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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Since 1979, the Chinese Community Center (CCC) has played a leading role in welcoming newcomers to America and in creating opportunities for people of all backgrounds to contribute to the Greater Houston community. Throughout 2014, CCC continued to meet the evolving needs of Greater Houston residents through its educational, cultural, and social service programs.

Through collaboration with Houston Community College, Sterling Health Careers, Inc., and United Way of Greater Houston, CCC expanded its vocational trainings to add a Certified Nurse Aide program that prepares adults for careers as nurse aides. The occupation of nurse aide is rapidly growing and offers jobs with living wages, and this career represents the types of middle-skills positions that will need to be filled to ensure the continued growth and vitality of Houston's economy.



CHI-MEI LIN

CCC also worked with Houston Independent School District to host a kindergarten preparation camp at two elementary schools. The camp helped prepare young children with little to no experience in prekindergarten or childcare for entering kindergarten so that they would be ready to succeed in school alongside their peers.

Through collaboration with National Council on Aging, CCC became a Benefits Enrollment Center in order to help older adults and adults with disabilities who face economic insecurity enroll in benefits programs—such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP), Medicare, Medicaid, and METRO Q Card—based on their needs. This new program was significant because economic insecurity among older adults and adults with disabilities is associated with lower health and functional status, challenges with maintaining adequate housing, and spending a higher portion of income on out-of-pocket health care.

We recognize that 2014's successes were only possible because of the dedication, vision, and generosity of our supporters, community partners, board of directors, staff, and volunteers. On behalf of CCC and the clients we serve, I thank you all.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chi-Mei Lin', written in a cursive style.

Chi-mei Lin
Executive Director

MISSION & HISTORY

The Chinese Community Center's mission is *to bridge East and West by enriching families with educational, cultural, and social service programs.*

Founded in 1979 by Dr. Yhi-Min Ho, Mr. Joseph Lee, and Mr. Char-An Chao, the Chinese Community Center was established as a Chinese-language and cultural heritage school to assist new immigrants arriving in America. As Houston grew, so did CCC, and today, the organization provides comprehensive programming—including early childhood education, after-school and summer programs for youth, adult education and job training, senior and social services, and cultural programs—to over 10,000 diverse families a year.

A United Way of Greater Houston agency and the largest Asian-led social service agency in the southwestern United States, CCC is uniquely specialized to help at-risk and immigrant children, youth, and families overcome challenges related to language and cultural barriers.

Through enhancing the quality of life for all Houstonians, CCC has grown into a multiservice center that aims to serve diverse cultures, diverse generations, and diverse needs. As CCC enters its 36th year of service to the Greater Houston community, it continues to adapt its programming to meet the evolving needs of local residents.



EARLY LEARNING CENTER

CCC's early childhood education program helps young children achieve age-appropriate developmental milestones in the cognitive, social, emotional, physical, and language domains so they can reach their full potential, become independent learners and thinkers, and transition successfully to kindergarten. The program is part of United Way of Greater Houston's Bright Beginnings initiative and is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

NAEYC accreditation demonstrates that the program meets rigorous standards of quality. Only 4% of Harris County child care centers are accredited by the main accrediting bodies, including NAEYC (<https://www.houston.org/earlymatters>), and CCC's Early Learning Center is the only NAEYC-accredited program operating in Southwest Houston's 77036 ZIP code (<http://www.naeyc.org>).

RESULTS

In 2014, the Early Learning Center achieved the following:

- 160 children received early childhood education;
- 157 children (98%) achieved age-appropriate developmental milestones in five domains of learning, as defined by the Creative Curriculum assessment;
- 160 children (100%) received nutritious meals through the Texas Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP);
- 37 preschool children aged 4 years or older (100%) received vision and hearing screening; and
- 261 parents and guardians (92%) attended at least one parenting meeting, family engagement activity, or parent-teacher conference.



CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

When O. was old enough to attend the Early Learning Center, her parents let staff know that she had been diagnosed with cerebral palsy and expressed concern that CCC was not equipped to fit her needs. Staff reassured the family that CCC could accommodate O. and invited the parents to work side by side with the teachers to ensure she was treated like a normal child. O. quickly made progress in her development, so her parents requested that she become more challenged to encourage her to walk on her own.

Next, O. was promoted to the Older Toddlers classroom. Teachers arranged the classroom to fit O.'s needs so that, instead of crawling, she could use furniture to help support her when she stood and took



steps. O.'s gross motor skills continued to improve, and her braces became a very useful tool for helping her stand and take several steps on her own. Soon enough, O. was assigned her own walker that would help her maneuver around the classrooms so she could continue to develop her sense of self. She became more independent and demonstrated that she could maneuver on her own. She became very motivated, and staff continued to encourage her to succeed and not give up.

