HMONG CULTURAL CENTER 2003 ANNUAL REPORT



HMONG CULTURAL CENTER
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MESSAGE FROM TXONG PAO LEE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HMONG CULTURAL CENTER

Hello Community:

Thank you for reading our annual report. We had a good 2003 and are looking forward to serving the community with our programs in 2004. I invite you to take a serious and in-depth look at the broad range of important educational and diversity awareness programs our organization provides to Hmong and non-Hmong in Minneapolis-St. Paul. In terms of actual student numbers, we continue to be one of the leading providers of Citizenship and English classes for Hmong adults in the Twin Cities. Our successful and long-time partnership with the Saint Paul Community Literacy Consortium allows us to provide Citizenship and ESL classes in a culturally sensitive and appropriate manner that allows hundreds of Hmong adults each year to get in a position to more fully exercise their rights and obligations as Americans and become more self-sufficient in American society.



Of all Hmong and Asian organizations in the Twin Cities, we are the only provider of direct and substantive diversity awareness activities and resources on a daily basis to Hmong and non-Hmong alike. As you can see elsewhere in this report, more than 500 college students visited our Resource Center in 2003. Most of these students were in basic introductory multicultural education classes. Hundreds more elementary, middle and high school students visited us to learn about the Hmong people in Minnesota as did many service professionals and community members from our neighborhoods. We work to promote positive race relations and understanding between Hmong and non-Hmong every day of the year through our educational activities in the Twin Cities and our popular educational website. If anything, the need for these hands-on, community-based diversity awareness activities will only increase with the arrival of new Hmong refugees in Minnesota from Wat Thamkrabok in Thailand in 2004 and the continuing movement of Hmong families to outlying communities in the Twin Cities metro. To advance our extensive race relations work even further, we have recently entered a partnership as the Hmong representative on the Council of Advisors of Tolerance Minnesota.

Though it is not all that we do, our cultural work is also very important to our identity as an organization. Over the past two years we have brought to our board of directors professionals with considerable experience in the American school system, Hmong youth development, the Hmong cultural arts, and youth program evaluation. Our board and staff believe that Hmong children and youth need to be connected to their culture and parents in a constructive way if they are to do well in American society and stay away from self-destructive behaviors. Our cultural-oriented youth programs can help children and youth prosper and achieve in ways that more traditional social service programs for youth perhaps cannot. I strongly welcome you to visit us in 2004 and learn for yourself about our work.

HMONG CULTURAL CENTER SERVICE STATISTICS 2003

The Qeej Music Instruction Program Served 50 children and youth The Dance Instruction Program Served 35 children and youth

The Youth Cultural Mentorship Program Served 15 students with small group mentorship instruction in the Hmong Cultural Arts (Qeej Musical Instrument and Paj Ntaub Embroidery)

The Cultural Customs Program provided instruction to 10 adults and youth in Hmong Marriage Songs, the Mej Koob role in the traditional Hmong marriage ceremony, and Hmong Funeral Songs

The Citizenship Program provided Citizenship-related services to about 400 adults. More than 250 students took HCC's Citizenship and Functional English Classes. 97 of these students subsequently passed the U.S. citizenship exam in 2003.

The Hmong Resource Center served 1,524 on-site visitors and about 67,000 more via the Hmong Cultural Center website at www.hmongcenter.org. Of the on-site visitors, about 62% were Hmong and 38% were non-Hmong. Visitors checked out 1,031 items from the Resource Center's lending library.

HMONG CULTURAL CENTER MISSION AND PROGRAMS

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.

Vision Statement: Human Rights Focus - the Hmong Cultural Center and its Resource Center works to advance the human rights of Hmong interacting with mainstream institutions and systems across the United States as it educates non-Hmong professionals and service workers about the background and culturally-specifically needs of their Hmong service populations.

<u>Multicultural Education and Diversity Awareness Programs to Promote</u> 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. School and community groups visit the center on tours to learn about the Hmong people and the center provides a speaker's bureau to coordinate presentations about the Hmong to the community. 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.

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 workforce skills such as computer keyboarding.

