



NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2021



Friendraiser at Como Park

It was a beautiful sunny day in May, perfect for our yearly Friendraiser! In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, **we chose to host a picnic event at the Como Park Pavilion in St. Paul.** It was an incredible time! Many volunteers and donors came out to celebrate our mission over an international lunch.

We got to hear from students about how the work of HCC has deeply impacted their time in Minnesota and our **Executive Director, Tim Gruditz, shared the next steps for HCC as we expand facilities and programming through our Capital Campaign.** •

Building Toward Greater Influence: China Place Purchase

by Executive Director Tim Gruditz

2008 marked a significant milestone in HCC's history when we purchased our facility, China Place, along with China Service Ventures (CSV). Our organizations co-owned this beautiful space on the UMN St. Paul campus. **Together, we have served the wonderful Chinese men, women, and children.** Over the years, CSV has moved into ministry endeavors that do not require their presence on the university campus, while our work is primarily with students in the Twin Cities. Therefore, they graciously

offered to sell their share of the building to HCC at a discounted price. We are excited to announce that **we closed on the building in May of this year, but still have approximately \$125,000 to raise to complete the purchase.**

By this fall, HCC will have an amazing place for programs and offices on the St. Paul campus and the East Bank of the U of M.

HCC is being presented with an incredible opportunity to expand our facilities in order to reach

every single international student that comes through the Twin Cities with genuine love and hospitality. We would not be in this position without the years of partnership with CSV. **We are truly grateful for them and plan to carry on their mission to serve Chinese students in the Twin Cities for years to come!** •



Tim Gruditz

**BUILDING OUR INFLUENCE
EXPANDING OUR REACH**



Next Steps to Expand Our Reach

Strategizing for increase and making progress go hand in hand as we look to this new year of service to our international friends. The destination is simple, **reaching every student with genuine love and hospitality, and we need your help to get there.**

• Solidifying St. Paul's Center



Since 2019, we have been reaching out to students beyond the Chinese community; as a result, we have had students from over 50 different nations attend our programs and activities. This change has led us to begin a rebranding process that will help make HCC more accessible to students of all nationalities.

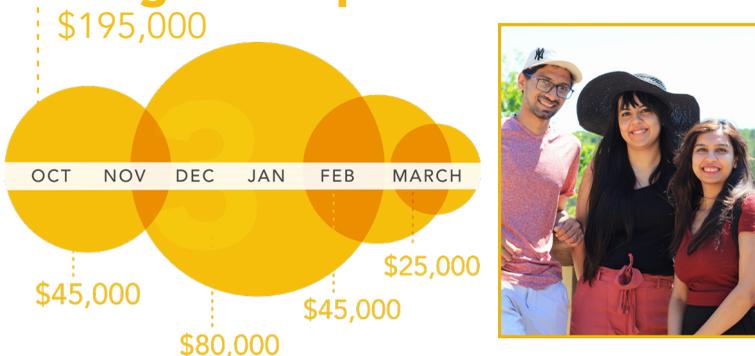
With this in mind, we have launched the **"Building Our Influence, Expanding Our Reach"** campaign. We are now working towards securing space in a facility at **3300 University Ave on the UMN East Bank**. This will give us multiple offices, classrooms, as well as event space within a **short walk of 5,000 international students**. It will also accommodate the HCC Warehouse from which we can provide groceries, furniture, and household goods to students.

Once we have completed this step, we will hire more staff members and expand our programming activities for students. With this kind of intention and strategy, we are **confident in our goal of reaching all 10,000 international students on the Twin Cities campuses!**

• East Bank Expansion



• Program Expansion



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



Credit card



Stock



Pledge



Sustaining Support



Significant Challenge to Endless Opportunity

by Program Director Nick Li

Throughout history, with every significant challenge has come great opportunity. The past 12 months have been a difficult time for both American and international students. We have experienced an abundance of political disruptions, racial tensions, and economic difficulties, **but international**

students face unique challenges we often know little about.

After the Atlanta Spa Shooting took place, we surveyed the international students whom we work with. **100 students responded, and a saddening percentage said they had experienced verbal or physical attacks due to their race.** Added

to that was the financial strain they experienced due to the COVID -19 travel restrictions. This last school year was one of great difficulty, but the HCC staff and volunteers came through to meet the practical and emotional needs of many of those students.

Looking ahead to this coming school year, I see tremendous opportunities opening up! **Expansion is inevitable as schools return to in-person learning and we begin hosting activities at our new facility on East Bank.** I'm excited to reboot our HCC Student Group at the U of M, which will include students from several countries. We are also building our influence by working with 12 major apartment complexes that house thousands of international students. **I feel that with these new initiatives, we can make strides in touching the lives of countless international students in the year to come!** •

COUNTING VICTORIES IN 20'-21'

-  **7,530 Attendances**
-  **47 Nations Represented**
-  **400 Part of Friendship Match**
-  **1,006 Grocery Bags Given**
-  **249 Household Supply Bags Given**
-  **99 Pieces of Furniture Provided**

Volunteer Impact

How Can You Reach?

We are looking forward to a **robust arrival season later this summer, with our airport pick-up and short-term homestay programs in full operation again.** This is a once-a-year opportunity that is a joy to be a part of.

Email: kim@hcchinese.org to sign up or get more information.

Record Volunteer Turn Out

We had a **record volunteer response this last year, with over 200 new volunteers** getting involved for the first time as opposed to our average of 50/yr. since 2016. While the Pandemic shut many doors for student contact, it opened up virtual programming which brought about many new one-on-one volunteer and international student relationships.

We want to express our sincere thanks to those of you who have extended care and encouragement to international students during this challenging past year!



To discover all our current volunteer opportunities, visit hcchinese.org/volunteer

 Contact Kim kim@hcchinese.org for more info



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**CHANGE SERVICE
 REQUESTED**

HCC NEWSLETTER | SUMMER 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.



Where it Really Counts

by ReEntry Coordinator Jonathan Nesvig

As the ReEntry Coordinator at HCC, I love getting to hear and celebrate what international students and scholars experience in Minnesota through HCC and to see what they go on to do back in their home countries. One of our recent returnees shared,

“My first experience with HCC was a Friendship Meal together. I felt very happy; it seemed I came back to China. I met so many new friends, we ate together, and we talked with each other. That’s really a good evening. Christian people are very friendly, very kind and willing to help. I will try to help others who are in need just like you help me.”

That’s what we’re all about—international students having a life-changing experience here so that they can go on to change lives in their own countries. What often starts as a simple meal leads to relationship which creates a context for transformation.

We sent over 70 students and scholars back to their home countries this past year deeply transformed by what they received from your investment as volunteers and donors. One young man experienced a significant change as a result of HCC. He’s gained an education, confidence, and a desire to share Christ’s love with others. He recently attended a returnee retreat which equipped him well

for his journey home and for sharing the life change he has experienced here. Having joined and benefited from many small groups, he looks to start his own group. **Your investment doesn’t end here in Minnesota but rather extends to China and beyond!** •

