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# HMONG CULTURAL CENTER 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

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**HMONG CULTURAL CENTER**  
**995 University Avenue-West, Suite 214**  
**Saint Paul, MN 55104**  
**Phone: 651-917-9937 Fax: 651-917-9978**  
**Organizational Website: [www.hmongcc.org](http://www.hmongcc.org)**  
**Multicultural Education Website: [www.learnabouthmong.com](http://www.learnabouthmong.com)**

**WESTERN  
UNION** |  
MONEY TRANSFER

Western Union is a Sponsor of the Hmong Cultural Center's Citizenship and ESL Classes which serve many Hmong and Laotian refugees.

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**Message from Txong Pao Lee, the Executive Director of the Hmong Cultural Center**

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**February 21, 2008**

**Dear Community:**

**I have been the Executive Director of Hmong Cultural Center since 2002. My role at the cultural center is to help the organization maintain and implement programs that further its mission of promoting the personal development of children, youth, and adults through education while also providing resources that enhance cross-cultural awareness and understanding among and between Hmong and non-Hmong persons.**

**I would like to thank all of the foundations and individual donors who have supported Hmong Cultural Center over the past year. Without your support we would not be able to continue to offer the heavily utilized programs that we have provided to the community for many years including those that teach the Hmong cultural arts to youth and the English language and the U.S. Citizenship process to refugee adults as well as the provision of Hmong Resource Center library resources to the general community.**

**In addition, I would like to thank the staff, board members, volunteers, program participants, and parents who have continued to support Hmong Cultural Center in its mission to the community over the past 16 years. We look forward to serving our diverse Twin Cities community with cultural education programming, academic resources, and diversity awareness activities in 2008.**

**You can visit the HMONG CULTURAL CENTER at: [www.hmongcc.org](http://www.hmongcc.org)**

**I would like to wish everyone a great year.**

**Txong Pao Lee  
Executive Director of HMONG CULTURAL CENTER**

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Established in 1992, Hmong Cultural Center's Mission *is to promote the personal development of children, youth, and adults through Hmong cultural education while providing resources that enhance cross-cultural awareness and understanding between Hmong and Non-Hmong persons.*

**Multicultural Education and Race Relations Outreach Programs to Promote Cross-Cultural Understanding Between Hmong and non-Hmong**

**Hmong Resource Center:** The Hmong Resource Center is a heavily utilized program that provides community outreach activities related to multicultural education for the purposes of promoting positive race relations in the Minneapolis-St. Paul community. Hundreds of individual college and secondary school students and community members such as educators and health and medical professionals use the Resource Center each year to find information about the Hmong. The Resource Center also publishes a Hmong Studies scholarly journal and compiles and disseminates its own Hmong-related social science research in relation to important socioeconomic and social justice issues. All of these activities are intended to improve understanding and group relations between Hmong and non-Hmong while also improving the ability of core institutions in the mainstream society to serve Hmong-Americans in a culturally competent manner.

**Building Bridges**

**Teaching about the Hmong in Our Communities Program:** To respond to the need for community education about the Hmong refugee experience, Hmong refugees from Wat Thamkrabok and Hmong contributions to Minnesota and the United States, the Hmong Cultural Center's Building Bridges race relations outreach program provides comprehensive and interactive multicultural education presentations about the Hmong to groups in the Twin Cities community, Greater Minnesota and Wisconsin. The Building Bridges program is intended to promote dialogue and understanding and reduce stereotypes that divide our communities.

**Adult Education and Literacy Programs to promote the personal development and self-sufficiency of Hmong adults in American Society**

**Citizenship Program:** This program prepares adults for their citizenship exams by teaching them about American laws, history and government while tutoring them for their citizenship interviews.  
**ESL Program:** This program teaches adults Basic English vocabulary and grammar as well as work-force skills such as computer keyboarding.

**Educational Programs to promote the personal development, self-esteem, and social skills of Children, Youth and Adults**

**Qeej Musical Instrument and Dance Programs:** The Qeej after-school program teaches children and youth, aged 6 to 18, how to play the Qeej instrument, traditional Qeej songs, and how to perform Qeej dances. The Qeej instrument is an important cultural identifier for the Hmong people and plays an intrinsic role in Hmong funerals. This program helps reconnect children and youth to the culture of their parents. The Qeej program also includes guest speakers on important youth issues and academic enrichment activities for children and youth. The dance program provides instruction to children and youth in traditional Hmong and Asian dances.

