

# Make-A-Wish builds playground for six-year-old boy

By Maria Hernandez

Pacific Daily News

**H**AGATNA, Guam (AP) — Six-year-old Jerome Aguon was all smiles as he played with his siblings and cousin on a new playground set erected in the front yard of his home.

"We're pretty excited," said Jesse Aguon, the boy's father. "Now we don't have to go to the park anymore. We have one in our own yard."

The playground was built through the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam, a group that helps grant wishes for young children and teens with life-threatening medical conditions.

To an outsider, Jerome Aguon looks like any other young boy — rambunctious and full of life. However, since he was born, he has struggled with liver issues.

The six-year-old has shown progress in the last year after receiving throat surgery in the Philippines, which keeps him from vomiting blood. The boy is still waiting for a liver transplant, but doctors recommend the transplant surgery not take place until he's older — around age 15.



Jerome Aguon and his family found out last year that he qualified for a wish through the Make-A-Wish organization.

"We kept asking him what he wanted, but it was mainly Spiderman things," the boy's mother, Leilani Toves, said. "We told

him he could pick something bigger, and he said he wanted a playground."

On January 30, the red and blue playground Jerome Aguon had been eagerly awaiting to enjoy for months was finally unveiled by Make-A-Wish Guam.

**PERSONAL PLAYGROUND.** Six-year-old Jerome Aguon plays with his siblings and cousin on new playground equipment in the front yard of his home in Guam. The playground was built through the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam, a group that helps grant wishes for youth with life-threatening medical conditions. (AP Photo/Pacific Daily News, Masako Watanabe)

"It represents Spiderman — the color of it," Toves said. "He's really excited he got this. He likes the swing. When he saw (the playground), (he saw) there are different slides to climb onto."

Black Construction handled the installation of the playground and Macy's sponsored the project.

"Our donors came through in a big way, by covering the cost of the equipment and shipping," Make-A-Wish board chairman Mike Naholowaa said in a release. "The in-kind donation of construction services allowed us to save money toward other program expenses."

Make-A-Wish Guam executive director Victor Camacho said a wish starts with a referral. Camacho said if anyone knows of a child with a serious illness, they can e-mail or call the organization.

## Asians slower to seek immigration protection

By Amy Taxin

The Associated Press

**L**OS ANGELES — Asians have been slower to sign up for President Barack Obama's reprieve for young immigrants in the U.S. illegally, and community advocates are ramping up efforts to reach thousands more who are eligible for his expanded immigration plan.

Many advocates have blamed the paltry turnout among young Asian immigrants for the administration's 2012 program on the stigma of being in the country illegally in their communities, where many feel lacking proper immigration papers is culturally shunned.

Now, advocates worry Obama's new program for the parents of American citizens and legal residents will be an even tougher sell as older generations of Asian immigrants are already working and supporting their families and may be even more reluctant to reveal their immigration status to friends and neighbors, let alone the federal government.

"There is this model minority myth that Asians are supposed to be successful immigrants," said Anoop Prasad, senior staff attorney at the Asian Law Caucus in San Francisco. "What does it say about you if you say:



'Actually, I am having a lot of problems. I am not making it like everyone else in America thinks we should be?"

Roughly 5 million immigrants are expected to qualify for Obama's plans to give work permits and temporary protection from deportation to the parents of U.S. citizens and legal residents and many immigrants brought to the country illegally as children. While most applicants are expected to be Hispanic, nearly half a million of those who qualify are Asian, according to the Washington-based Pew Research Center.

But Asian immigrants have been less apt to apply for the government's 2012 immigration program than their Latin-American counterparts. As of last year, more than 60 percent of eligible Mexicans and Hondurans had signed up for the program, but only about a quarter of eligible

**RAMPING UP OUTREACH.** Seth Ronquillo, an undocumented immigrant from the Philippines, participates in a panel discussion in Los Angeles about undocumented college students. Asians have been slower to sign up for President Barack Obama's reprieve for young immigrants in the U.S. illegally, and community advocates are ramping up efforts to reach thousands more who are eligible for the expanded immigration plan. Ronquillo, a 22-year-old community health advocate, said he felt he had nothing to lose when he applied since he had virtually no hope of putting his college degree to use upon graduation because of his immigration status. (AP Photo/Nick Ut)

Koreans and Filipinos had done so, according to the Migration Policy Institute in Washington.

