

»»» CELEBRATING CHANGEMAKERS «««

# HONOREE SPOTLIGHT SERIES



## MEET OUR HONOREES



**Chi-mei Lin**  
Chinese Community Center  
Chief Executive Officer



**Gee Family Association  
of Houston**



**Roger and Annie Yen**  
Taiwan Hotel & Motel  
Association of Greater Houston

Welcome back to our exciting annual newsletter series, "Celebrating Changemakers: Honoree Spotlight." In this series, we embark on a journey through the lives and accomplishments of extraordinary individuals who have made a lasting impact on our community and beyond. Each month, we will shine a well-deserved spotlight on one honoree, revealing their inspiring journey, their contributions, and the indelible mark they've left on the world. This month, we are featuring Roger and Annie Yen—leaders in Houston's hospitality industry and active volunteers within the Asian American community.

## BUILDING COMMUNITIES, EMPOWERING LIVES: ROGER & ANNIE YEN

### FROM MODEST BEGINNINGS TO PROSPERITY

In this month's Honoree Spotlight, we are honored to recognize **Roger and Annie Yen**, recipients of the **Community Builder Award** at our 2024 *Embracing Tomorrow's Harvest* Gala. From modest beginnings, the Yens' story is one of resilience, entrepreneurial spirit, and a lifelong commitment to learning, growth, and giving back. Their journey from the garment business to the food industry and ultimately to the hospitality sector was not a matter of chance, but rather the result of hard work, humility, and deep dedication to family and community. With their giving hearts, the Yens have touched countless lives both locally and beyond.



### »»» AN IMMIGRANT COUPLE'S JOURNEY TO SUCCESS

In the early 1980s, Annie and Roger met while working together in Taiwan, where Roger also ran a garment business. Driven by an entrepreneurial spirit, Roger moved to Houston in 1986, seeking better business opportunities. While encountered a limited clothing market, he was introduced to a successful local Chinese restaurant owner that brought him to the restaurant business, which eventually led him into the hospitality industry. Annie joined Roger in 1988 and they embarked on an entrepreneurial journey that would transform their lives. Amidst a challenging economic downturn in the late 1980s, when many business owners were leaving Houston, Roger and Annie chose to stay. With encouragement and support from their friends in the hotel business, they were given the opportunity to manage hotels with Roger doing building maintenance and Annie manning the front desk. Through hard work, perseverance, and hospitality, they saved enough money to buy their first hotel in 1989. Their success continued as they built a new hotel in 1998, expanding their business over the years. Roger and Annie attribute their success to the strong support of the Asian American community, where hard work and honesty are always valued. They believe that the community becomes stronger when we come together and uplift each other.

### »»» GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY



Roger and Annie are community leaders dedicated to uplifting others through service and volunteerism. Both has served as president of the Taiwan Hotel & Motel Association. During recent year disasters, they provided hotel rooms to families displaced by Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Beryl. Their community involvement has no boundary. Roger was the Chair of the International Leadership Foundation Houston Chapter, inspiring young Asian American leaders in public, business, academic, and other different fields. His role with the Space City Professional Association (SCiPA) shows his dedication to empowering Houston's diverse professionals. Together, Roger and Annie actively support local cultural and community events, adding to Houston's rich cultural fabric.

### »»» HONORING THEIR HERITAGE

Despite their success, Roger and Annie have stayed deeply connected to their roots, nurturing a strong sense of heritage in their family. Their children attended Chinese school, and Annie dedicated over a decade to teaching Chinese language classes at her church and a local Chinese school. Their daughter, Karen Yen, was crowned Miss Chinatown Houston in 2018, furthering the family's legacy of cultural preservation and pride.



Roger and Annie Yen's legacy is one of unwavering dedication—not only to their business endeavors but also to their family, community, and the countless lives they have touched. Their commitment to both business success and social responsibility has made them true community builders. As they receive the **Community Builder Award** at our *Embracing Tomorrow's Harvest* 45th Anniversary Gala, we celebrate their extraordinary journey and the many ways they have given back to the Houston community and beyond.

Join us in honoring Roger and Annie Yen for their remarkable contributions on Saturday, 11/16/2024. For more details about the event, please visit [cchouston.org/2024gala/](http://cchouston.org/2024gala/).