YOUTH



The Youth program helps at-risk, minority, and immigrant students in kindergarten through middle school maximize their academic and interpersonal development during out-of-school time so they can achieve success in school and beyond.

A member of United Way of Greater Houston's Education Collaborative, CCC provides academic tutoring; educational activities focused on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) topics; preparation for the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) test; interpersonal and leadership development workshops; organized sports; reading and quilting clubs; a community garden; and community service projects. By participating in the Youth program, students are able to receive targeted academic support, practice working cooperatively toward common goals, improve their social skills, enhance their sense of personal responsibility, and work to make their community a better place.

RESULTS

In 2014, the Youth program achieved the following:

- 338 students and 257 parents and guardians were served through the program;
- 314 students (93%) engaged in community service;
- 314 students (93%) participated in self-esteem and interpersonal development workshops;
- 303 students (90%) participated in extracurricular clubs, such as Quilting Club and Recycling Club;
- 129 students (81%) for whom report card data was available improved their grade point average or maintained at least a B average in academic subjects;
- 325 students (96%) participated in cultural activities at least once a month;
- 269 students received health education;
- 120 students received financial education;
- 159 students participated in substance abuse prevention activities;
- 55 students received one-on-one mentoring;
- 239 parents and guardians attended parenting classes, workshops, and presentations.



CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

When J. joined the Youth program, he was a 3rd grader with limited English skills and a tremendous dislike of school. His report card grades were extremely low, and staff was fearful that he would not be promoted to the next grade level. Staff focused on making him feel welcome and encouraged and on developing an individualized plan to address his needs. Slowly, J. started making friends and showing more effort and interest in program activities. Today, J. is a thriving 5th grader who gets along well with his peers and diligently does his homework each day. His grades in several subjects have increased by 20 to 38 points, which has kept him on track to successfully proceed through the grade levels.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Workforce Development program helps hardworking adults from low- and moderate-income households gain the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in a competitive workforce and achieve financial stability. Services offered include vocational skills training, financial education, credit counseling, one-on-one financial and career coaching, first-time homebuyer education, credit-building financial products, public benefits counseling, free tax preparation, citizenship assistance, and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.

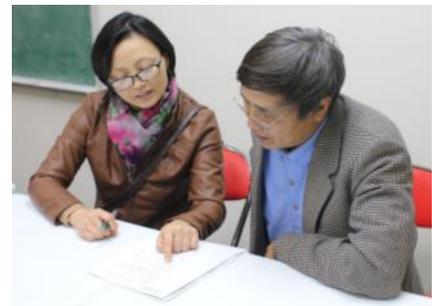
CCC is a member of United Way of Greater Houston's THRIVE initiative and is designated as a Financial Opportunity Center by Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC). CCC is also approved as a Housing Counseling Agency (HCA) by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and is the only HCA in Texas approved to offer services in both Mandarin and English.



RESULTS

In 2014, the Workforce Development program achieved the following:

- 2,094 clients were served through the program;
- 105 clients (64%) obtained gainful employment;
- 125 clients (92%) increased their workforce skills by successfully completing a vocational program;
- 194 clients (80%) improved their financial stability by participating in bundled services
- 227 clients (83%) improved their net worth;
- 71 clients (56%) improved their net income;
- 230 clients (84%) improved their credit score through better money management skills;
- 436 clients (74%) who participated in ESL classes gained one level in English proficiency;
- 102 clients (75%) completed the naturalization application;
- 65 clients (64%) completed a fee waiver for the naturalization application;
- 98 clients (74%) were referred to the Civics Exam Preparation class; and
- 472 clients participated in homebuyer education.



CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

Ms. B. wanted to gain new job skills and get approved for a mortgage loan, but she had three collection accounts and high credit card debt that led to a credit score below 600. She took basic office skills and bookkeeping classes to develop her professionalism and accounting skills. She also attended financial workshops to improve her skills related to budgeting, credit, savings, and investment. She met with the financial coach on a regular basis to create a plan to rebuild her credit. After several months of committed effort, Ms. B. was able to pay down her credit card debt by following a strict budget plan and was able to clean up her credit report, which led to her credit score jumping to 745. She is now in the process of securing a mortgage loan for a new home.

