



SEACM's mission is to welcome immigrants of all nationalities and assist them in becoming healthy, productive members of our community.

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A 501(c3) corporation

Southeast Asian Christian Ministry

Quarterly Newsletter

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### From the Desk of Director Alice: *New Citizens!*

In early May I received a call from Lee Macey. She was helping Amarjit Singh of the Sikh Center in Anderson to prepare for their yearly festival, and they were looking for a new citizen to lead THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE to open the ceremony. It wasn't as easy as it sounds. You need someone who is confident and outgoing, and some are quite shy about speaking in front of a large group. I ruled out many and thought of MARIA from Mexico. She was thrilled and asked to bring along her 18-year-old niece who was visiting her. The girls had a wonderful time. They were dressed in saris and sent me text photos all day long. Unfortunately, MARIA got so nervous that she had to read the Pledge but I am sure that no one minded. They have wonderful memories of

their day and were good ambassadors of community outreach for SEACM.

### Maria Leads the Pledge of Allegiance



### Riverfront Theater Buyout: Save the Date

SEACM is looking forward to bringing our supporters together again this Fall for another great Riverfront Theater Experience: *Forever Plaid* on September 20, 2023. Tickets will be sold through SEACM board members at your home church. Or call board member Pam Crowe 530-246-2563.

## Board of Directors

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## Serving DACA Qualified Kids

Last year in 2022, Director Alice helped 74 people renew their DACA status. SEACM charged no fee for this service. What is this crucial service all about? When people who are not US citizens enter the country without following the laws for immigration, they sometimes bring children with them. Hypothetically, let's call them Greta and Carlos, age 1 and 3. The parents often continue living in the US, working in the shadow economy: perhaps in restaurants, canneries or agriculture. The children go to school, make friends and culturally become Americans. If the family is blessed with more children while living in the US, those children are automatically US citizens since they were born in the US.

Much research shows that Immigrants normally move up the socio-economic ladder through education and hard work. However, when Greta and Carlos grow up with their good educations and seek a job or higher learning, they get a big surprise: Through no fault of their own, they learn that they are undocumented and have no legal status to be in the US. This means that in the midst of a shortage of workers in the US, Greta and Carlos can't work. Now what? Seems like we need a plan to deal with this situation.

Unfortunately, our federal legislature has been unable to agree on legislation that results in a rational and humane immigration system. As a result, each administration makes various rules that are usually tested in court and we stagger forward with a disorganized immigration system. What should kids like Greta and Carlos do? In order to find a partial solution to the situation in which many undocumented children found themselves, the president in 2012 issued an executive memorandum called, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA). The point of DACA is to give a kind of legal status to some of the people who are not citizens but were brought to the US as children. While not a path to citizenship, people who qualify for DACA can pay \$495 to the US Govt. and get a work permit for 2 years. Not every person brought to the US as a child qualifies. The program has been challenged in court, cancelled by the former administration and reinstated in the current one. For about the past two years, no new DACA applications have been processed as the courts continue to deliberate. Today there are approximately 600,000 DACA people in the US. SEACM has about 300 DACA clients at the moment that need to be renewed every two years. SEACM continues to help immigrants comply with the ever-changing laws. Check out Wikipedia for more info:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deferred\\_Action\\_for\\_Childhood\\_Arrivals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deferred_Action_for_Childhood_Arrivals)  
*Bill Rich, Editor & Alice McFadden, Director*

## Your Giving Makes a Difference!

Every donation supports the continued operation of SEACM helping immigrants and refugees become productive members of our communities. You may mail your donations to: SEACM, 2315 Placer St., Redding, CA 96001 or visit our website: SEACMredding.org.

