SUMMARY

The Vietnamese American community continues to face a multitude of health disparities as a result of the unique socioeconomic, linguistic, and cultural barriers. These include, but are not limited to, social stigma that discourages screening and treatment, and struggle to access resources and services due to a language barrier. VACF's Community Shop and Screen aims to address these barriers by providing community members with health education, cancer prevention and screenings along with food assistance through a team of bilingual and bicultural health educators, health navigators and volunteers.

WHAT DID WE DO?

Community “SHOP AND SCREEN” addresses cancer prevention, access to care and food insecurity. The project pivoted VACF’s current program activities to include a “farmer’s market” day where individuals can “shop” for food items at an outdoor market and “screen” for cancer as appropriate, all free of charge.

HEALTH EDUCATION, CANCER PREVENTION, AND ACCESS TO CARE

- One-on-one education and risk assessment along with educational materials provided to community members in Vietnamese regarding TB, Hepatitis B & C, liver and colorectal cancer
- Onsite blood draw for Hepatitis B & C screening panel: HbsAg, HbcAb, HbsAb, and Anti-HCV. Follow-ups at 1-, 3- and 6-months to explain results and provide further linkages to resources as needed: vaccination, further diagnostic resolutions and options of care.
- FIT kits provided for colorectal screening with in-language instructions of sample collection and return. Reminders to encourage participation and increase return rate. Follow-ups to explain results and provide further linkages to resources as needed.

FOOD INSECURITY

- Farmer’s market style setup allows community members to pick fresh produce and dry goods of choice donated by local food banks, markets and businesses, thus limiting food waste.
- Provide need assessments for referrals and linkages to sustainable resources and available assistance programs as needed.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Population of focus: underserved and limited-English proficient Vietnamese older adults in Little Saigon area
- Two (2) “SHOP AND SCREEN” events hosted in September 2022 and March 2023
- Over 350 households provided with fresh produce and dry goods.
- Over 250 community members received education on Hepatitis B&C, liver and colorectal cancer.
- 59 community members screened for Hepatitis B and C (blood tests).
- 53 community members screened for colorectal cancer (FIT kits).
- 100% follow-ups conducted.

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FINAL THOUGHTS

Integrating both “SHOP” and “SCREEN” components is an efficient strategy that allows VACF to successfully address health disparities in the Vietnamese community by providing community members with both food assistance as well as cancer education and prevention.