

Honorees of the Year

Nelson Louis

Executive Officer, The Ong Family Foundation

Retired President & CEO, YMCA of Greater Bergen County, NJ

Nelson Louis leads a private family foundation that awards grants to not for profit agencies located in the northeast region of the United States. The Ong Family Foundation is a private foundation established in 1997 that has a broad range of philanthropic interests. The foundation principally seeks to fund programs that are comprehensive, community-based and preventive in nature, and it holds a special interest in funding agencies that service Asian communities. The scope of program areas funded by the foundation includes Social Services, Education, Medicine & Health Care and Arts & Culture. In addition to program grants made in response to applications submitted, the foundation may make donor-advised grants each year that reflect the interests of its individual trustees.

To date, the Ong Family Foundation has provided over $8.0 million in donations to over one hundred local and regional nonprofit organizations in the Greater New York Metropolitan area.

The Ong Family Foundation works closely with grantees to build their organizational structure and grow their financial and human capital for the purpose of leveraging the foundation's gift and maintaining sustainability.

Nelson Louis was employed with the YMCA for 37 years since his graduation with a B.A. in Eduation from CUNY Queens College in 1977. His most recent position was as President & CEO of the YMCA of Greater Bergen County, and prior to that, he served 26 years with the YMCA of Greater New York, beginning as a Youth Coordinator and eventually served as Executive Director at two branches. Nelson's career experiences have spanned the broad field of YMCA work, beginning with youth programs and camps, moving on to facility operations, residence, membership, senior programs, international travel, and then into capital projects development. Nelson was active in the YMCA movement, serving as founding member of the YUSA Asian Leadership Network and then as a delegate to the YUSA National Assembly in 2007 in the Mid Atlantic Region. He has twice received the YMCA National AYP Award for Excellence.

Nelson served on the National Advisory Committee of the Rebuilding Chinatown Initiative created after 911 to rebuild NYC Chinatown community.

Nelson Louis has also been involved with the following:
- Past National Board Member, Asian American Pacific Islander in Philantrophy
- Trustee for the YMCA of USA Fred Y Hoshiyama Asian Leadership Scholarship Fund
- Founding Member of YMCA of USA Asian Leadership Network Steering Committee
- Trainer, YMCA of USA Fiscal Stewardship for Organizational Leaders
- Coach, YMCA of USA MultiCultural Executive Development Institute

Nelson resides in New York City with his wife, Deborah Chan. Both are very active in building capacity and organizational sustainability in Asian Pacific Islander American community organizations.