



CHINESE COMMUNITY CENTER

a multi-ethnic organization serving all Houstonians

休士頓中華文化服務中心



Annual Report 2008

A letter from the Board Chair and the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters:

The Journey, embarked on in 1979, has continued to be an exciting and rewarding path, which we continue to be thankful for as we serve our community and neighbors on a daily basis.

In 2008, we achieved many goals, which we could not have accomplished without the leadership of our Board, community leaders, supporters, neighbors, friends, and staff. This past year will always be remembered as the year Hurricane Ike hit the Texas Gulf Coast. Though the Center sustained over half a million dollars worth of damage, the hurricane did not impact services as the Center was able to remain open and care for those that were greatly affected by the storm.

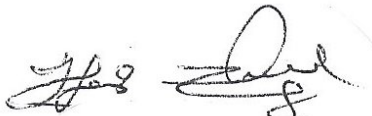
We began 2009 with the Lunar New Year Festival in February to celebrate the Year of the Rat. The festival drew over 10,000 participants and was filled with entertainment and activities for the whole family. Many Federal, State, and community leaders participated in our opening ceremonies. Throughout the festival, many people who were not aware of our Center picked up brochures and information regarding our many programs offered, and we continue to see a number of these people today.

In October we were privileged to work with both Enbridge and Williams on United Way's Day of Caring. Volunteers arrived at CCC mid-morning and went to work, making a difference in our facility. Through painting and carpentry projects, the volunteers brightened the Center, making it more appealing and enjoyable to those who utilize our services. We are very grateful for all of their hard work and continue to enjoy the fruits of their volunteerism.

The Center also hosted the CISANI Conference, a organization comprised of various non-profits from around the globe providing services for Chinese immigrants, in October. The conference, "Cities in Transition," highlighted trends of each collaborating city and agency in participation.

One of the many highlights of the year was our annual winter Gala, which exceeded our goal and hopes. Over 600 people attended the formal event and browsed the numerous auction items, which contributed to success of the evenings. Mr. Yao Ming, with the Houston Rockets, and Mr. contributed signed authentic game jersey's, which were auctioned off.

Again, we thank everyone who contributed to our hopes and goals in 2008 and we look forward to 2009, as we reach out to our community, touching and changing lives, and making Houston a productive home for all.



Michael Chang, Board Chair



Chi-Mei Lin, Executive Director

Mission

“To bridge East and West by enriching families with educational, cultural, and social service programs.”

History

The Chinese Community Center was established in 1979 as a language and heritage school to assist new immigrants arriving in America. However, as the City grew, so did the Center and today we provide services and programs for over 8,000 multi-cultural families each year through educational, cultural and social service programs.

The largest Asian-led social service agency in Texas, the Center received its first public funding in 1989 and became a United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast agency in 1991. The Center is a recognized leader in welcoming newcomers to America and providing services and programs to allow those struggling with educational and employment issues to become contributing members of the Houston Community.

Founded by Dr. Yhi-Min Ho, Mr. Joseph Lee, and Mr. Char-An Chao, the Center greatly enhances the lives of direct beneficiaries ranging from twelve months of age to revered elders over the age of ninety.

People of Chinese-American descent have traditionally been known for their hard-working ethics, strong family heritage, as well as their tenacity to withstand the challenges of adapting positively to life in America. Just as the contemporary “American” family has become a blend of cultures, faiths, educational levels, as well as occupational pursuits, the delivery of services to the Center’s families also recognizes the rich, cultural heritage of everyone in our community.

The Center promotes cultural understanding and serves as a resource for Asian-Americans and the community at-large. Through enhancing the quality of life for all Houstonians, we have gradually become a community center, a home, for everyone.



Youth and Children

At CCC, we provide quality childcare for children five years of age and younger.

Degreed, bilingual teachers instruct children in age-appropriate classrooms and encourage interaction in a multicultural environment with their peers. Teachers enhance skills that children learn at home and build upon learned behavior and knowledge.