**Hmong Men's Circle:**

The Hmong Men's Circle provides after school activities and instruction for youth 13-18 related to self-esteem, leadership, preparation for education beyond high school, destructive behaviors to avoid as a teen (sexually transmitted diseases, causing pregnancies, drug and alcohol abuse, gangs etc.), bring in culturally-specific guest speakers, cultural education, and field trips to promote positive social development for Hmong and Non-Hmong male youth.

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**Hmoob Kab Lis Kev Cai (Cultural Customs):**

**This 12 year old program teaches adults and youth traditional songs and rituals associated with Mej Koob (the traditional Hmong Marriage Ceremony) and Kev Pam Tuag (Funeral Customs) in order to help ensure the survival of Hmong Culture and tradition.**

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**Adult Basic Education Stats in 2007**

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**Adult Basic Education Classes**

**Total number of students: 117**

**Male: 40%**

**Female: 60%**

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**Educational Programs Stats in 2007**

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**Marriage (Meej Koob) Ceremony Class**

**Total number of students: 46**

**Male: 100%**

**Female: 0%**

**Funeral (Kav Xwm thiab Txiv Xaiv) Ceremony Class**

**Total number of students: 26**

**Male: 100%**

**Female: 0%**

**Qeej Class**

**Total number of students: 47**

**Male: 100%**

**Female: 0%**

**Dance Class**

**Total number of students: 24**

**Male: 17%**

**Female: 83%**

**Hmong Men's Circle**

**Total number of participant: 21**

**Male: 100%**

**Female: 0%**

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**Interns and Volunteers Stats in 2007**

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**Total number of interns: 2**

**Male: 50%**

**Female: 50%**

**Total number of volunteers: 29**

**Male: 37%**

**Female: 63%**

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## Multicultural Education at the Hmong Resource Center in 2007

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The Hmong Resource Center is a primary provider of multicultural education resources and race relations outreach activities related to the Hmong people and to groups in the Twin Cities area and the Upper Midwest. The Hmong Cultural Center serves as the Hmong representative organization on the Council of Advisors of Tolerance Minnesota.

**2007 Hmong Resource Center user stats from January 1, 2007— December 31, 2007**

**Total number of visitors: 773**

**% of Hmong: 34%**

**% of Non-Hmong: 66%**

**Over the age of 18: 78%**

**Under the age of 18: 22%**

**Local resident: 82%**

**Non-local resident: 18%**

**Academic or User (Affiliate with College or University): 46%**

**Number of Hmong Resource Center Visitors Affiliated with Universities or Colleges 1/01/07 — 12/ 31/07**

### Minnesota-Based

Argosy University - 1  
Capella University - 1  
Century College - 2  
Concordia University of Saint Paul - 5  
Globe College - 1  
Hamline University - 12  
Macalester College - 10  
Metropolitan State University - 15  
Minnesota School of Business - 1  
North Central University - 2  
Saint Kathleen University - 1  
Saint Olaf College - 5  
Search Institute - 1  
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities - 49

Bethel Seminary - 6  
Carleton College - 2  
College of Saint Scholastica - 16  
Concordia University, Morehead - 6  
Gustavus Adolphus College - 6  
Hennepin Technical College - 10  
Mankato State University - 3  
Minneapolis Community and Technical College - 1  
Morehead State University - 1  
Saint Cloud State University - 3  
Saint Mary's University - 1  
Saint Paul College - 4  
University of Minnesota-Duluth - 1  
University of Saint Thomas - 49

### Out of State Based

Baker College - 1  
Florida State University - 14  
Macomb Community College - 1  
San Francisco State University - 1  
Texas A&M Corpus Christi - 1  
University of Wisconsin Stout - 19  
University of California Davis - 1  
University of Pittsburgh - 1  
University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire - 3  
University of Wisconsin - Riverfall - 10  
Wesley Theological Seminary - 4

Brigham Young University - 14  
Georgetown University - 1  
Michigan State University - 2  
Seattle Central Community College - 4  
The Ohio State University - 4  
University of California Berkeley - 3  
University of Chicago - 1  
University of South Dakota - 9  
University of Wisconsin Madison - 1  
University of Wisconsin Superior - 1  
Western Wisconsin Technical College - 1

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### **International Based**

**Ehime University (Japan) - 10**  
**European University Institute (Italy) - 4**  
**European University Viadrina (Germany) - 2**  
**London School of Economic (England) - 1**  
**The University of Western Ontario (Canada) - 1**  
**University of Warsaw (Poland) - 1**  
**University of Boon (Germany) - 1**  
**University of Heidelberg (Germany) - 1**  
**University of Switzerland Geneva (Switzerland) - 1**

