



Inside ACCESS

Newsletter of Asian Christian Counseling & Educational Seminar Services, Inc. (ACCESS)

Vol. V, Issue I

August 2010

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ACCESS 5th Anniversary Celebration a Success!

— By Rebekah Wang, LMFT

Many thanks to those of you who joined us at our 5th Anniversary Celebration and Fall Fundraising Dinner on November 7th, and especially to those of you who contributed to support our event and organization! The food was a little slow in being served that night, but the event and program itself was a big success!

In addition to the feast of a ten-course Chinese banquet, great live music and the chance at winning great door prizes, the almost 220 guests who filled the restaurant were rewarded with the rare treat of hearing directly from one of our ACCESS clients, who shared a brief testimony and a song, and another ACCESS client shared anonymously through a touching video slideshow she put together. This was very poignant especially because it was all after Executive & Clinical Director Rebekah Wang specifically mentioned in

her 5 Year Report that counseling services don't usually get to talk about or show the work we do specifically because of confidentiality, so it was extra special to have not just one, but two clients being willing to share about their healing experiences through counseling at ACCESS.

Needless to say, hearing such testimonies gives people a glimpse as to how rewarding it can be for us at ACCESS as we walk alongside and help people find reconciliation, healing, and wholeness. What we do, however, is not possible without support and generous donors like many of you. We cannot express our appreciation much better than was said by the anonymous client in her video slideshow that night:

"This has been a wonderful year of healing, being set free from old patterns of thinking, and growing closer to God. Though there is



Rev. Thomas Wang (right) translating for ACCESS 5th Anniversary Celebration speaker Rev. Allen Chi (left)

much room to grow, I feel like God has already raised my life from the dead – I now have so much peace and hope. I just want to thank ACCESS for being such a big part of this!! Thank YOU so much for supporting such an amazing cause like ACCESS that is changing lives like mine."

In addition to a 5 Year Report by Rebekah, highlighting the progress of ACCESS over the last five years, ACCESS Board Member Rev. Allen Chi, with translation into English from Chinese by fellow Atlanta Chinese Christian Church (ACCC) pastor Rev. Thomas Wang, shared some moving words of encouragement for the special celebration. Eric Shin and Peter Choi once again delighted us with their musical talents, in addition to the song shared by one of the ACCESS clients and a special acappella performance by a men's quartet from ACCCNW. Many thanks to all our great volunteers who also helped make the event possible, in addition to our generous donors and sponsors!



ACCESS 5th Anniversary Celebration Dinner Check-in Table and Guests



“Faith is being sure of what we HOPE for and certain of what we do not see...”

-Hebrews 11:1

Message From the Executive Director

Dear Supporters and Friends:

Celebrating our 5th Year Anniversary last fall with many of you was a great joy! We are very thankful for those of you who have supported ACCESS since the very beginning, but whether you have journeyed with us since we started in 2004, or you recently joined our mailing list, thank you for your interest and support!

A recent survey by Non-profit Finance Fund (NFF) shows that nearly 90% of nonprofits surveyed expect 2010 to be more difficult or at least as difficult as 2009. During these tough economic times, individuals, families, and businesses everywhere are struggling. ACCESS has not been immune to the effects of the recession. Like many nonprofits, our donations have

been down, and some of our clients are not able to come in as often because of cutting back on expenses, in addition to some potential clients not coming in at all due to financial strain or uncertainty.

Despite and perhaps especially because of the ongoing financial crisis, ACCESS seeks to continue to be a resource of help and support to those in need, including those who have lost jobs (or are in danger of losing jobs), whether in need of help managing stress and anxiety, dealing with marriages that have been strained in the process, or needing guidance on job change.

Our counseling group program last fall addressed some of these issues related to facing the economic crisis. We also continue to offer sliding scale

discounts to those who have lost jobs or cannot afford our regular fees for other reasons.

We never want money to get in the way of people getting the help they need! At the same time, we trust that the financial needs of ACCESS will be met. During times like these, we are particularly grateful for your support and prayers. Your support enables us to provide culturally-sensitive and language appropriate counseling services for the Asian and Asian American population, and to continue offering our services at discounted rates. On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff at ACCESS, thanks again for your part in helping to make what we do possible!

Gratefully,
Rebekah Wang, LMFT
Executive & Clinical Director

Congratulations to our Grand Prize Winners!!!