SENIOR & SOCIAL SERVICES



CCC offers a range of programs that help older adults, adults with disabilities, and people from low- and moderate-income households maintain their health, safety, independence, productivity, and happiness. These programs include the Adult Day Program, Caregiver Education, Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), Wan Yuan Senior Companionship Program, public benefits counseling, free tax preparation, and free legal clinics.

RESULTS

In 2014, the Senior & Social Services program achieved the following:

- 118 clients (75%) who participated in at least 3 Adult Day Program activities a week;
- 84 clients (97%) volunteered for 17 hours a week through SCSEP;
- 27 older adults (90%) participating in the Wan Yuan Senior Companionship program reported feeling a reduction in isolation;
- 904 clients (75%) were screened to determine their eligibility for public benefits;
- 2,778 clients (95%) with limited English proficiency gained access to public benefits;
- 625 clients (87%) attended a monthly health education seminar, the annual community health fair, and/or bimonthly benefits information sessions;
- 112 clients engaged in fitness activities;
- 30 older adults were served through home visits by volunteer companions;
- 1,283 clients received utility assistance;
- 125 clients engaged in volunteerism;
- 273 caregivers and their loved ones were served through caregiver education and support groups;
- 117 clients received free legal services; and
- 2,883 clients received free tax assistance.

CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

Mr. and Mrs. A. had been married for 37 years and always looked to their marriage as a source of support. The 2008 recession was especially hard on them, and they reached a point where they were not able to pay all of their bills. Mr. A. had also had a stroke that severely impacted his health and left him unable to work for months. CCC placed Mr. A. into the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) to train as an office assistant in a nonprofit agency, which provided income for the household. The couple also met with a benefits counselor, who assisted them with enrolling in public benefits programs to make ends meet. Although Mr. and Mrs. A. were reluctant to accept public assistance, the reality of their circumstances motivated them to use multiple approaches to maintain financial stability. The couple also found that working with CCC helped rebuild Mr. A.'s self-esteem and confidence that he could still be a provider for his family.

CULTURE & COMMUNITY

The Chinese Community Center was established in 1979 as a Chinese language and heritage school. While the organization has expanded its programs over time to offer more comprehensive services, it continues to provide the **Chinese Weekend Language School**, which is one of Houston's largest language schools. Chinese classes are provided for people all ages and skill levels, and CCC also offers customized corporate-training seminars. In addition to classroom learning, K-12 students are given the opportunity to gain leadership skills through extracurricular activities such as Chinese Youth Society (CYS), Junior Achievement (JA), and academic events.

CCC also offers **Leisure Learning Classes**, which introduce different aspects of Chinese culture to heritage and non-heritage students alike. The classes cover a wide array of topics, including tai-chi, gentle yoga, acrobatics, table tennis, calligraphy, arts and crafts, and piano.



Each year, CCC hosts the **Lunar New Year Festival**, which celebrates the most important holiday in Chinese culture. Festival crowds have grown from 5,000 in 2003 to more than 12,000 in 2014. The Festival showcases the cultural diversity of Greater Houston and promotes multicultural awareness.

The Lunar New Year Festival is complemented by **Asian Heritage Tours**, which are half-day guided tours that enable visitors to experience the sights, tastes, and sounds of Southwest Houston's vibrant Asian American community. Other important events hosted by CCC include the **Community Fair** and **Table Tennis Tournaments**.