The Center's childcare is a United Way Bright Beginnings Center and is preparing for national accreditation.

- The Center provided childcare to 114 non-duplicated children in 2008.
- The childcare program is continuing the application process for National Association for the Education of Young Children accreditation in 2009. United Way Bright Beginnings conducts monthly reviews and provides other resources to help the Center prepare for accreditation.



In addition to the quality childcare, the Center offers after-school enrichment programs, previously noted by the Mayor's office for our best practices. Community service opportunities further promote leadership and teamwork for our youth.

For youth ages six to fourteen, the Center's Summer Camp explores math, language arts, science, history, and art concepts in classes based on the current camp "theme." The lazy days of summer are offset with weekly field trips, cultural enrichment, as well as recreational sports activities, which encourage physical fitness.



- In 2008, 372 students participated in out-of-school youth activities.
- Through the Counselors-in-Training program, 26 high school youth engaged in community service during the Summer Camp program.
- Volunteer hours totaled 16,000 hours during the year.

Adult Education & Family Literacy

Today's immigrants eagerly pursue language and employment skills, which will help them succeed in today's competitive workforce and achieve self-sufficiency. CCC is proud to offer classes that assist in reaching these goals.

CCC's English-as-a-Second-Language and citizenship classes, which are provided year-round at the main campus, as well as at several Southwest Houston satellite locations, continue to grow.

Job readiness workshops and presentations by local employers are tools which prepare job-seekers for interviews and gauge the opportunities which are in higher demand in the job market. Basic office skills, computer, accounting, and bookkeeping courses offer the Center's clients with the extra edge that almost certainly ensures career advancement and the resilience needed to survive corporate downsizing.

The Center's family literacy workshops and intensive writing courses offer enrichment opportunities for adults, seniors, youth, and children. The Family Literacy Library boasts a collection of 4,000 children's books and 300 books-on-tape, with prospects of expansion virtually inevitable.

Comparatively, financial literacy seminars enable individuals to gain a better understanding of money management, credit, home loans, and other topics essential to economic self-sufficiency.

- 21 clients benefited from the Center's computer and clerical training courses in 2008.
- An average of 266 clients attended ESL classes per quarter and 45 clients attended citizenship preparation classes.

As the Adult Education department continues to improve its services and respond to evolving community needs, it has redesigned its job training programs to offer one or two primary tracks at a time and to offer more career development workshops.



Senior and Community Service

The Center empowers seniors through access to employment, recreation, health care, and social services. For instance, the Adult Day Program provides recreational opportunities such as arts and crafts, tai chi, mahjong, dance classes and field trips, which help encourage seniors to maintain active, healthy lifestyles.



Multilingual benefits counseling and referral services provide assistance for eligibility and access to public sector programs, such as Medicare or Social Security. Low-income seniors age 60 and above in Harris County who qualify, received energy bill payment assistance through the Center's Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Furthermore, through the Senior

Community Service Employment Program, Harris County seniors age 55 and above are eligible to receive English instruction, on-the-job training, and placement assistance for workforce re-entry.

In 2008, the Center provided benefits counseling to 688 seniors. 561 seniors received energy bill assistance through CEAP and over 16 seniors re-entered the workforce through SCESP.

- The Center counseled 1258 seniors who applied for the Harris County Gold Card.
- 174 seniors were assisted with Medicare Rx Part D, health education
- Over 34 seniors participated weekly in an array of activities offered daily in our senior center
- The Center's caregiver training and support classes have been popular averaging 111 participants per quarter.



Language & Cultural Heritage

The Center's weekend language and heritage school, the signature program since the inception in 1979, continues to expanding life-enriching services.



The Chinese Language School provides weekend Chinese classes for all age and skill levels. In addition to teaching the language, the Center also encourages its youth to participate in Chinese acrobats, lion dancing, Chinese yo-yo, as well as other youth leadership opportunities.