We usually don't announce in our newsletters any of our prize winners from our events, but in honor of our 5th Anniversary, and thanks to generous donors for the great prizes, at our 5th Anniversary Celebration and Fall Fundraising Dinner last November, on top of other wonderful door prizes, we had both a Grand Door Prize drawing that evening for a week's stay at a lake house, which was won by **Mr. & Mrs. Shawn Zhang**, and we announced a Donors Raffle Drawing, not only for those who donated at our dinner that night, but also extended to those who were not able to attend the event, sending in qualifying donations by December 31st, 2009.

Congratulations to **Victor and Felicia Tan** on winning our Donors Raffle Drawing, held on January 15th, 2010 at 1pm at the ACCESS main office in Doraville (see photo). The prize was a one week vacation package valued at over \$6,000, including a one week stay at an ocean-view Mauna Lani Point condo unit in Hawaii, and airfare for two up to \$2,000.

ACCESS Board Member Stan Singleton drew the winning ticket, with Adam Bateman, CPA from the accounting firm of Moore Colson monitoring the raffle drawing. ACCESS Executive & Clinical Director Rebekah Wang was also present. Thanks again to Moore Colson and all of you who made donations to ACCESS for our fundraising event and making the event a success!



Donors Raffle Drawing —
Left to right: Adam Bateman of Moore Colson, Rebekah Wang, & Stan Singleton

ACCESS 5-Year Report

The following diagrams are modified from those shown during our 5th Anniversary Celebration for Executive & Clinical Director Rebekah Wang's 5-Year Report. They depict both the overall increases in number of telephone and email inquiries (Fig. 1), since we began keeping records of them in at the end of 2005, as well as in the number of counseling clients served (Fig. 2), despite the challenges of the economy and changes in counseling staff, which are the factors affecting the slight dip in the upward trends during 2009. Note that Fig. 2 does not include group counseling session numbers or number of people served through our educational workshops and seminars.

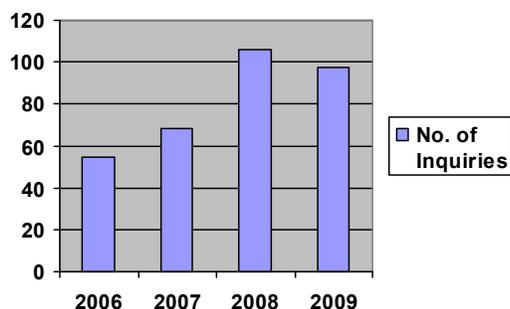


Fig. 1: Number of Telephone/Email Inquiries

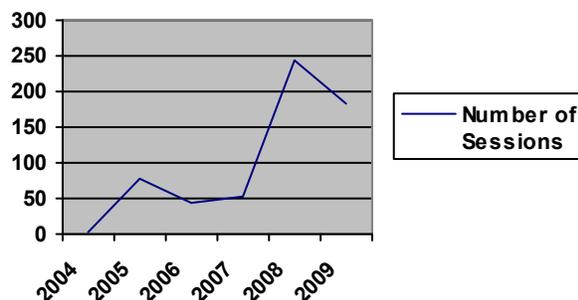


Fig. 2: Number of Client Counseling Sessions

As you can see from the diagrams above, over the last five years, more people are finding out about the services ACCESS has to offer, and the needs are definitely out there! Even though we're a relatively young and small organization, we have received telephone calls from all around the country, especially California and New York, and we have received email inquiries from as far away as Asia and Europe! During our first five years, we gave 65 workshops or talks to a total of over 1700 people, with about 2/3 of the programs given in Chinese. We were also the first in Georgia, if not the entire Southeastern US, to hold counseling groups in Chinese, with help from grants given by Morehouse School of Medicine's Center of Excellence on Health Disparities and NAAAP-Atlanta's Chopstix for Charity. Aside from Asian language needs, we have also carried out our mission of more affordable counseling, especially to those in financial need, giving an average discount our first five years of **50%** to our clients coming in for counseling, totaling approximately **\$11,800**, with some clients receiving *as much as an 83% discount!*

There is no doubt about the great need for services such as ours, and that we can begin to fill the void of counseling services for the Asian and Asian American population in the Metro Atlanta area, and perhaps even beyond. Because of the need, the lack of such services available in the area, and the positive responses we receive from people as they find out about us, and more importantly because of the call to this mission we have received, we are confident that ACCESS can grow in order to help meet those needs, but we cannot do it alone. Every year there are many important budgeted expenses which we have to cut or do without due to lack of funds, and in 2009, we even had to cut personnel costs. We have been operating on an average of only about **48% of our budgeted needs**, with 2009 falling as low as 34% of our budget (2009 Total Expenses: \$59,054.72). We need your help, and we are grateful for those of you who have already shown us so much support. Although there are far more people supporting us in various ways, we acknowledge our 2009 donors on pages 5 and 6.