Knowing the challenges, Asian community advocates have ramped up efforts to reach immigrants and to do so in a private, more personal way.

On a Chinese-language flyer for a recent workshop, advocates stressed one-on-one consultations would be offered in a bid to draw immigrants who may not want to disclose their immigration status in a room full of strangers.

Translation is being offered in a spate of languages to cater to elders who probably speak less English than their American-raised children. And instead of using the internet to reach applicants, community organizations are turning to ethnic newspapers.

"Asian youth tend to go more toward social media and Facebook. We're actually trying to see if we can get more ads in the paper," said Tiffany Panlilio, a legal advocate at Asian Americans Advancing Justice in Los Angeles.

But even with these efforts, some experts question whether more Asians will come forward and apply.

Tom Wong, a professor of political science at the University of California, San Diego, said Asian immigrants may not fear as acutely the threat of deportation since most of the people who are deported are Hispanic.

"It may be the case the incentive structure does not favor Asian undocumented immigrants when it comes to applying for these temporary programs," he said.

Wong also said older immigrants who already have jobs may be less likely to seek temporary work authorization, especially if they are already working under a false name or Social Security number, fearing they could get in trouble with their employer.

Young Asians who applied for Obama's 2012 reprieve said they were well aware of the generational divide.

Do Hee Lee, a 21-year-old college student in Maryland, said her Korean parents were nervous about her signing up for the program, but the alternative was worse: going to college in Korea and being separated from her family for years.

Seth Ronquillo, a 22-year-old community health advocate in California, said he felt he had nothing to lose when he applied since he had virtually no hope of putting his college degree to use upon graduation because of his immigration status.

His mother, however, was another story. Ronquillo said she sometimes still questions whether he could be at greater risk for deportation since outing himself to the government, especially if Obama's successor takes a tougher stance on illegal immigration.

"I can only imagine other immigrant parents have the same mentality," Ronquillo said.

## sudoku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

5		1	4	9
3			8	6 7
9		3		
8	4	3		9
7			3	
9		7	5	4
	3		5	
3	7	6		4
6	1	5		3

Difficulty level: Easy

#51493

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that the digits 1 through 9 appear one time each in every row, column, and 3x3 box.

Solution to  
last week's  
puzzle

Puzzle #19914 (Hard)

All solutions available at  
<[www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)>.

8	5	1	9	7	3	6	2	4
6	7	9	1	4	2	8	5	3
4	3	2	5	6	8	9	1	7
3	8	5	6	1	7	4	9	2
9	2	6	8	3	4	1	7	5
1	4	7	2	5	9	3	8	6
5	6	8	4	2	1	7	3	9
7	9	4	3	8	5	2	6	1
2	1	3	7	9	6	5	4	8

Please tell us what you think about equal access to ODOT contracting opportunities.

Public Meeting:

Portland, Feb. 26, 3 p.m.

Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs  
731 N Hayden Meadows Dr.  
Portland, OR 97217

ODOT is conducting a study analyzing whether minority- and women-owned businesses have equal access to contracting opportunities within Oregon's transportation contracting industry and with ODOT's own contracts. The findings will help us operate the federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program.

We're also meeting in Bend Feb. 23, Roseburg Feb. 24 and Salem Feb. 25. And we'll hold a webinar Feb. 25. Details at [www.odotbestudy.org/](http://www.odotbestudy.org/).

Meeting locations are ADA-accessible. Accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities, and alternate formats of printed material are available upon request. Please call (503) 986-4355 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting (statewide relay 7-1-1).

