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# New Home Cheers Slay Victim's Widow

By **MICHAEL SAUL**  
Daily News Staff Writer

**B**ao Zhu Chen has found little reason to smile since her husband was beaten to death six months ago — allegedly by teenagers who ambushed him after placing a \$60 Chinese food order.

But the widow — who faced eviction from the squalid room she shared with her two children in the back of a Queens restaurant — was beaming yesterday after signing a lease for a new apartment.

"I feel so much better and so much happier," the immigrant from Fujian province in China said through an interpreter. "I just feel very good to have this apartment."

A Daily News story on the family's plight spurred readers to send \$40,000 in donations — money Chen used to pay off debts. Then city officials and Asian Americans for Equality stepped in and found the Chens a two-bedroom apartment on the lower East Side.

Chen plans to use Section 8 vouchers, a federal subsidy program, to help pay the \$690 monthly rent. She intends to look for a job in her new neighborhood — she will work



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**Bao Zhu Chen enters her new apartment on the lower East Side.**

anywhere but at a restaurant.

Christopher Kui, executive director of Asian Americans for Equality, a nonprofit community development organization, said he is pleased his group and the city were able to help the Chen family find some peace of mind.

"We are providing a foundation for her," Kui said. "We feel very confident that she really wants to be self-sufficient."

Sue Rheem, the group's managing director, called yesterday's lease signing bittersweet.

"It's an unspeakable tragedy for a family that has come here to try to make it, to suffer that kind of awful incident," she said. "In the end, I think, everything came together."

Jin-Sheng Liu was killed Sept. 1, allegedly by five teenagers trying to get free Chinese food. Prosecutors say Stacy Royster, 17, used her cell phone to call in the order and lure Liu to an abandoned house, while her friends waited to pounce.

The alleged attackers — ages 14 to 17 — threw a blanket over Liu's head and beat him with their fists before Robert Savage, 14, delivered the fatal blow with a brick, authorities charge.

As Liu lay dying, the teens calmly dined on their chicken and shrimp dishes at one of the boys' homes, officials said. The five have been charged with murder and are awaiting trial.

Deprived of the family breadwinner, Chen and her teenage son and daughter struggled to survive amid squalor in the back room of the Golden Wok restaurant in Springfield Gardens. The landlord had planned to evict them this month.

Now, the family is getting ready to move into their

new apartment.

"I'm just very happy," Chen said.

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