Introduction to the Vietnamese Community in New Orleans East

Cam-Thanh Tran
Tulane University
School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine
From the Far East to New Orleans East
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Hurricane Katrina – August 29, 2005
Right after Hurricane Katrina...

- Most Vietnamese-Americans evacuated to Houston, Dallas and Atlanta
- During this time, Fr. Vien Nguyen, pastor of MQVN Church, traveled to different cities to visit his parishioners
- Community started coming back in October 2005
- Faced with many challenges
  - Community was designated as green space
  - Fought to have water and energy turned on
  - Set-up tent city
A Major Setback – and a Galvanizing Moment

In February 2006, Mayor Nagin used executive power to open a landfill close to the community.

Credit: Citylab.com
Post Katrina

- May 2006, Mary Queen of Viet Nam Community Development Corporation (MQVN CDC) and the Vietnamese American Young Leader Association (VAYLA) were formed.
Who am I?

CULTURAL BROKER
Cultural Broker … what is it?

“the act of bridging, linking or mediating between groups or persons of differing cultural backgrounds for the purpose of reducing conflict or producing change”. (Jezewski, in Jezewski & Sotnik, 2001)
Cultural Brokers … what do they do?

- Example 1: Community Outreach
KATIVA NOLA
Respondent briefings and Community Health Fairs

Community Health Fair

Respondent luncheon and briefing
KATIVA NOLA
Respondent Outreach

New Year’s Card from our Team
KATIVA NOLA
Community Service

November 3rd to November 17th
Bridging Two Worlds Presents:
NOTABLE VIETNAMESE AMERICAN WOMEN

An exhibit celebrating the human stories and overaching leaderships of Vietnamese American Women in the greater New Orleans area.
The exhibit can be found in the Morrison (middle floor) of the LRC
Campe on Tulane University uptown campus.

Closing Ceremony
Friday, November 16th at 5:30pm
Quinlan Morrison of LRC
Guest Speaker - Cyndi Nguyen
Food and drink will be provided.

For more information contact: Cam-Thanh Tran (tran@tulane.edu)

KATIVA NOLA team helped Vietnamese families with debris removal after the February 2017 tornado in Eastern New Orleans. Photo by Kate Tynan
KATIVA NOLA
Tooting our Horn

Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine is conducting the KATIVA NOLA Study

We need YOU!

We’re closing the study this year. If you have been a participant in the past, we would like to ask you questions one last time about your health and well-being after Katrina. If you don’t talk to all of the original participants like you, it becomes very difficult for us to convince federal, state, and local officials about needs for health and other services for Vietnamese community.

KATIVA-NOLA has made numerous contributions to academic research and policy.

For example:
- We have documented and interpreted many of the challenges that the community has overcome since its establishment in 1973.
- We have produced essential pre-Katrina and post-Katrina data on the community’s health needs to support the opening of the community’s health clinic in 2008.

In addition to these scholarly contributions, KATIVA NOLA has also contributed to New Orleans’ Vietnamese American community in many other ways. For example:
- We organized, funded, and implemented a series of life history interviews of the Vietnamese community’s elders, while training Vietnamese youth in interviewing and writing techniques.
- We formed and collaborated with Common Ground in 2010 to produce a guide to mental health services in the area among Vietnamese.
- We prepared an up-to-date report on the health needs of the community in 2010.

Center for Studies of Displaced Populations (CSDP)
1440 Canal Street, Suite 1500,
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112
Phone: 504-861-1398
http://geh.tulane.edu/healthcare
in/Default.aspx?RFID=CSDP
Cultural Brokers … what do they do?

- Example 2: Mitigate mishaps
NHÓM NGHIỆN CỦU VÀ CÁC THÀNH VIÊN TỪ CÔNG ĐỒNG

- Trường Y tế Công đồng và Y học Nhiệt đới, Đại học Tulane
- Nhà thơ Maria Nuir vụng Việt Nam
- Cơ quan Phát triển Công đồng MOVN
- Tổ chức Dào tạo Phát triển Kinh tế cho người Việt (VIET)
- Công đồng người Việt tại Mỹ thuộc bang Louisiana (VACO/LA)
- Văn phòng BP SOS
- Trung tâm Quốc gia về PTSD

Hỗ trợ tài chính
- Việt Quêg gia Sở khoa Tế chấn
- (NIMH) – 2006
- Quỹ thung Tăng cường Nghiên cứu của Đại học Tulane
- cho các phòng thí nghiệm từ năm 2007
- Quỹ Giáo sư mang tên Thomas C. Keller thuộc Đại học Tulane – 2007

Thông tin chi tiết

KATIVA-NOLA
Tác động của bão Katrina trên công đồng người Việt Nam & New Orleans, LA

Tulane University
School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

www.ph.tulane.edu/kativana/Vietnam/study3_kativana.htm
Mark J VanLandingham, PhD
markj@tulane.edu

Hồ sơ ngoại Việt Nam, bao gồm những thông tin và số liệu. Các yếu tố môi trường xung quanh và cách hiểu và thích ứng
Conclusions and take away

- In research focusing on non-mainstream populations, “stuff” happens. : )
- A cultural broker can help sooth ruffled feathers, mend fences, and help emphasize what the research team is doing to help the community (in addition to generating important and interesting research about the community, of course). : )
I am looking forward to your comments and questions, and to our discussion.

The End.

Thank you! Cám ơn!