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AAJA Chicago-Rose Tibayan Scholarship Fund

Help us raise \$60,000 to support the next generation of journalists!



Rose Tibayan was an award-winning broadcast journalist and devoted member of the Asian American Journalists Association, who always sought to help younger journalists grow and find success. Rose even wrote the book on the topic: “The Resume Tape Book,” a 700-page job-hunting guide for broadcast media that has helped countless people build their careers. And Rose knew the ropes, climbing the career ladder from TV markets in Guam, to Fort Myers, New Jersey, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Milwaukee before settling down in Chicago, with her husband, Don Villar.

Rose met Don, a TV news producer at WLS-Chicago, at an AAJA conference and they both remained active AAJA members even after Don became a leader in the Chicago labor movement and Rose transitioned her career to public service as Director of Communications for Chicago’s Office of Budget, Management and Finance. A former Miss Philippines USA, Rose and Don were active in Chicago’s vibrant Filipino community, with Rose helping to found the Sampaguita Group Foundation to provide college scholarships for Filipino-American women.

Rose passed away in 2024 after a 14-month battle with cancer, but her legacy as a mentor and supporter of young AAPI journalists and AAJA will continue with the Rose Tibayan Scholarship Fund.

Your generous gift during our fundraising drive will help us build an endowment to provide scholarships to support students and early-career journalists as they navigate a difficult industry. AAJA has long supported scholarships for student journalists, and the Rose Tibayan Scholarship Fund will expand those programs to build a new generation of journalists with Rose’s dedication to reporting and community service.

“Being thrown into the fire of reporting right away helped me build my confidence as a young reporter.”

— Michael Lee, 2020 recipient of AAJA Chicago’s David Ibata Scholarship

Email us at chicago@aja.org to donate today!

Sponsorship tiers:

Bloom Level: \$5,000+ financial donation

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Sprout Level: \$1,000-\$2,499 financial donation

Seed Level: \$500-\$999 financial donation

Donors will be recognized in our newsletter, social channels, and on our website as founding sponsors of the Rose Tibayan Scholarship.

The Asian American Journalists Association works to create a more inclusive and just news environment for AAPI journalists whose work is essential to telling untold stories, making sure diverse voices are represented and shaping our media industry.