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# Hmong Cultural Center 2009 Annual Report

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**Hmong Cultural Center  
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[www.hmongcc.org](http://www.hmongcc.org)**

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## A Message from Txong Pao Lee, Executive Director

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Dear Community:

It is my pleasure to share with you Hmong Cultural Center's 2009 annual report. Like most non-profit organizations, Hmong Cultural Center has been affected by the recent economic recession. We are pleased that to date we have been able to keep our organization's core programs - Citizenship and ESL Classes, the Hmong Resource Center library, Qeej and Dance classes and Hmong marriage and funeral songs classes available to the Twin Cities community.

In 2009, more than 1,000 on-site visitors used the Hmong Resource Center library, almost 150 refugee adult students enrolled in Citizenship and ESL classes, around 80 children and youth participated in our youth after school programs and just under 50 youth and adults participated in Hmong marriage and funeral song classes at Hmong Cultural Center. In addition, more than 600 people attended sessions about Hmong culture as part of the Building Bridges program.

The Hmong Cultural Center is especially grateful to have been supported by several foundations over the past year. The Saint Paul Foundation and the H.R. Bigelow Foundation supported the Hmong Resource Center library, the Mardag Foundation supported the Men's Circle program, the Saint Paul Foundation Asian Endowment supported transportation services in the Citizenship program, the Patrick and Aimee Butler Foundation supported the Qeej program and the McKnight Foundation supported Hmong Cultural Center's after school youth programs. Hmong Cultural Center is particularly grateful to the Otto Bremer Foundation for a general operating grant that will provide important financial support to the organization over the next year.

In November 2009, Hmong Cultural Center joined GiveMN.org, an online website intended to facilitate donations to Minnesota non-profits. The organization has to date earned almost \$4,000 in GiveMN-related donations, we are very excited about the potential of GiveMN to serve as an effective networking tool for outreach and financial giving to the organization in the future. We encourage the community to visit our website at [www.hmongcc.org](http://www.hmongcc.org) and to click on the "GiveMN" link to learn about how donations from community members can help sustain valued programs including the Hmong Resource Center library, the Qeej program, and the Citizenship program. In 2009, Hmong Cultural Center also developed a Facebook page to help the wider community to interact with and learn more about the organization. One can become a "fan" of Hmong Cultural Center's Facebook page by clicking on the Facebook link on Hmong Cultural Center's website. In addition, I also want to give thanks to individual supporters who have contributed financial support, books, cultural items, and volunteer time to help Hmong Cultural Center. We appreciate your support in the past and in the future too.

In closing, I would like to invite you to visit Hmong Cultural Center and participate in our programs and events in 2010. Thank you for your interest in Hmong Cultural Center,

Txongpao Lee, Executive Director

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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 Program to Promote Cross-Cultural Understanding Between Hmong and non-Hmong**

Hmong Resource Center: The Hmong Resource Center is a library that provides community outreach activities related to multicultural education for the purpose of promoting positive race relations in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul community. Hundreds of individual college and secondary school students and community members such as educators, 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, 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**

This program is to promote the personal development and self-sufficiency of Hmong adults in American society. The citizenship program prepares adults for their citizenship exams by teaching them about American laws, history and government while tutoring them for their citizenship interviews. The English as a Second Language program teaches adults basic English vocabulary and grammar as well as workforce skills such as computer keyboarding.

### **Cultural Enrichment Programs**

The goal of these programs is to promote the personal development, self-esteem, and social skills of children, and youth. The Qeej program is an after-school program which teaches children and youth, aged 6-18, how to play the Qeej instrument, traditional Qeej songs, and how to perform Qeej dances. The Qeej 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.

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### **Hmong Men's Circle Program**

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. ), The Men's Circle brings in culturally specific guest speakers, cultural education, and field trips to promote positive social development for Hmong and non-Hmong youth.

### **Cultural Customs Programs (Kab Lis Kev Cai)**

This 17 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 ceremony) in order to help ensure the survival of the Hmong culture and traditions.

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## **Adult Basic Education Stats in 2009**

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### **Adult Basic Education classes**

Total Numbers of Students: 149  
Male: 34%  
Female: 66%

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## **Educational Programs Stats in 2009**

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### **Marriage (Meej Koob) Ceremony Class**

Total Numbers of Students: 16  
Male: 100%  
Female: 0%

### **Funeral (Kav Ywm thaib Txiv Xaiv) Ceremony Class**

Total Numbers of Students: 32  
Male: 100%  
Female: 0%

### **Qeej Classes**

Total Numbers of Students: 45  
Male: 93%  
Females: 7%

### **Dance Class**

Total Number of Students: 25  
Male: 8%  
Females: 92%

### **Hmong Men's Circle**

Total Number of participants: 10  
Male: 100%  
Female: 0%

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### **Volunteer Staff in 2009**

Total Number of Volunteers: 22

Male: 45%

Female: 55%

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### Multicultural Education at the Hmong Resource Center in 2009

The Hmong Resource Center is a primary provider of multicultural education resources and race relations outreach activities related to the Hmong people for groups in the Twin Cities area and the Upper Midwest

Hmong Resource Center user stats from January 1, 2009 - December 31, 2009.

