Nancy Dung Nguyen is currently the branch manager of BPSOS-Delaware Valley, the community-based branch office of the largest national Vietnamese organization in the U.S. The organization “equips, organizes, and empowers” the Vietnamese community in the area through youth empowerment and organizing through a lens of social justice and anti-violence, health promotion and navigation, civic engagement, and community building projects. In addition, Ms. Nguyen has had an array of experiences working and volunteering in non-profits in Northern Mexico, Vietnam, and the U.S. that work to end violence in communities, especially against women and young people. Ms. Nguyen received part of Oberlin College C/O 2005, graduating with a BA in history and creative writing. In 2007, she received her MA at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Southeast Asian studies. She continues to organize youth and her community towards a vision of a community free from all forms of violence.

“I became a member in 2004-2005, I was trained in 2005.

I came to OCDC and YB, nearly completely burnt out after work in various orgs and committees on campus for three years. Prior to OCDC, everywhere I turned, people only knew how to argue with each other, and no one could help me understand how to facilitate the courageous conversations we needed to have—the ones that did the important work of linking our struggles. I remember meeting with YB one afternoon, having this very conversation, feeling completely frustrated before she reached over, patted my arm and said ‘You need to join OCDC.’

OCDC showed me how to build bridges over ones that have been burned, nurture conversations where there was only distrust, and most critically—through a social justice lens. We brought people to the table, and we helped them listen to each other—we helped bring people to consensus. From YB and the OCDC team, I learned indispensable skills and tools that I have carried with me into every organization, committee, or tense, high-stakes strategizing meeting I have had ever walked into since. Thank you OCDC and congratulations on your 10-year anniversary. Thank you for being a gift to me in my life and work.”