



Asian Community and Cultural Center

# 2006 Annual Report

Promoting Asian Culture



## Our Mission:

TO SUPPORT AND EMPOWER ASIAN PEOPLE,  
WHILE SHARING OUR CULTURES THROUGH  
OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

## A Message From The Director



I am pleased to present this 2006 Annual Report - an update on the Asian Community and Cultural Center's service and promotion of Lincoln's Asian communities.

This past year, our nation was faced with challenges from Hurricanes to Immigration debates that seemed overwhelming. In midst of all these, the Asian Center ensured increased resources for the community and protected the interests of immigrants, the elderly and limited-English-proficient patients, as they navigate the system. The Ethnic self Help Project/Fusion is a landmark for the Asian Center in expanding our services beyond Asian refugees and reaching three other refugee communities in Lincoln.

As we embark in future, Asian Center is committed to providing a venue for integrating efforts with innovative programs that benefit the health of Asian communities. We face new challenges and opportunities as demographics shift and Lincoln experiences growth in Asian populations. We have a new generation of community members whose cultural filters are different from twenty years ago. These are changes that push us towards progress.

We continue to work in partnership with government, foundation and corporate sectors, serving as a vital link for social and human service agencies and communities.

Thank you for contributing to our legacy of service. Thank you all.

Sincerely,

Modesta Putla



## Board of Directors, Director and Staff

### Board of Directors:

- Ms. Takako Olson - President
- Mr. Brian Ardinger– Vice President
- Mr. Rob Knaak - Treasurer
- Ms. Janet Chung – Secretary/Annual Dinner Chair
- Mr. Chuck Van Rossum –Past President
- Ms. Melene Bakke
- Ms. Penny J Berger
- Mr. Long Dyer
- Ms. Ann Luong
- Dr. Glory Meakin
- Ms. Linda Salac
- Ms. An Sampson
- Mr. Krishnakant Trivedi
- Ms. Scott Williamson
- Dr. Charles Wood

### Staff:

- Modesta Putla-Executive Director
- Jason Varga – Ethnic Self Help/Fusion Project Coordinator
- Brian Brim - AmeriCorps, Volunteer Coordinator
- Sudha Desai - Office Support Manager
- Cindy Huynh- Vista, Family Resource Coordinator
- Jeremy Nguyen- Family Resource Instructor
- Mindy Nguyen - Senior's Program Coordinator
- Ann Trang Tran - Parenting Kindly/Seniors Program Coordinator
- Xia Yun - Women's Project Coordinator

## Our Purpose:

THE LINCOLN ASIAN COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER provides special services for Asian seniors, offers language training for new citizens, prepares young Asian people to become future leaders in Lincoln, and sponsors cultural activities that allow Lincolmites to discover Asians' unique & diverse culture.

It is also the only agency in Nebraska providing resources for the Asian community, including Asian Americans, Amer-Asians, Eurasians, other members of the Asian population.

The ACCC strongly supports activities that strengthen the overall Lincoln community by implementing strategies for empowering Lincoln's growing Asian population, as well as providing them access to various resources.

## THE HIGHLIGHTS OF 2006



### Tet New Year

No year would be complete without some observance of the Tet New Year. This is the Vietnamese version of the Lunar New Year that many Asian nations celebrate. The Asian Center organized a community education event that was attended by large numbers of the community to learn about the importance of the festival, received blessings from lion dance performance and learned to make Egg rolls. With the support of **Nebraska Humanities Council**, the Asian Center continues to organize many other Asian cultural events.

### The Fusion Project

During the last quarter of 2006 the groundbreaking Self Help Ethnic Grant, now known as the Fusion Project, took root inside the Asian Center. The Fusion Project seeks to assist Lincoln's many different refugee populations, including Asian refugees, gain access to the social services available in Lincoln.

### Summer Immersion Program

Our Summer Immersion Program served to educate a diverse group of Lincoln youth on Asian cultures, history and languages. This was the second year of the program and its success leaves no doubt that it will grow and be viewed very positively by the community.



## More Highlights...

### Asian Center's First Annual Dinner

For the first time Asian Center Board members and staff planned and organized an annual dinner, celebrating Asian Heritage Month, where we highlighted the goals and achievements of the Asian Community and Cultural Center.

In 2006 we featured this for the first year but envision it becoming a lasting annual highlight.

### Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

The Asian Center was a participant in the VITA (volunteer income tax assistance) program in 2006. In total our staff was able to complete taxes for **137 clients**.

### Cultural Performances

Our Cultural Performers organized a celebration of Asian Cultures event to have a ceremonial celebration of blessing the new lion heads and drums known as the "Dotting of the Eyes", and dedicated them to Asian Center.

**State Farm** was the major supporter of the event and it was organized on August 26 at UNL East Campus Great Plains Ball Room.





## Our Programs And Services

### Youth Leadership

In this program the ACCC is working to prepare youth for life after high school. This may include college, trade school or entrance into the workforce; whatever path an individual chooses we will work to prepare them for the demands placed on them by that decision. By providing education about the necessary skills for each profession and where to gain those skills we prepare them for a profession. Included in this education are lessons on financial management. During 2006 various workshops and field trips were organized by coordinating with other agencies. In partnering with Red Cross, about **130 youth and adults were trained on CPR and First Aid techniques.**



### 2006 Summer Program

In this program the Asian Center delivers a service that will provide an Asian enrichment education in both Asian Culture and Asian Languages. This program runs through the first eight weeks of summer. In 2006 the program offered the summer program youths with language classes, field trips, swimming opportunities and learning Lion Dance. Partnering with Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department enabled us to provide free breakfast and lunch to all the Summer Program participants.

