



Partnership Leading to Progress

by Josh Driver, Church Advocate

Church partnership has had a tremendous role in the progress we have made so far towards our goal of reaching every international student across the Twin Cities. Gracepoint Church in Minneapolis is an excellent example of this. Over the last school year and throughout the pandemic, **their volunteers have shown incredible perseverance. They have connected with 42 international students** through both the Friendship Match and Conversation Partner programs. The Gracepoint team, which has grown to 30 as of this February, used their one-on-one relationships to invite students to events like picnics and ice skating. These times of fun activities later led to deeper

conversation about real-life concerns.

However, not every volunteer had instant chemistry with their matched student and that can cause discouragement. One volunteer named Andrew shared his story.

“Because we meet weekly as a group to share about our experiences, we get to hear others’ wins and compare notes from our friends who are also matched. The element of doing it together is encouraging and we can see the whole picture.” Andrew and his wife Carol have reached out to many students and have seen a progression from stranger to trusted friend during this school year.

**BUILDING OUR INFLUENCE
EXPANDING OUR REACH**

CAMPAIGN ROLLOUT INSIDE

We have been encouraged by those at Gracepoint and believe their story can serve as an example for others. Andrew also emphasized how their connections with students were truly inspiring when he said, **“Not only will you extend blessing to them, but you’ll find your own hearts full at the same time!”** •



Together is Better — HCC and OASIS Unite for Greater Impact

by Heidi Wolfe, Engagement Specialist

This past December, OASIS and HCC merged to become “one home” for the sake of reaching the 10,000 international students in the Twin Cities. Over the years, OASIS specialized in mobilizing churches and volunteers to connect with international students. The organization also played a key role in facilitating collaboration between many ministries. With a 2nd office on the East Bank on the horizon, HCC will give support to all partner ministries to reach additional students. We plan to do this by creating a hub for resource

distribution and through offering partners access to our furniture program, as well as office and meeting spaces.

It has been difficult for ministries over this last year as the normal methods of connecting with students were no longer available. This is where HCC’s collaboration with our partners comes into play. We have been able

to share resources, programming, training, and promotion with all those desiring to work together. **Through these partnerships, we are able to significantly expand our reach, with the ultimate goal of connecting every international student with hospitality and love!**

Despite a difficult year, together we are building real relationships with future leaders of the world. Together, we are expanding our reach to **transform lives—lives which in turn are transforming the nations. Together we are better!** •

**“What I can do, you cannot.
What you can do, I cannot.
But together we can do
something beautiful for God.”
—Mother Teresa**

BUILDING OUR INFLUENCE EXPANDING OUR REACH

Campaigning for Every Student

Capital Campaign 2021

Our destination is simple, reaching every single student with genuine love and hospitality. The road to this destination has been full of trials and difficulties, yet every year we come one step closer to our goal.

The expansion into reaching Chinese plus other international students has been incredibly successful. Out of that goal, a larger vision has been birthed: **to reach every international student on the campuses of Minnesota!**

2020 was marked by unprecedented expansion and fruit despite the COVID-19 pandemic. **We are regularly reaching students from nearly 30 countries across 7**

different campuses. Three times the number of new volunteers stepped up to meet the need. This was irrefutable evidence to the staff and me that the goal of **reaching every single international student on every single campus is possible!**

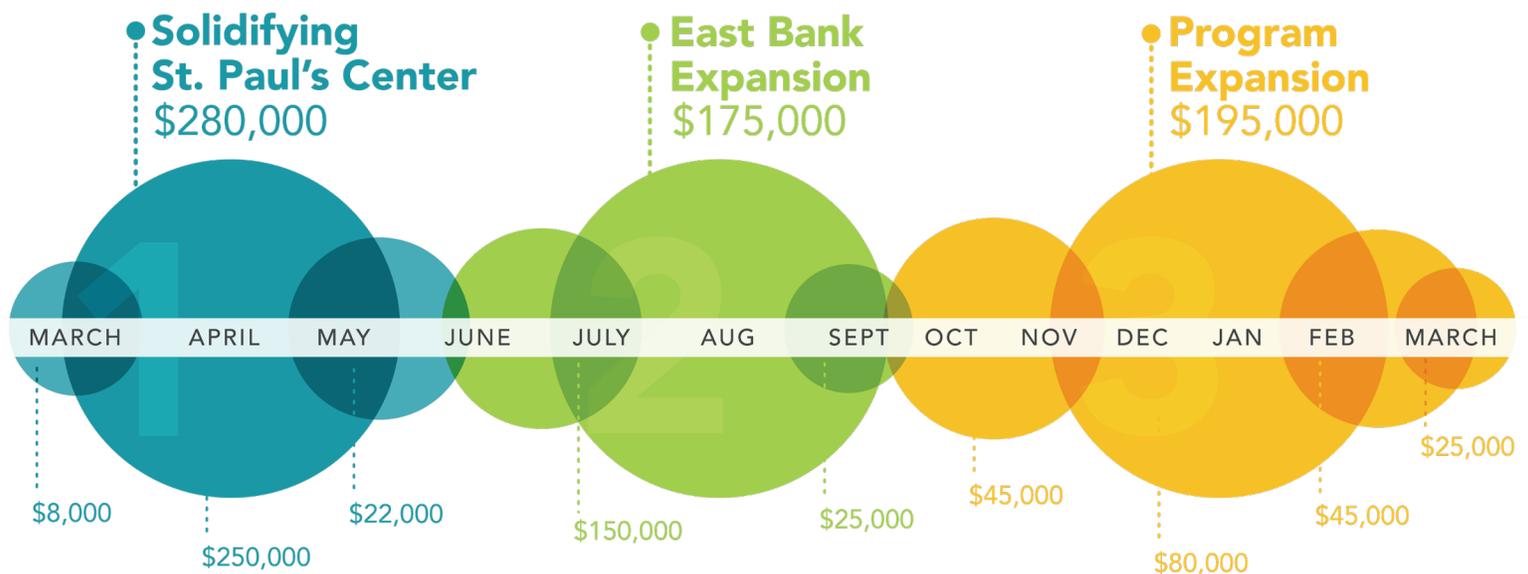
With this in mind, we are launching the "Building Our Influence,