**In addition, more than 570 persons attended the Building Bridges Multicultural Education Presentations about the Hmong Culture and History from the Hmong Cultural Center in 2007. The presentation was also given throughout the state of Wisconsin and Minnesota. The majority of these participants in the presentation were Educators, Health Care Workers, or in the Social Services field. The entire Building Bridges program curriculum may be viewed online at [www.learnabouthmong.com](http://www.learnabouthmong.com) in the “Hmong 101presentation” section.**

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### **SCENES FROM THE HMONG CULTURAL CENTER**

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**University students interviewed a staff member in the Hmong Resource Library for a college multicultural project.**

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**SCENES FROM THE HMONG CULTURAL CENTER**

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**Inside the Hmong Resource Library at the Hmong Cultural Center**

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**Exhibition of Hmong artifacts at the Hmong Cultural Center**

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**SCENES FROM THE HMONG CULTURAL CENTER**

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**ESL (English as a Second Language) students study in class.**

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**ESL students went on a fieldtrip to the Fort Snelling State Park in June, 2007.**

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**SCENES FROM THE HMONG CULTURAL CENTER**

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**Advanced students learn to play the Qeej (traditional Hmong instrument).**

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**Qeej students come to the Hmong Cultural Center three times a week to learn the Qeej.**

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**SCENES FROM THE HMONG CULTURAL CENTER**

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**Beginner students learn to play the Qeej (traditional Hmong instrument) in the beginner's class.**

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**Qeej students at the 5th annual Hmong Resource Fair at the Aldrich Arena in Maplewood, MN.**

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**SCENES FROM HMONG CULTURAL CENTER**

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**Dance students preformed at the annual picnic.**

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**The Hmong Cultural Center's dance students took 3rd place at the dance competition at the 2007 Hmong-Minnesota New Year celebration at the River Centre. Congratulations dancers!**

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**SCENES FROM HMONG CULTURAL CENTER**

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**A Qeej student received recognition at the 2007 Hmong Cultural Center's annual picnic on June 29, 2007.**

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**Youth played balloon toss at the 2007 annual picnic.**

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**SCENES FROM HMONG CULTURAL CENTER**

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**Hmong Cultural Center's Board of Directors at the Annual Fundraising Banquet on October 28, 2007 at the Foodsmart Restaurant.**

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**Dr. Gary Yia Lee was the keynote speaker of the Annual Banquet.**

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**SCENES FROM HMONG CULTURAL CENTER**

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**Attendees at the 2007 Annual Banquet.**

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**Dance and Qeej Students performed at the 2007 Annual Banquet.**

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**SCENES FROM HMONG CULTURAL CENTER**

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**Qeej Students preformed at the 2007 Annual Banquet.**

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**Ray Murray, recipient of the Volunteer Award at the 2007 Annual Banquet.**

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## SCENES FROM HMONG CULTURAL CENTER

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**Western Union is a sponsor of the Hmong Cultural Center's Citizenship and ESL classes which serve many Hmong and Laotian refugees.**

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**Participants of the Western Union kick-Off event at the Hmong Cultural Center on Feb.26, 2008.**

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## **HMONG CULTURAL CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**Sean Lee, Chair (U.S. Bank)**

**Kamai (Dao) Xiong, Vice Chair (Southeast Asian Parent Advisor, PACER)**

**Dr. Gale Mason-Chagil, Secretary (Cultural Inquiry Consulting and Adjunct Professor, Metropolitan State University)**

**Khue Yang, Treasurer (Assistant Vice President, University National Bank)**

**Kin Vang, Capital Tax Consulting**

**Nao Thao (Saint Paul Public School)**

**Dr. Gerald Fry (Professor, College of Education, University of Minnesota)**

**Dr. Mark E. Pfeifer, Advisor to Hmong Cultural Center Staff and Board**

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## **HMONG CULTURAL CENTER STAFF**

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**Txong Pao Lee, Executive Director**

**Tougeu Leepalao, Cultural Arts Programs Instructor**

**Thai Vang, Adult Basic Education Instructor**

**Pa Vang, Adult Basic Education Instructor**

**Kao Neng Lee, Adult Basic Education Instructor**

**Xai Lor, Adult Basic Education Instructor and Librarian**

**Ray Murray, Volunteer Librarian**

**Nai Christopher Lo, Outreach and Youth Coordinator**

**Nara Chea, Adult Basic Education Instructor**

**Johnny Lee, Qeej Instructor**

**Teng Xiong, Qeej Instructor**

**Koobmeej Lee, Qeej Instructor**

**Mexai Xiong, Qeej Instructor**

**Tou Thor, Volunteer Qeej Assistance**

**Blia Lee, Dance Instructor**

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**The 2007 Hmong Cultural Center fundraising banquet was held at Foodsmart Restaurant in Saint Paul on Sunday, October 28. It was a great success. Almost \$3,000 was raised from the community to support the cultural education programs (Qeej, Dance, and Hmong Resource Library) at Hmong Cultural Center.**



