Sauer said. "We have had a very significant outpouring from the community in general, but I've personally fielded a lot of calls from all ethnicities."

'From my heart'

Harpreet Chadha came to the United States from India three years ago; he's done very well for himself, he said. Chadha is making time in his busy schedule, between business flights across the country, to help coordinate Sunday's event by the American India Foundation.

"If this country gives us a chance by adopting us, now is the time to show what we can do for our new motherland," said Chadha, a New York Life insurance agent in San Jose. "This is from my heart."

Tran Dinh Truong wrote the Red Cross a \$2 million check the day after the attack. He said he did it to share in the pain.

Truong, 69, who emigrated from Vietnam in 1975 with nothing, today owns Hotel Lafayette in Buffalo, N.Y., and Hotel Carter in New York City. This past week, he has been helping the rescue and recovery efforts, clearing debris as workers cleared bodies.

Nina Pevzner, a Jew from Russia, doesn't have \$2 million to give. But she will give what she can.

She has two checks going out, one for the Red Cross and the other directly to New York.

"There is no person in the world who wouldn't be touched by such a tragedy," said Pevzner, a credit analyst who lives in Cupertino.

Last week, Swen wanted to take her two young girls with her and give blood. But she's waiting because she heard type O blood was needed most, and she and her children are type AB.

Swen, who has called America home since 1978, gasped in horror like everyone else watching the Sept. 11 air assaults.

"The day the tragedy happened, it's like it happened to me," she said. "It's not an obligation to give back. I just feel like I have to give."

## Notes

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ATTACK ON AMERICA

SPECIAL REPORT

LOCAL GROUPS RAISE FUNDS

Here is a sampling of the many local ethnic groups that are raising money for victims of the Sept. 11 attacks.

American India Foundation: Send donations, payable to "AIF -- September 11 Fund," to AIF, 647 E. Calaveras Blvd., Milpitas, Calif. 95035.

Bay Chinese 911 Relief Fund: Donations payable to American Red Cross, Bay Chinese 911 Relief Fund c/o Bridge Bank of Silicon Valley, 2120 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, Calif. 95050.

Lebanese American Association: Send donations to: LAA Special Relief Fund, Box 4464, Burlingame, Calif. 94010.

San Jose Cambodian Buddhist Society: Donations payable to American Red Cross, San Jose Cambodian Buddhist Society, 840 Mervyn Way, San Jose, Calif. 95127.

## FOREIGN-BORN AMERICANS SHARE IN PAIN, URGE TO GIVE

Federation of Vietnamese **Americans** of Northern California: Donations payable to American Red Cross, Federation of Vietnamese **Americans** of Northern California, 2268 Quimby Road Suite E, San Jose, Calif. 95122.

Vietnamese American Community of Northern California: Donations payable to American Red Cross, Vietnamese American Community of Northern California, 1659 N. Capitol Ave. Suite 322, San Jose, Calif. 95132.

Source: Mercury News

## Graphic

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Photos (2);

PHOTO: SUSANNA FROHMAN -- MERCURY NEWS

Dana Hanh Nguyen loads red, white and blue balloons onto a truck Friday in preparation for her fundraiser that night.

PHOTO: SUSANNA FROHMAN -- MERCURY NEWS

Dana Hanh Nguyen on Friday loads onto a truck the posters she designed for the fundraiser she planned for that night. Money raised at the event will go to victims in last week's terrorist attacks on New York and Washington D.C.

[Photograph did not run in Morning Final edition]

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