<u>Cultural Education Programs to promote the personal development, self-esteem, and social skills of Children, Youth and Adults</u>

Qeej Musical Instrument: This after-school program teaches children and youth, aged 6 to 18, how to play the qeej musical instrument and traditional qeej songs, and how to perform qeej dances. The Qeej instrument is an important cultural indentifier 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.

Nuj Sis Ntxiag (Mentorship): This program matches children and youth aged 8 to 18 with an older Hmong mentor for the purpose of sharing Hmong cultural traditions including the Qeej Musical Instrument, and Paj Ntaub (Storyblanket creation) while building cross-generational relationships.

Hmoob Kab Lis Kev Cai (Cultural Customs): This program is the only one in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area that teaches adults and youth traditional songs and rituals associated with the Mej Koob (the traditional Marriage Ceremony) and Kev Pam Tuag (Funeral Customs) in order to help ensure the survival of the Hmong culture which is an important Human Rights issue to the Hmong Diaspora as it is to other groups who only constitute a small minority population in countries where they live throughout the world.

Multicultural and Diversity Awareness Education at the Hmong Resource Center in 2003

The cultural center's Hmong Resource Center is a primary provider of multicultural education and diversity awareness activities related to the Hmong people 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.

Number of Hmong Resource Center Visitors Affiliated with Universities or Colleges

1/01/03-12/31/03

MN-Based

University of Minnesota - 101 Metropolitan State University - 54 University of Saint Thomas - 37

Bethel College - 29
Macalester College - 16
Augsburg College - 5
Century College - 3
Saint Paul Tech College - 2
College of Saint Catherines - 2

Northwestern College - 1 Alexandria Tech College - 1

Carlton College - 1

University of Minnesota-Duluth - 1

Other States

UW-Oshkosh (WI) - 29 UW-Madison (WI) - 5 UW-River Falls (WI) - 2 Chippewa Valley Tech (WI) - 1 University of North Dakota - 3 Northern Illinois University (IL) - 1

Luther College (IA) - 1 SUNY- Albany - 1 Foreign-Based

Chulalongkorn Univ. (Thailand) - 9 University of Oslo (Norway) - 1

Total 2003 Academic Visitors = 535

St Cloud State University - 87 Mankato State University - 41 Hamline University - 33 St. Olaf College - 21

Concordia University - St. Paul - 6 Fond du Lac Tribal College - 3

North Hennepin Community College - 2

Saint Mary's University - 2

Minneapolis Community Tech. College - 2

Gustavus Adolphus College - 1

Capella University - 1

Anoka-Ramsey Community College - 1

Saint Scholastica College - 1

UW-Stout (WI) - 10 UW-LaCrosse (WI) - 2 Beloit College (WI) - 1

University of Texas at Austin - 5 Creighton University (NE) - 2 Depaul University (IL) - 1 Brown University (RI) - 1 San Diego State University - 1

University of Passau (Germany) - 4 Tohoku University (Japan) - 1

Other Groups Visiting in 2003 (Partial List)

Lao Family Community After-School Groups
Hmong American Partnership (St. Paul) ESL
Blake School 8th Grade (Hopkins, MN)
Hmong Women's Circle Girl Scouts
Wilder Bush Memorial Children's Ctr
Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity

Project for Pride in Living

Forever Home assisted living facility

Phalen Lake Elementary School (St. Paul)

Como Park High School (St. Paul) Johnson High School (St. Paul) Chisago Lakes School District North High School (Minneapolis)

Future Force Program, Wilder Foundation Center for Hmong Arts and Talent

Lauj Youth Society

SE Asian Adjustment Program (Wilder Foundation)

Metropolitan Community Health Center's Hmong Mental Health Program Center for Cross-Cultural Health and Multicultural Center for Integrated Health

The Urban Coalition

Centennial (MN) School District
Battle Creek Middle School (St. Paul)
La Crosse County (WI) Health Department
East and Preble High School (Green Bay, WI)
Hmong American Institute for Learning
Tolerance Minnesota

Resources for Health and Medical Professionals Collection

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Foo, Lora Jo. (2002). "Hmong Women in the U.S.: Changing a Patriarchal Culture." In Asian American Women: Issues, Concerns, and Responsive Human and Civil Rights Advocacy. Ed. Lora Jo Foo. New York: The Ford Foundation, pp. 145-161.