Expanding Our Reach" campaign.

The first phase of this plan is to upgrade our infrastructure by renovating and buying the other half of our current building on the St. Paul campus. The second phase is adding a facility on the **U of M East Bank where nearly 5,000 international students reside.** Once these elements are in place, we **MUST ADD STAFF AND PROGRAMS!** With intention, strategy, fire, and figure, we know we can influence the lives of **EVERY INTERNATIONAL STUDENT** in Minnesota! •

Tim Grunditz
Executive Director



Building a Team for Success

We've gotten a great start on expansion this last school year as we added 3 new staff members to our HCC team.

Katherine Glader came in last fall as our Communications and Staff Support Specialist. She has taken on many elements of communication, does office administration, and assists the staff team.

Heidi Wolfe joined us in December with the OASIS/HCC merger as our Engagement Specialist. She continues the work she did with OASIS engaging churches and volunteers in international student ministry, as well as facilitating collaboration between partner ministries.

Elizabeth Silbernagel had worked with a partner church on the U of M campus for many years before joining our team as the Communications Coordinator. She will be developing new marketing channels and supporting the donor relations efforts.



Heidi Wolfe



Katherine Glader



Elizabeth Silbernagel

We continue to benefit from the seven Bethany interns who serve on a weekly basis. They have been assisting with events, putting together resources, translating material into Chinese, and cultivating friendships with international students!

HCC is becoming more equipped than ever to reach the 10,000 international students we strive to serve!



"Listing your personal milestones is like storing a pocketful of sunshine for a rainy day. Sometimes our best is simply not enough... We have to do what is required."

— Winston Churchill

Friend of HCC, where do you see yourself contributing to this campaign?



Credit card



Stock



Pledge



Sustaining Support



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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 TWIN CITIES, MN
 PERMIT #2291

**CHANGE SERVICE
 REQUESTED**

HCC NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2021

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.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR
 2021 FRIENDRAISER
 SATURDAY MAY 15TH AT COMO PARK**

HCC is rolling out our 2021 Capital Campaign for greater expansion to reach **10,000 students in the Twin Cities!** Save the date to come celebrate over an outdoor meal. **We invite you to join with us in this incredible mission!**

Community That's Changing Lives

by Nick Li, Program Coordinator

Karty left his home in India in the fall of 2019 to attend the University of Minnesota. He came in hopes of experiencing life in America as a graduate student in Electrical Engineering. Karty first encountered HCC at a small friendship meal last October. He and I had a great connection while we packed groceries during our Grocery Drive held at Substance Church. Along with some of the other volunteers and international students, we were able to put together 80 boxes of groceries that day! **Karty continued to participate in activities and has thoroughly enjoyed the life-giving community he found at HCC.**

When I asked him what he thought about HCC's mission and activities, he said, "HCC's volunteers are very friendly and it is really special to be able to get together with people from other cultural backgrounds." He was also impressed with how HCC was always there for the international student community

"HCC created a community that is inclusive and supportive in an isolated time like today!"

when everything else was being shut down. We have continued with our resource distribution, virtual programs and in-person activities.



Karty expressed it well when he said, "HCC created a community that is inclusive and supportive in an isolated time like today!"

Loneliness is a common theme in the life of an international student. Karty and over a thousand other international students have found HCC their "home" away from home! We look forward to meeting the needs of every student like Karty as we raise funds **"Building Our Influence and Expanding Our Reach."** •