

Support in the Storm: How AAPA's Emergency Relief Fund Helped Angela A. Yoshida Recover from Typhoon Mawar



As Typhoon Mawar struck Guam, Angela A. Yoshida, Cargo Checker at the Port Authority of Guam, believed her family would be safe. She had taken every precaution—shuttering windows, securing loose items around the house. But the storm had other plans. “Water started coming in from the bottom of my front door,” Angela recalled. “Then we noticed water was also coming in through little holes in the windowsills.” Despite their preparations, her family found themselves facing the storm’s unrelenting power.

In the days following the typhoon, Angela’s primary focus was keeping her family safe, especially her youngest child, who struggled with asthma. “The biggest challenge for me and my family was making sure that my youngest didn’t have any asthma attacks,” she said, capturing the stress and uncertainty that became their daily reality.

As Angela worked to keep her family comfortable and safe without power, a fellow coworker shared information about the AAPA Emergency Relief Fund. The fund, created to support port workers during natural disasters, offered a critical lifeline. With financial assistance from the fund, Angela could buy additional supplies to help her children rest a little more comfortably amid the harsh conditions. “I was able to get more supplies to help my kids sleep a little more comfortably without any power,” she shared.

The relief fund made a significant impact in her recovery process, easing the burden of acquiring costly supplies. “It helped to cover the difference with the cost of supplies,” Angela explained, adding that the assistance provided a sense of stability during the recovery.

Knowing that people were willing to help her during this challenging time brought Angela much-needed relief. “I felt relieved to know that people were willing to help us out,” she said. Her message to those who supported the fund was simple but heartfelt: “Thank you for helping us during this challenging time.”

Reflecting on the importance of the Emergency Relief Fund, Angela emphasized how vital it is for port workers to have resources like this in place.



“Most of the time, we are the ones working to make sure our community is taken care of,” she noted. “We don’t necessarily have or take the time out to go and apply or look for resources that could help with our family situations.”



For Angela, the support from the AAPA Emergency Relief Fund was more than just financial—it was a reminder that the port community stands together, ready to lend a hand when disaster strikes. Through the fund, Angela and her family found comfort, security, and a sense of unity during one of the most challenging times of their lives.