
Hmong Cultural Center 2010 Annual Report



Hmong Cultural Center
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Message from Txong Pao Lee, Executive Director



Dear Community:

It is my pleasure to share with you Hmong Cultural Center's 2010 annual report.

In 2010, nearly 500 on-site visitors used the Hmong Resource Center library, 189 adult refugee students enrolled in Citizenship and ESL classes, nearly 50 children and youth participated in our youth after school programs and nearly 50 youth and adults participated in Hmong marriage and funeral song classes at Hmong Cultural Center. In addition, 238 people attended sessions about Hmong culture as part of the Building Bridges program.

I would like to give special recognition to the elected officials that provided crucial assistance to help the center again obtain state of MN support for U.S. Citizenship classes focused on the needs of elderly and disabled Hmong refugees in the Fall of 2010. Those who assisted the Hmong Cultural Center in this very important effort included MN Rep. Nora Slawik, MN Rep. Mindy Greiling and the offices of MN Senators Ellen Anderson and Sandra Pappas. Elderly and disabled Hmong refugees deserve the opportunity to earn U.S. Citizenship and thanks to the efforts of these elected officials, Hmong Cultural Center now has several full classes each week of eligible adult Hmong refugees eagerly learning the required concepts of Americans Civics so that they can successfully pass the exam and become American citizens. Almost 140 students are currently enrolled in Citizenship classes at the center.

The Hmong Cultural Center is also grateful to have been supported by several foundations over the past year. The Saint Paul Foundation, the H.R. Bigelow Foundation, the Mardag Foundation and the Otto Bremer Foundation gave grants focused on supporting the center's Citizenship classes for elderly and disabled Hmong refugees, the Saint Paul Foundation Asian Pacific Endowment supported printings of the Hmong Studies Journal, the Patrick and Aimee Butler Family Foundation supported the Qeej program, the Metro Regional Arts Council supported the Dance program, the National Endowment for the Arts supported the Hmong Marriage Songs Instruction program and the McKnight Foundation supported Hmong Cultural Center's after school youth programs including the Qeej and Dance programs.

In November and December 2010, Hmong Cultural Center conducted an online fundraising campaign through GiveMN to support the center's Hmong Resource Center library. To date through this campaign the center has raised \$1,160 from the community to support the library's operations in 2011. These contributed funds are currently paying for a part-time staffer to serve visitors to the library. The center also raised \$500 through GiveMN for the Qeej program in 2011. We are very grateful for these important contributions to our programs from the local community. We encourage the community to visit our website at 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 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 over the past year.

In 2010, Hmong Cultural Center also continued to utilize 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 closing, I would like to encourage you to visit Hmong Cultural Center and participate in our programs and events in 2011. Thank you for your interest in Hmong Cultural Center,

Txongpao Lee, Executive Director

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 complies 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: This program is intended 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

These programs promote the personal development and self-sufficiency of Hmong adult refugees 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 7-18, 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. It helps children to have better self-esteem through dance performances, and provides meaningful afterschool activities.

Cultural Customs Programs (Kab Lis Kev Cai)

This 19 year old program teaches adults and youth traditional songs and rituals associated with Mej Koob (the traditional Hmong Marriage Ceremony) and kev pam tuag (the Hmong Funeral ceremony) in order to help ensure the survival of Hmong cultures and traditions.

Adult Basic Education Stats in 2010

Adult Basic Education classes

Total Numbers of Students: 189

Male: 34%

Female: 66%

Cultural Enrichment Programs Stats in 2010

Oeej Classes

Total Numbers of Students: 36

Male: 92%

Females: 8%

Dance Class

Total Number of Students: 12

Male: 0%

Females: 100%

Cultural Custom Programs Stats in 2010

Marriage (Meej Koob) Ceremony Class

Total Numbers of Students: 38

Male: 100%

Female: 0%

Funeral (Kav Ywm thaib Txiv Xaiv) Ceremony Class

Total Numbers of Students: 40

Male: 100%

Female: 0%

Volunteer Staff Stats in 2010

Volunteer Staff

Total Number of Volunteers: 15

Male: 60%

Female: 40%

Multicultural Education at the Hmong Resource Center in 2010

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

Hmong Resource Center user stats from January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010.

Total number of visitors: 494

% of Hmong: 59%

% of non-Hmong: 41%

Over the age of 18: 93%

Under the age of 18: 7%

Local resident: 86%

Non-local resident: 14%

Academic User (Affiliated with a College or University): 37%

Number of Hmong Resource Center Visitors Affiliated with Universities or College 1/1/10- 12/31/10.