Total number of visitors: 1036

% of Hmong: 74%

% of non-Hmong: 26%

Over the age of 18: 95%

Under the age of 18: 5%

Local resident: 93%

Non-local resident: 7%

Academic Users (affiliated with colleges or universities): 20%

Number of Hmong Resource Center Visitors Affiliated with Universities or College 1/1/09 - 12/31/09.

### **Minnesota-Based**

Argosy University - 4

Brown College - 2

College of Saint Scholastica

Inver Hills Community College - 2

Macalester College - 3

Minneapolis Community and Technical College - 1

Minnesota State University, Mankato - 18

The College of St. Catharine - 7

William Mitchell College of Law - 1

Bethel Seminary - 6

Carleton College - 8

Hamline University - 8

Luther Seminary - 14

Metropolitan State University - 13

Saint Cloud State University - 2

University of Minnesota, Twin-Cities - 29

### **Out of State Based**

Cardinal Stritch University - 1

Marian University - 1

Sacramento City College - 1

University of California, Davis - 1

Grinnell College - 10

Northwestern College - 1

Texas A&M University of Corpus Christi - 2

University of Wisconsin, Stout - 6

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## **International Based**

Ehime University, Japan - 8  
Hamamatsu Gakuin University, Japan - 1  
Miyakonoto National College of Technology - 2  
Nara Women's College, Japan - 1

The majority of the patrons were from the Twin Cities area. They made up 93% of the total. The other 7% were made up of patrons from out of state as well as other countries.

In addition, more than 625 persons attended the Building Bridges Multicultural Education workshops about the Hmong Culture and History from the Hmong Cultural Center in 2009. The presentation was also given throughout the state of Minnesota. The majority of these participants were Educators, Healthcare providers, or in the Social Services field. The entire Building Bridges program curriculum may be viewed online at [www.hmongcc.org](http://www.hmongcc.org) in the "Hmong 101 presentation" section.

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## **Scenes from the Hmong Cultural Center**



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**Inside the Hmong Resource Library and Exhibition Room.**

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## Scenes from the Hmong Cultural Center

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Adult students learned U.S. citizenship and government in one of the citizenship classes.

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Preparing Students for the Citizenship Examination.

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## Scenes from the Hmong Cultural Center

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English as a Second Language students study in the morning class.

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ESL students learning English.

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## Scenes from the Hmong Cultural Center

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**ABE students took a field trip to Gooseberry Falls. They learned that active lava is 12.8 miles underneath the ground.**

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**A group photograph of ESL and Citizenship students at Gooseberry Falls.**

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## Scenes from the Hmong Cultural Center

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ABE students taking a test

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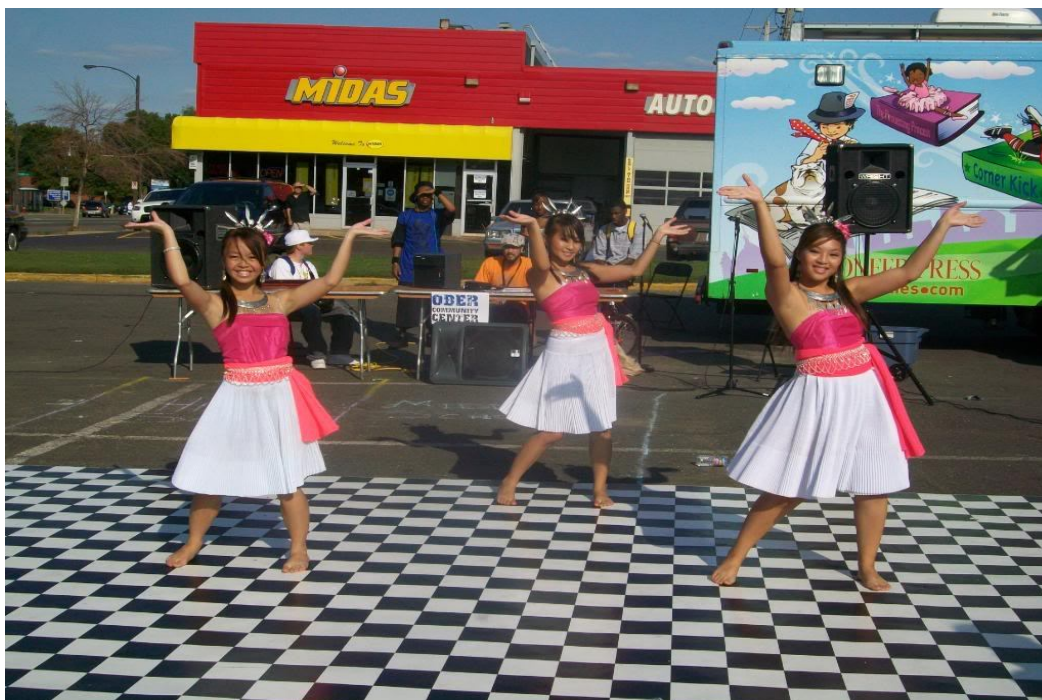
Qeej students performed at the Leap Forward Multicultural Celebration.