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Tomforde, Maren. (2003). "The Global in the Local: Contested Resource-Use Systems of the Karen and Hmong in Northern Thailand. Journal of Southeast Asian Studies 34(2): pp. 347-360.

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Keown-Bomar, Julie Anne. (2003). Relative abilities: Hmong-American kinship in Wisconsin. PhD Dissertation, University of Minnesota.

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NEW HUMAN RIGHTS AND RACE RELATIONS COLLECTIONS ESTABLISHED AT THE HMONG RESOURCE CENTER IN 2003:





As part of its ongoing commitment to promote education and the acquisition of knowledge about social justice issues as they affect Hmong Americans and Hmong around the world, the Hmong Resource Center at the Hmong Cultural Center in Saint Paul in the Fall of 2003 established important and unique new collections of newspaper articles related to the Human Rights of Hmong residing in Southeast Asia and Race Relations incidents involving Hmong Americans. All of the articles contained in these comprehensive collections are derived from major national and international newspapers. The Human Rights collection contains hundreds of articles describing the situation of Hmong in Southeast Asia from the mid-1970s to the present. The Race Relations collection possesses hundreds of articles documenting incidents of bias, hate crimes, and institutional discrimination as well as local level race relations between Hmong and non-Hmong in Minnesota, California, Wisconsin and other states. The Human Rights and Race Relations Collections are intended to promote in a meaningful way data collection for researchers and community members working on social justice and advocacy initiatives pertaining to Hmong residing overseas and in the United States.

HMONG CULTURAL CENTER, INC.CIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003

INCOME	Total (\$)
SUPPORT Grants-government Foundation grants Contributions Fundraising—Performances Other income TOTAL INCOME	103,169 116,515 3,913 1,200 7,731 232,528
EXPENSES Payroll expenses Program Expenses General Operating Expenses TOTAL EXPENSES	147,921 69,191 11,837 228,949
NET INCOME	3,578

2003 INDIVIDUAL DONORS TO HMONG CULTURAL CENTER

Michelle Yang Mark E. Pfeifer, PhD Txong Pao Lee Anne Marie Baumgartner

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2003 Corporate, Governmental, and Foundation Supporters of Hmong Cultural Center

Saint Paul Community Literacy Consortium Saint Paul Companies, Inc. Foundation

Freeman Foundation

Pinewood Trust of the HRK Foundation

Bush Foundation

McKnight Foundation

Grotto Foundation New Americans Collaborative (Wilder Foundation)

Leap Forward Collaborative (Wilder Foundation)
Best Buy Children's Foundation

Marbrook Foundation

COMPAS/Medtronic Arts Access Program 3M/COMPAS Award for Innovation in the Arts

Metropolitan Regional Arts Council through an appropriation of the Minnesota State Legislature

Saint Paul Foundation Management Improvement Fund

Saint Paul Foundation Asian Pacific Endowment for Community Development

Minnesota Humanities Commission in partnership with the Minnesota State Legislature and the National

Endowment for the Humanities

HMONG CULTURAL CENTER'S COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Hmong Cultural Center serves as the Hmong organizational Representative on the Council of Advisors of **Tolerance Minnesota**

Hmong Cultural Center serves on the Governance and Executive Committees of the **Saint Paul Community Literacy Consortium**

Hmong Cultural Center is a participating member of the

Leap Forward Collaborative for Children and Youth of the Wilder Foundation

Hmong Cultural Center is a partner with the Saint Paul Public Schools Family and Community Involvement Office, the Saint Paul-Ramsey County Department of Public Health, and the University of Minnesota Extension Service in making the "Helping Hmong Youth Succeed" curriculum accessible to Hmong youth and their parents.

Hmong Cultural Center is a partner with the **English Language Learners Department of the Saint Paul Public Schools** to provide a comprehensive series of workshops about the Hmong marriage ceremony so that staff of the school system can provide culturally competent services to Hmong families whose children make up 1/3 of the school population.

Hmong Cultural Center works in partnership with the **Multicultural Center for Integrated Health** to develop culturally sensitive and culturally grounded healing strategies for Hmong clients.