Minnesota-Based

Argosy University - 5
Capella University - 1
Century College - 5
Concordia University - 1
Hamline University - 7
Inver Hill Community College - 7
Metropolitan State University - 8

Minnesota State University, Mankato - 1
Normandale Community College - 2
St.Catherine University - 12
St.Cloud State University - 1
The College of St.Benedict - 58
The College of St.Scholastica - 1
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities - 19
University of St.Thomas - 5

Out of State Based

Ball State University, Indiana - 1
Kansas State University - 1
Texas A&M University of Corpus Christi - 2
University of Chicago - 1
University of North Carolina, Charlotte - 3

University of Wisconsin, Madison - 2
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee - 4
University of Wisconsin, Riverfalls - 3
University of Wisconsin, Stout - 24

International Based

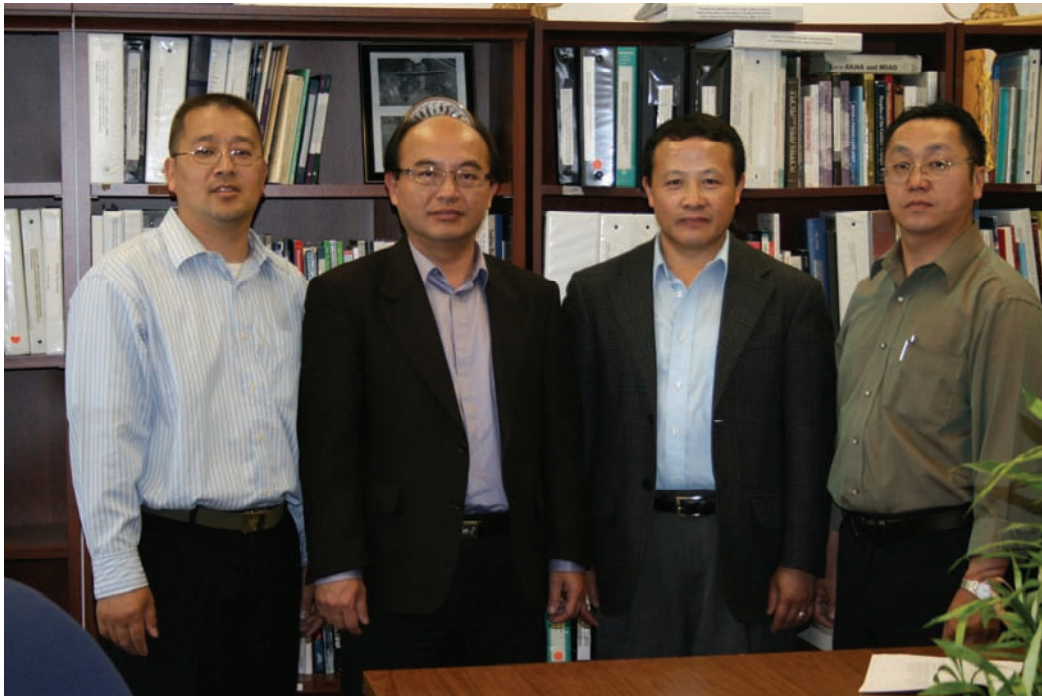
Australia National University - 1
Osaka University Graduate School, Japan - 1
The Graduate University of Advance Studies, Hayama Kanagawa, Japan - 2
University of Hamburg, Germany - 1
University of Malta, Malta - 3

In addition, more than 238 persons attended the Building Bridges Multicultural Education workshops about the Hmong Culture and History from the Hmong Cultural Center in 2008. The presentation was also given throughout the state of Minnesota. The Majority of these participants in the presentation were Educators, Healthcare providers, or in the Social Services field. The entire Building Bridges program curriculum may be viewed online at www.hmongcc.org in the "Hmong 101 presentation" section.

Scenes from the Hmong Cultural Center

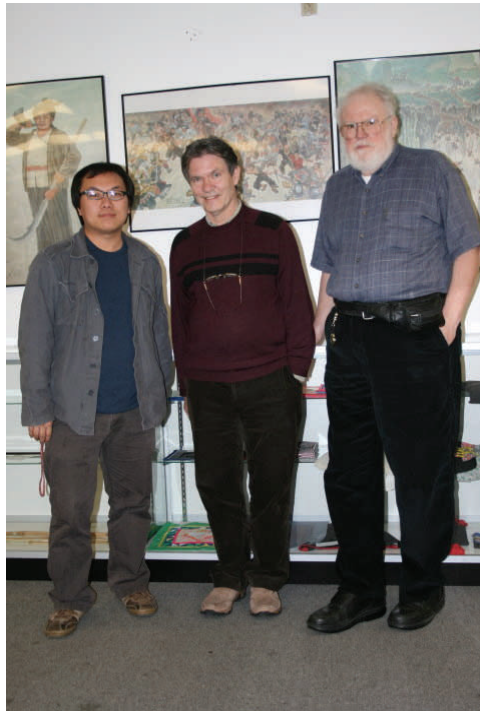


Staff with author Yakao Yang. He is the author of A Hmong Boy's Story and Iab Oo.