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## Scenes from the Hmong Cultural Center

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Dance students performed at the Leap Forward Multicultural Celebration.

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Qeej students honored at the Hmong Cultural Center's 2009 picnic.

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## Scenes from the Hmong Cultural Center



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The Hmong Cultural Center participated in the Hmong Resource Fair on October 3, 2009.

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Beginner Qeej students performed at the Hmong Resource Fair.

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## Scenes from the Hmong Cultural Center

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Students participated in a banana eating competition at the HCC picnic.

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A citizenship student was awarded for his achievement.

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## Scenes from the Hmong Cultural Center

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**A special guest speaker from the Satellite Radio Superstore presented information on the T.V. Converter Box.**

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**Special guests from Thailand**

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## Scenes from the Hmong Cultural Center

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**Sami Scriptor and Sheng Yang, authors of "Cooking from the Heart" had a book signing event at the Hmong Cultural Center on May 21, 2009.**

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**Sami signed autographs for event attendees.**

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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 (Hmong Culture and Language Program, Concordia University-Saint Paul)

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

Dr. Mark E. Pfeifer, (Editor, Hmong Studies Journal, Academic Librarian, Texas A and M University, Corpus Christi) - Advisor to the Hmong Cultural Center Staff and Board

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## **Hmong Cultural Center Staff and Volunteer Staff**

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Txong Pao Lee, Executive Director

Tougeu Leepalao, Cultural Arts Programs Instructor

Soua Sue Lee - Volunteer Cultural Arts Programs Instructor

Thai Vang, Adult Basic Education Instructor

Mee Yang, Adult Basic Education Coordinator

Plia Vang, Adult Basic Education Instructor

Xai S. Lor, Adult Basic Education Instructor and Librarian

Nai Christopher Lo, Outreach and Youth Coordinator

Cher Vue, Librarian

Ray Murray, Volunteer Librarian

Hue Xiong, Qeej Instructor

Chai Lee - Qeej Instructor

Txu Xiong, Qeej Instructor

Tou Thoj, Qeej Instructor

Teng Lee - Volunteer Qeej Instructor

Chee Nou Vang - Volunteer Qeej Instructor

Kong Vang - Volunteer Qeej Instructor

Blia Lee, Dance Instructor

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## HCC Financial Statement for the year ended December 31, 2009

<b>Income (\$)</b>	<b>Total (\$)</b>
Government Grants	\$ 211,320
Foundation Grants	\$ 78,982
Personal and Corporate Contribute	\$ 2,548
Fundraising	\$ 3,936
Misc. Revenue	\$ 2,877
<b>Total Income (\$)</b>	<b>\$ 299,663</b>
Expenses (\$)	
Payroll Expenses	\$ 238,239
Program Support Expenses	\$ 71,126
Direct Program Expenses	\$ 26,082
Total Expenses	\$ 335,447
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 35,784</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. These documents may be also be viewed on the HCC website at [www.hmongcc.org](http://www.hmongcc.org) on the "Annual Reports" page

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**2009 Corporate, Governmental, and Foundation Supporters of Hmong Cultural Center's Multicultural Education Programs and Adult 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)

Mardag Foundation  
[www.mardag.org](http://www.mardag.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)

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

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

F.R. Bigelow Foundation  
[www.frbigelow.org](http://www.frbigelow.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)

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**2009 supporters of Hmong Cultural Center Education programs**

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Bruce Downing  
Dr. Mark Pfeifer  
Ka Mai Xiong  
Marlin Heise  
Ray Murray  
Seng Lee  
Txong Pao Lee  
Yoshii Senshu

Dr. Gale Mason-Chagil  
Jay Gordon  
Mark Thompson  
Mee Yang  
Sean Lee  
Thai Vang  
Xai S. Lor

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