### 2006 Asian Student Scholarships

In 2006 seventeen youth applied for the Asian Community and Cultural Center Scholarship. Each year we give four \$500 dollar scholarships to students who wish to continue their education beyond high school. The four outstanding applicants who won scholarships in 2006 were **Van T. Nguyen, Yen N. Nguyen, Khoa D. Chu, and Phong T. Tran.**

## Client Testimonial:

“Asian Center is a good organization. It helps people to learn more about the cultures and language and to meet friends. I think I have made friends and improved my English. It is fun to be here.”

# Our Programs And Services

## Family Resource Program

### Citizenship Classes

Once a week two Asian Center staff members work with any interested individuals to prepare for the U.S. Citizenship test. This program has experienced great success over the last year with four students passing the test and becoming citizens.



### Parenting Kindly

The Parenting Kindly classes teach new Americans the approved methods of parenting from within our culture. In reference to other cultures this often includes a de-emphasis on corporal punishment, but also a focus on educating parents on US laws and rules. This program has classes spread throughout the year, with 66 participants in 2006. Education on parenting is vital to ensure the health of our communities now and in the future so we prize this program and look forward to its growth. This is a **state** funded project.

### ESL

With two staff members the Asian center places a major emphasis on teaching English to the Asian community of Lincoln. Classes meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays for an hour and a half at a time. During 2006, 142 students attended at least one session of English class. This number represents a significant portion of Lincoln's Asian community, positively affecting the community as a whole.

## Senior's Group

The **City and Woods Charitable Fund** funded our Seniors Program at the Asian Center meets every Thursday. This program has 50-70 participants every week, providing Asian seniors a great opportunity for socialization and also providing education on a variety of topics that are generally centered on health.

Transportation is provided to those who need it. During the week the senior program staff also help seniors to schedule various doctors appointments and include transportation and interpretation. **The senior program has 150 seniors registered.** In 2006 seniors celebrated Tet festival, Thanksgiving and had two field trips

## Our Programs And Services

### Family Resource Program (cont.)



### Women's Project

The year also has proud achievement of reinstating the Women's club for Chinese women. This program has two monthly meetings attended by an average of 25 members. The Women's club provides a positive arena in which many educational events are organized and discussed issues faced by the Chinese community.

### Translation Services

It is often difficult for immigrants and refugees to acquire help from social institutions that are in place due to a language barrier. To help individuals overcome this, we offer our services in translating important documents from Vietnamese to English and English to Vietnamese. In 2006 we performed 951 translations demonstrating that this service has great demand. With the number of translations done per year, the need is clear.

The Asian Center also provides translation services to Agencies and Organizations translating manuals, training books and brochures for a nominal fee. Our significant clients in the reporting period are Health and Human Services Department, Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department, Child Guidance Center, Lincoln Public Schools and more. The majority of the family resource program is funded by **United Way** and **Building Strong Families Foundation.**



## Our Programs And Services

### Cultural Performance Program



The Asian Center hosts both a Lion Dance Troupe and a group called the Lotus Dancers. The Lion Dance Troupe is made up of both male and female participants. The lion dance steps are based on martial arts, while the Lotus Dancers are young women who perform traditional Asian dances. The combined **total performances during 2006 was 45**. This program helps promote Asian culture in Lincoln and allows Asians in the community to view a bit of traditional culture.

In addition to these formal programs, the Asian Center organized several cultural sensitization orientations and workshops for the agencies and educational institutions in 2006.

### The Fusion Project

The Ethnic self Help project, called Fusion, is a federally funded project run through the Asian Community and Cultural Center. This project is called Fusion, because just like the power of fusion energy is self-sufficient, one of our main goals is to assist refugees in becoming self-sufficient. Fusion also works to increase cross cultural respect among the refugee populations themselves, as well as the mainstream community agencies.

Fusion project works with four refugee communities-African, Asian, Eastern European and Middle Eastern. Fusion's team of Community Resource Liaisons (CRL) work to educate and empower each of their communities; to make their acculturation process easier in their new home and in turn develop a stronger community for everyone in Lincoln



## YOUR SUPPORT TO THE ASIAN CENTER THROUGH GIVING

### BECOME A SOURCE OF STRENGTH

At the Asian Community and Cultural Center we provide programs and services to support and empower the Asian community, as well as share our diverse cultures and heritages with the entire community of Lincoln and the surrounding areas. The ACCC works to build bridges of respect and understanding, and we need your help to accomplish this mission.

The Asian Community and Cultural Center is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization that welcomes people from all backgrounds to join us. By supporting the Asian Community and Cultural Center, you will become a "Source of Strength," and help us to ensure the future strength of our valuable community programs and services.

Thank you for your support!



TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT  
SUPPORTING THE  
ASIAN CENTER, please contact  
Modesta Putla, Executive Director

Phone: 402-477-3446  
Email: [asiancenter2004@yahoo.com](mailto:asiancenter2004@yahoo.com)

## How you can become involved

- Make a monetary donation
- Volunteer your time
- Give a donation in a loved one's name to celebrate a special occasion
- Remember a loved one with a memorial gift in his or her name
- Make a bequest to the Asian Center through your will or living trust
- Double the impact of your gift, by making a donation through your company's gift matching program
- If you are a federal employee, give to us through the Combined Federal Campaign Program
- Ask a friend, family member, or co-worker to support the Asian Community and Cultural Center

Thank you  
to all our  
funders,  
donors and  
sponsors of  
2006!!

# Asian Community and Cultural Center



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