Special guests from Thailand with HCC staff.

Scenes from the Hmong Cultural Center



Staff with Dr. Nicholas Tapp, an Anthropologist from the Australian National University. Dr. Tapp visited the Hmong Cultural Center in April 2010.



Inside the Hmong Cultural Center's Resource Library.

Scenes from the Hmong Cultural Center



Children participated in a game at the Hmong Cultural Center's annual picnic.



Students honored for passing the citizenship test, and completion of the Citizenship class in 2010 at the annual picnic.

Scenes from the Hmong Cultural Center



Qeej students performed at the 2010 picnic.



Citizenship students prepared for the U.S. citizenship exam by studying American history, and government in the classroom.

Scenes from the Hmong Cultural Center



A tutor helped an ESL student with an exercise.



ESL students study English in the classroom.

Scenes from the Hmong Cultural Center



ELS students went on a field trip to the Science Museum of Minnesota.



An ESL student checked her blood pressure at the Science Museum of Minnesota.

Scenes from the Hmong Cultural Center



Staff inspected the donated clothes and accessories before giving them to the ESL and Citizenship students.



ESL and Citizenship students browsed through the donated clothes.

Scenes from the Hmong Cultural Center



The Hmong Cultural Center hosted a Hmong New Year ceremony for good health and prosperity outside of its facility in December 2010.



The Hmong Cultural Center dance troupe waited anxiously to perform at the Hmong New Year Celebration at the Brooklyn Park Public Library.

Scenes from the Hmong Cultural Center



The Hmong Cultural Center dance troupe danced at the Brooklyn Park Library.



Qeej students performed at Brookdale Public Library.

Hmong Cultural Center Board of Directors

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 Lecturer,
State University of New York Institute of Technology)

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

Kin Vang, Capital Tax Consulting

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

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

Hmong Cultural Center Staff

Txong Pao Lee, Executive Director

Tougeu Leepalao, Cultural Arts Programs Instructor

Soua Sue Lee, Cultural Art Programs Instructor

Thai Vang, Adult Basic Education Instructor

Pa Vang, Adult Basic Education Instructor

Mee Yang, Adult Basic Education Coordinator

Xai S. Lor, Adult Basic Education Instructor and Librarian

Cher Vue, Librarian

Ray Murray, Volunteer Librarian

Aranvihn Tou Thao, Qeej Instructor

Pob Ze Xiong, Qeej Instructor

Txu Xiong, Qeej Instructor

Teng Lee, Qeej Instructor

Chai Lee, Qeej Instructor

Pa Houa, Dance Instructor

Individual contributors

A total of **\$1,160** was raised for the Hmong Resource Center Library in last year's Give MN campaign. A very generous **\$500** donation was also made to the Qeej program.

Individual contributors to the Hmong Cultural Center's GiveMN fundraising campaign last year include:

Anonymous
Anonymous
Maydeu Lee
Sean S. Lee
Txongpao Lee
Xai S. Lor
Dzeu Ly
Molly Ly
Ellen Mamer
Gale Mason-Chagil
Ray Murray
Mark E. Pfeifer
Kin K. Vang
Plia Vang
Thai Vang
May Lee Yang
Mee Yang

Thank you for the generous support. Your contribution, along with the contributions of others, will ensure that these programs will continue for many years to come.

**Hmong Cultural Center, Inc. Financial Statement for the year ended
December 31, 2010.**

Income (\$)	Total (\$)
Income and Expenses Support	
Government Contract	190,838
Donations	10,486
Foundation Grants	<u>71,000</u>
Total Support	272,324
Revenue	
Interest Income	93
Misc. Income	<u>906</u>
Total Revenue	999
Total Income	273,323
Expenses	
Payroll Expenses	228,941
Program Support Expenses	72,321
Direct Program Expenses	<u>21,257</u>
Total Expenses	322,519
Net Income	49,196

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.

2010 Corporate, Governmental, and Foundation Supporters of Hmong Cultural Center's Multicultural Education and Adult Education Programs

F.R. Bigelow Foundation
www.frbigelow.org

Patrick and Aimee Butler Family Foundation
www.butlerfamilyfoundation.org

Mardag Foundation
www.mardag.org

McKnight Foundation
www.mcknight.org

Metropolitan Regional Arts Council
www.mrac.org

National Endowment for the Arts
www.nea.gov

Otto Bremer Foundation
www.ottobremer.org

Saint Paul Foundation
www.saintpaulfoundation.org

Saint Paul Foundation Asian Pacific Endowment
www.saintpaulfoundation.org/page32217.cfm

Saint Paul Community Literacy Consortium
www.spclc.org