Furthermore, the Center offers corporate training seminars that provide customized language and culture instruction for businesses seeking to expand their presence in Asia.

The Center designs adult Chinese language curriculum that best fits the particular needs of each corporation. Personal instruction in conversational Chinese, what to expect when traveling abroad, as well as knowledge in basic Chinese traditions have proven most practical and effective in meeting the needs of today's business traveler.

The Center enjoys an intimate collaboration with an organization known as Families with Children from China. Specially designed classes for families with adopted children from China enable parents and their children to learn about Chinese language and culture through books, songs, and other engaging activities.

Many of our FCC children perform Chinese nursery rhymes and other popular songs on stage during the Center's annual Lunar New Year Festival. Held each January or February, depending on the lunar calendar, thousands of visitors from around the Houston metropolitan area enthusiastically celebrate the most important traditional holiday in the Chinese culture.



During the summer of 2008, the community programs continued a series of Weekend Learning programs – an array of classes from table tennis, yoga, and hip-hop to Chinese cooking, calligraphy, and tai chi – with the purpose of introducing different aspects of Chinese culture as both enrichment and recreation for the young and old to enjoy.



The Center's Asian Heritage Tour continues to generate a broad range of interest from retirees, professional women, as well as school-age children. These half-day guided tours enable visitors to experience the sights, tastes and sounds of Southwest Houston's vibrant Asian-American business community with stops at temples, teahouses, a dim sum restaurant, and more.

- The Center's Language School served 513 and 530 students, respectively, during the spring and fall semesters.
- 280 people enjoyed the Asian Heritage Tour
- 715 children and adults participated in extra-curricular activities in 2008.
- Summer Weekend Leisure Learning provided 190 participants with a healthy and fun-filled summer time at the Center's new facility.
- Nearly 10,000 visitors enjoyed the Center's annual Lunar New Year Festival, which not only engaged the crowd in a full day's entertainment, stimulated children's interest in Chinese paper-folding and other games, as well as comforted the participants with tastes and delicacies reminiscent of Mom's home-cooked meals from abroad.
- Invitations from other community groups, as well as the Center's outreach efforts, promoted cultural exchanges as well as strengthens understanding among all Houstonians.
- The Center's Yao Ming Fan Club works closely with the Houston Rockets organization in empowering young teens to build healthier minds and bodies through fitness and interest in the sports of basketball.



Statement of Operating Revenues and Expenses

	2007	2008
Contributions and nongovernmental grants	643,574.00	
Federal grants	559,867.00	
State and local grants	44,685.00	
United Way allocation	433,335.00	
Net assets released from restrictions	(621,788.00)	
Total public support	1,059,673.00	
Revenue:		
Tuition, net	783,751.00	
Rental	144,631.00	
Service fee	41,185.00	
Activities	109,897.00	
Special events	568,936.00	
Investment income	23,287.00	
Other	57,543.00	
Realized gain on disposal of property and equipment	-	
Realized / Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	-	
Total revenue	1,729,230.00	
Total public support and revenue	2,788,903.00	
Program expenses:		
Adult education programs	338,919.00	
Senior employment assistance	89,281.00	
Community Program	402,320.00	
Youth programs	277,996.00	
Child development programs	622,627.00	
Community service	204,032.00	
Total program expenses	1,935,175.00	
Fund development expenses	104,807.00	
Building expenses	213,428.00	
Administrative expenses	55,393.00	
Total expenses	2,308,803.00	
Change in net assets	480,100.00	

With Special Thanks to Our Program Sponsors

Area Agency on Aging
After School Achievement Program, Mayor's Office, City of Houston
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Community Development Block Grant, City of Houston
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National Asian Pacific Center on Aging
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Chinese Community Center
9800 Town Park Drive
Houston, TX 77036
TEL: 713.271.6100
FAX: 713.271.3713
www.ccchouston.org