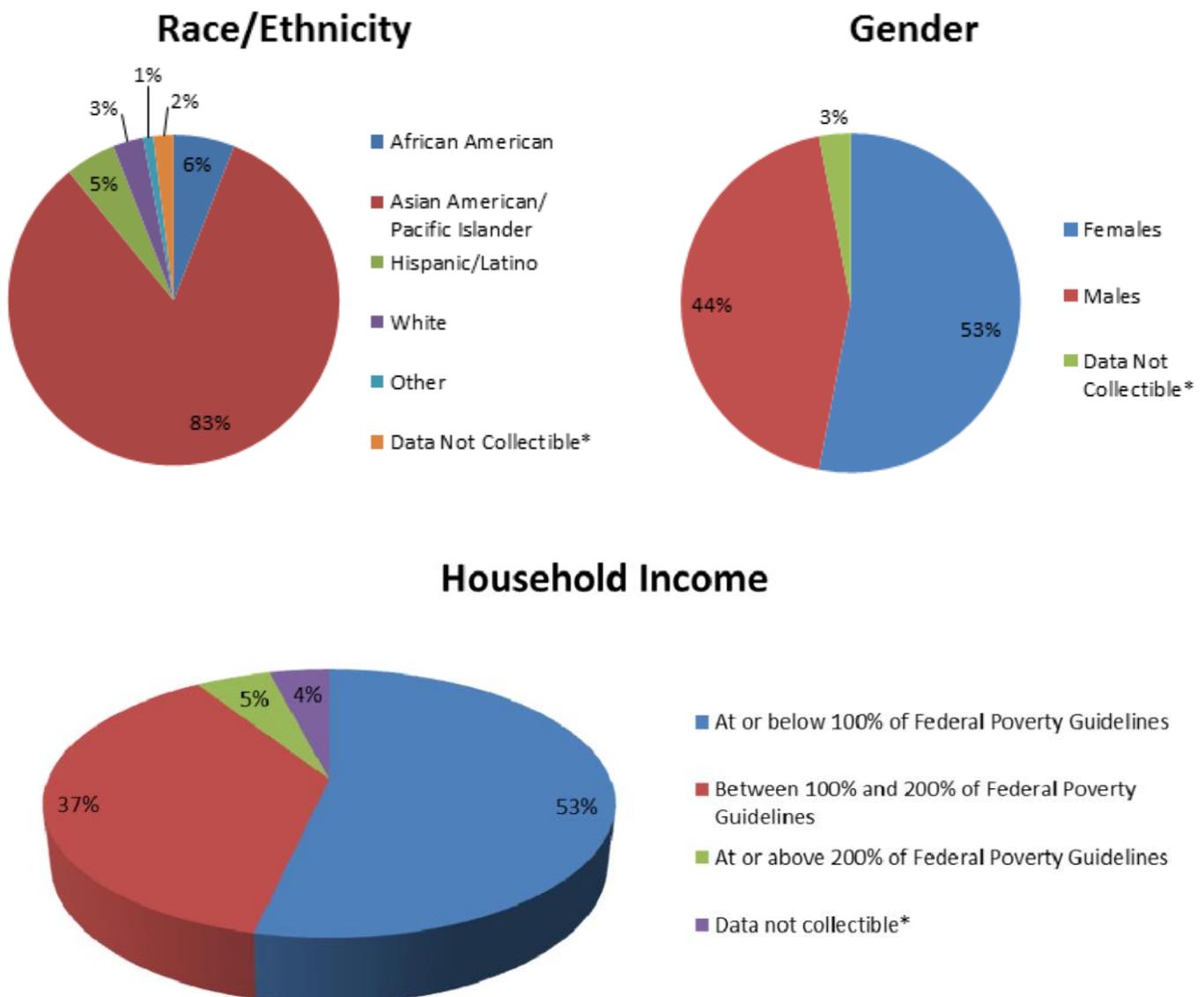
CCC's **Gymnasium Membership Program** is the first of its kind in Southwest Houston and provides members of the community with a table tennis facility; basketball, badminton, and volleyball courts; and a workout room.



CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

The Chinese Community Center's programs are inclusive and open to people of any race or ethnicity, and the agency specializes in providing culturally competent care to Asian Americans and immigrants. Most programs target people from low- or moderate-income households.

The following charts show demographic information for clients served by the Early Learning Center, Youth program, Workforce Development program, and Senior & Social Services program in 2014.



*Not all programs require clients to provide information about their race/ethnicity, gender, or household income.

REVENUE & EXPENSES

(Based on the two most recently filed IRS Forms 990)

PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE	2014	2013
Public Support		
Contributions and nongovernmental grants	491,629	532,861
Federal grants	615,202	499,108
State and local grants	-	54,470
United Way Contributions	494,358	457,025
Total public support	<u>1,601,189</u>	<u>1,543,464</u>
Revenue		
Tuition, net	838,387	866,904
Rental	38,430	50,859
Service fee	382,846	214,273
Activities	120,011	177,042
Special events	259,734	188,217
Investment income	44,971	22,243
Other	15,559	95,148
Total revenue	<u>1,699,938</u>	<u>1,614,686</u>
Total public support and revenue	<u>3,301,127</u>	<u>3,158,150</u>
EXPENSES		
Workforce development programs	743,212	602,407
Senior/ Community Service	699,738	602,535
Community Program	382,514	473,329
Youth programs	344,212	309,667
Child development programs	789,197	764,975
Fund development expenses	207,109	158,539
Building expenses	162,930	178,754
Administrative expenses	99,188	74,529
Capital campaign expenses	126,709	-
Total expenses	<u>3,551,809</u>	<u>3,164,735</u>
Change in net assets	<u>(250,682)</u>	<u>(6,585)</u>

SUPPORTERS

The Chinese Community Center wishes to thank and acknowledge all of the people and organizations that helped make its programs possible in 2014 through their support.

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