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多事之秋 Brings Growth to our Programs (duō shì zhī qiū)

by Nick Li, Program Coordinator

多事之秋 (pronounced duō shì zhī qiū) is a Chinese saying which translates to “troublesome or turbulent times”—a perfect summary for 2020 thus far. I am not here to reiterate the news, rather, to show you the difference HCC donors and volunteers have made in 2020 despite 多事之秋 (duō shì zhī qiū.) Without donor and volunteer partners, the work of HCC grinds to a halt and we owe a huge thank you to their commitment.

To meet the needs of international students during the uncertainty of COVID-19, HCC volunteers and staff assembled 214 care packages with groceries and essential items and personally delivered them to students from China, India, and Mongolia.

HCC’s Food Truck program was launched in response to grocery store closures due to the Minneapolis riots. 193 students from 7 different

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countries came to one of our Food Truck events and received a full bag of fresh groceries.

HCC’s online programming has surged in popularity! Since going virtual, we now have 67 students participating in Conversation Partners and 49 in Friendship Match! While most of these interactions are via video chat, some students

have started to meet their American partners in outdoor settings. It is encouraging to hear students say, “I now have an American friend. My American friend really cares about me.”

We have taken full advantage of the beautiful Minnesota summer! Since May, 187 students have attended one of our 18 different hikes in parks across the state.

We are so thankful for the ways our volunteers have stepped up to the plate and continued to serve students, and we are thrilled to see the positive response from our international students. Please consider making a donation to help us maintain this tremendous momentum! •

A Testimony of Patience and Acceptance

by Holmes Zhao, HCC Intern



Marie and her husband have been a part of our Bible study for a while. Her husband considers himself a Christian, but she does not. Marie treated the Bible as a philosophy book and asked many challenging questions. As a recent seminary graduate, I soon realized I do not always have enough knowledge to answer her questions. So to me, she has been someone who challenges me and my ideas.

My wife and I do love this couple. I do not remember how many times my wife, her husband, and I asked her poignant and challenging questions. The reality is that there are many challenging questions in life.

After many conversations, to be

honest, I began to get frustrated. When COVID-19 began to spread across the U.S., we did not see Marie and her husband often, and I began to doubt that we would see them again or agree on any worldview.

One afternoon, she went to a grocery store. At the front of the store, a tall, white man walked toward her, asked her if she knew who Jesus is and if she was ready to accept Him. At that moment, I believe the Holy Spirit filled her and she realized this is THE TIME. She said YES! As one who has personally experienced the supernatural presence of God, I'm convinced that Marie's eye opening experience was just the beginning of a wonderful life transformation.

From her testimony, I have learned to be patient and remember Who is really working behind the scenes. Christians are not called to make people believe in Jesus but are called to faithfully love people, learn from others, and be willing to share our experiences of life transformation. •

Coming Soon!


**DOUBLE
YOUR
DOLLAR**


Details to come


Furniture Donations Lead to New Friendships

This summer we connected with over 100 students (in addition to the 85 students who received furniture, 15 students donated furniture before they returned home) through our furniture program. The majority of the students came from China, though we also met students from Ghana, Nigeria, India, Malaysia, and

Vietnam. Thank you all who donated your furniture to HCC so that we could practically welcome and serve new (and some old!) international students in the Twin Cities. Thank you for partnering with us in this program! •

 **85** STUDENTS RECEIVED FURNITURE

 **309** ITEMS OF FURNITURE GIVEN TO STUDENTS

7 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED 

Volunteer with HCC

Volunteer *Spotlight*

Jeff Paurus states, "I have been an HCC volunteer for several years now, and this season of COVID-19 is the strangest we have faced. Both the Minneapolis and St. Paul U of MN campuses seem eerily quiet with only a small fraction of the normal activity and excitement. Our international students are missing most of their normal social activities, some of their usual shopping areas have been destroyed, and there is great uncertainty about the upcoming school year. It has been a privilege for me to partner with HCC to help provide an alternative to these strange circumstances. This summer we have driven to five state parks and other regional parks in Minneapolis. The happiness of our international guests almost radiates in this scenic outdoor environment. We share what is one of the best parts of our community, and maybe the only part that we can share at this time. Paddling our kayaks along the St. Croix River seems to open up the whole world to us. The beauty in these settings offer silent testimony to the greatness of God and the gifts we have. Sharing these gifts have been a source of joy for all of us, both international guests and local partners."



To discover our current volunteer opportunities, visit hccinese.org/volunteer

Jeff (far right) with a group of students



Willow River State Park trip on Sept 19, 2020



Welcoming New Interns & New Connections

by Jon Nesvig, ReEntry Coordinator

This school year, HCC is privileged to have nine Bethany Global University (BGU) students join our team as interns. Because of COVID-19, the overseas internship was cut short. However, with many nations represented amongst the international students here in the Twin Cities, the nine BGU interns will continue their internship with HCC in sharing love with the unreached international students here.

We're excited about the opportunity to widen our reach and deepen our impact. The interns are already hard at work in breaking new ground among various international students groups at the University of Minnesota. They are also exploring international student opportunities at other campuses, including Concordia University and Macalester University. •



1407 Cleveland Ave N
 St. Paul, MN 55108
 651-659-9740 · info@hcchinese.org
 hcchinese.org

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HCC NEWSLETTER | FALL 2020

HCC is a nonprofit organization that is impacting the world by connecting the best and brightest future leaders of the world with the most loving and hospitable volunteers in Minnesota.



Impacts of COVID-19

Make Year-End Support Crucial

2019 marked a pinnacle of financial support for the expansive mission of HCC. For six consecutive years our mission has expanded to more students, more programs, more countries, more cities in China, more revenue, more church partners, and more volunteers.

As we have all experienced in different ways, our world is turning upside down. **It started with financial contributions dropping at the end of February for HCC.** By March all programs and volunteer mobilization and training had to be completely revamped. In the midst of recreating programming and volunteerism, we said goodbye to FIVE amazing board members whose time was up serving and leading HCC. Dear friends and former board chair, Joann Pittman

and Mike Cady, and amazing servants, Tim Richterkessing, Michelle Nordwall, and Kate Woletz now serve the mission in a different role now.

Thanks to an amazing staff and new board members, we completely revamped and relaunched all new programming and volunteer engagement. The vision of transforming the world through hospitality was not only saved, but this summer our metrics of success for engagement with students and volunteers hit a new record high! HCC is currently on track to have programming infrastructure on St. Thomas, Concordia, Macalister, East Bank, and West Bank. We project connecting with students over 7,000 times this school year!

Despite our programic bounce-back

and expansion, our contributions didn't bounce back. As I write this, HCC is short-staffed and unable to afford to be fully staffed. Our current financial shortfall is nearly 30%.

As we are all adjusting to the impact of COVID-19, I'd ask you to consider helping HCC to get back on budget. HCC needs to raise **\$100,000** by the end of the year to get back on track. **This is crucial to HCC's ability to maintain a presence on three new campuses.** This would ensure that we stay on track to extend the love of Christ to more than 1,000 future leaders from China and the rest of the world.

Changing the world together,



Tim Grunditz
 Executive Director