

JOCELYN (JOY) BRUCE, M.D.

BIO DATA

Dr. Joy Bruce has served the social needs of elders, effectively bridged the intergenerational gap, addressed multicultural and multi-ethnic diversity, developed leaders, crossed geographic boundaries, formed a strong coalition of cultural, business, health, educational and service organizations in Florida, and assisted the impoverished families in the Philippines.

In 1992, Dr. Joy Bruce was instrumental in forming the Philippine Charities Foundation in Miami to help families that were affected by the Mt. Pinatubo eruption in the Philippines. In 1994, she founded NANAY, Inc., an acronym that stands for National Alliance to Nurture the Aged and the Youth, as a 501(c)(3) community-based charitable organization to promote the health, welfare and well-being of elders and youth. In 1998, she formed the Philippine American Federation of South Florida to unite and support the various Philippine-American organizations in South Florida in promoting civic, charitable, religious, educational, sports, and scientific activities as a reflection of their Philippine heritage, commencing on the Philippine Centennial Celebration.

She served as the Southern Regional Chair for the Washington-based National Federation of Filipino American Associations from 1998-2001, and held the first NaFFAA Regional Conference in West Palm Beach during her term of office. In January 2000, she formally opened the NANAY Community Center that now provides free counseling, recreational activities, arts and crafts, conversational English lessons, health sessions, educational seminars, and computer classes to more than 500 elders and youth. In 2001, she formed the Miami-Dade Asian Pacific American Community Partnership with ten local Asian organizations to address cultural diversity and social issues affecting their respective ethnic communities. She incorporated the NANAY Health Center, Inc. as a non-profit affiliate organization of NANAY, Inc in March 2003 to provide primary health care to the underserved and uninsured, and the NANAY Community Economic Development Corporation (NANAY-CEDC) in June 2003 to develop programs, affordable housing, counseling, education and supportive services that empower, transform and improve the lives of disadvantaged individuals and low-income families.

In 2004, Dr. Joy Bruce served as co-convener for the Filipino American Coalition of Florida made up of community leaders from South, Central and North Florida interested in social and economic empowerment. In 2005, she established the Advocates for Children and Elders (ACE) International-Philippines that successfully lobbied for the amendment of the Philippine Juvenile Justice Bill to protect the children from being incarcerated with adult prisoners, and currently provides supportive services to Philippine children in conflict with the law as well as underprivileged children and families in poverty through values formation, scholarship, computer training, youth-for-youth programs and livelihood projects for poor families. In 2006, Dr. Bruce helped facilitate the formation of the Fil-Am Political Alliance of Florida to serve as a venue for political empowerment. She led the Florida FilAm GOTV (Get Out The Vote) initiative, promoted voters registration, coordinated the Presidential Candidates forum and received a Proclamation from the Florida Governor, designating October 2009 as Filipino-American History Month. In 2010, she became President of the Asian American Federation of Florida, energized its member organizations to undertake the Florida Census 2010 Initiative, and held Statewide Asian Summits in Florida.'

All of Dr. Bruce's community-related activities were carried out while also performing her professional duties as a board-certified neuropathologist in Jackson Memorial Hospital and full professor at the Department of Pathology, University of Miami-Miller School of Medicine. She has written 8 book chapters, given 38 scientific presentations and published 60 medical articles. From 1995-1999, she edited and published "Current Medical News", a bimonthly health magazine that provided medical updates for the public, written in layman's term. The second edition of her book, "Histopathologic Techniques", published in 2006, is currently being used as an official textbook by Medical Technology schools in the Philippines.