**Personal and corporate contributors to the 2007 Hmong Cultural Center Fundraising Banquet Included:**

**Bob and Shirlaine Baldwin**

**Chang Thao and Kazoua Kong-Thao**

**Cheng Vang**

**Dr. Gale Mason-Chagil and Emliano Chagil**

**Dr. Mark Pfeifer**

**Hua Vang**

**Kamai Xiong and Drew V. Xiong**

**Keng Kue Lor**

**Khue Yang and Cyndy H. Yang**

**Mayka Leepalao and Toua Vang**

**Nao Thao**

**Raymond L. Murray**

**Sally A. Baas**

**Seongdok Kim**

**Soua Sue Lee**

**Thai Vang**

**Tsav Zeb Lis**

**Vang Moua**

**Xai S. Lor**

**Capital Tax**

**Chao Vang**

**Dr. Bruce Downing**

**Dr. Gerald W. Fry**

**Dr. Maydeu Ly**

**Jet Vang**

**Kaoru Kinoshita Adachi**

**Kerry Koua Lee**

**Kin Vang**

**Nai Christopher Lo**

**Pa Vang**

**Rwg Yang**

**Sau Xiong**

**Sheng Yang**

**Tchuneng Vu**

**Tom Laventure**

**Txong Pao Lee and Hlee X. Lee**

**Vang Vang**

**Hmong Cultural Center would also like to acknowledge other individuals who contributed to the banquet but are not named on this list.**

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**2007 Corporate, Governmental, and Foundation Supporters of  
Hmong Cultural Center's Adult Education, and Multicultural Education Programs**

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**Travelers Foundation**  
[www.travelers.com](http://www.travelers.com)

**Patrick and Aimee Butler Family Foundation**  
[www.butlerfamilyfoundation.org](http://www.butlerfamilyfoundation.org)

**City of Saint Paul Cultural Star Program**  
<http://www.stpaul.gov/depts/ped/star/>

**Metro Regional Arts Council through an appropriation of the Minnesota State Legislature.**  
[www.mrac.org](http://www.mrac.org)

**Saint Paul Foundation**  
[www.saintpaulfoundation.org](http://www.saintpaulfoundation.org)

**Saint Paul Foundation Asian Pacific Endowment**  
[www.saintpaulfoundation.org/page32217.cfm](http://www.saintpaulfoundation.org/page32217.cfm)

**Blue Cross/Blue Shield Foundation of Minnesota**  
[www.bluecrossmn.com](http://www.bluecrossmn.com)

**Otto Bremer Foundation**  
[www.ottobremer.org](http://www.ottobremer.org)

**McKnight Foundation**  
[www.mcknight.org](http://www.mcknight.org)

**COMPAS/McKnight Community Art Program**  
[www.compas.org](http://www.compas.org)

**National Endowment for the Arts**  
[www.nea.gov](http://www.nea.gov)

**Saint Paul Community Literacy Consortium**  
[www.spclc.org](http://www.spclc.org)

**Western Union**  
[www.westernunion.com](http://www.westernunion.com)

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**HMONG CULTURAL CENTER, INC. FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007**

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<b>INCOME (\$)</b>	<b><u>Total (\$)</u></b>
<b>Government Grants</b>	<b>\$233,549</b>
<b>Foundation Grants</b>	<b>\$87,836</b>
<b>Personal and Corporate Contribute</b>	<b>\$5,138</b>
<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>\$7,536</b>
<b>Misc. Revenue</b>	<b>\$3,580</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME (\$)</b>	<b>\$337,639</b>
<b>EXPENSES (\$)</b>	<b><u>Total (\$)</u></b>
<b>Program Expenses</b>	<b>\$235,920</b>
<b>Management and Operating</b>	<b>\$28,424</b>
<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>\$19,897</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES (\$)</b>	<b>\$284,241</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$53,398</b>

**The Hmong Cultural Center conducts an annual audit of its finances. Copies of the audit and the form 990 are available for review in the Hmong Cultural Center office.**

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