The full financial statements are available for review upon request at our offices during normal business hours with reasonable notice. The financial statements of Asian Christian Counseling & Educational Seminar Services, Inc. (ACCESS) have been reviewed by Director/Treasurer, Joe Tai, Certified Public Accountant according to the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles of AICPA.



Rebekah speaking at our ACCESS 5th Anniversary Celebration where she gave an ACCESS 5 Year Report





Eric Shin on his saxophone



Emcee Patty Pan with Re-bekah Wang drawing tickets for door prize winners



ACCESS Board Chairperson Cecilia Shou with some of our volunteers —Left to right: Josie Koenig, Linda Gao, Yongmei Ho, [Cecilia] & Doris Chang

Looking Back With Gratitude

The theme for our 5th Anniversary Celebration was “Looking Back, Looking Forward.” As we look back on our first five years, we would like to take this opportunity to especially thank our various volunteers, including our prayer volunteers, event volunteers, and those who have helped in any number of ways. While we won’t be able to list everyone, we would especially like to thank those who have helped volunteer “above and beyond” on multiple occasions!

Over the last five years, we have held three main fundraising dinners, as well as a smaller fundraising dinner with Miss China 2007 and a Benefit Performance. **Fanny Wong** has been kind enough to volunteer her talents to help us design **all** the fundraising dinner posters, flyers, program booklet covers and tickets (as well as our original English and Chinese ACCESS brochures!). **Eric Shin** has shared his musical talent with us at all three of our main fundraising dinners, twice accompanied by **Peter Choi**. **Patty Pan** graciously emceed for two of our main fundraising dinners (2006 and 2009), while **Joe Kelly** emceed our other main fundraising dinner (2008) and our Benefit Performance by the Yunnan Music and Dance Ensemble (2007).

Of course, there have been many volunteers who have helped more than once behind the scenes or in less “glorified” roles: **Lee Lin Chen** and **MeiHan Tsao** at the Check-In Table, **Michael Tsao** with either photography or videography, and **Abraham Wang** as Usher/Check-In person (and other miscellaneous help). This does not include the spouses of Board Members, who not only helped their spouses with some of their respective parts in making these events possible, but also helped with additional roles, especially **Linda Tai**, who helped with almost all of the flower arrangements; **Louisa Wang**, who helped with decorations/set-up and clean-up each time, and **Philip Shou**, who helped with finding sponsors and donors, and gave some gift donations, as well, along with his wife, our Board Chairperson Cecilia.

We would also like to thank **Elder & Mrs. Fred Lee** from ACCCN and Deacon **Kar Ming Leong** from ACCC for helping to set us up with regular seminars at their churches, **Jenny Chen** from ACCC for helping with various tasks at several of our ACCC seminars, and **Shawn Zhang** from ACCCN for helping to take photographs or make recordings at several of our seminars, as well as take photographs at our 5th Anniversary Celebration (see pictures to the left,

throughout this newsletter, and on our website). We are so grateful to God for all of you!

As we now celebrate six years of service to the community, we at ACCESS are grateful for each person who has helped us along the way, whether in big ways or in small, to make what we do possible. We are also honored to have the opportunity to help people whether through our counseling, our workshops and seminars, or even through some of the guest speakers we have invited to share at our fundraising events. We hope to be able to continue to do more in the years to come!

We also want to thank our Advisory Board: **Dr. Huey-Jen Chen**, **Dr. Jian Ouyang**, **Dr. James Siwy**, and officially introduced at our 5th Anniversary Celebration last November, **Dr. Edward Wai-Ming Lai**, the latest to join our ACCESS Advisory Board. As many of you know, Dr. Chen has spoken at a number of our seminars and Dr. Lai has been a frequent and favorite guest speaker (in both Chinese and English!) at our ACCESS seminars, especially at Atlanta Chinese Christian Church North (ACCCN), so we are delighted and honored to have him officially join our Advisory Board. Dr. Siwy helped advise us on our first counseling group and will be speaking at one of our seminars for the first time at ACCCN on September 11. Thank you Advisory Board!

2009 ACCESS Donor List

ACCESS would like to sincerely thank the following donors for their support and contributions (including cash, non-cash donations, and tax-deductible fundraising event ticket sales, but not fundraising event sponsorships; see next page for sponsor list) to ACCESS during 2009:

Church Support/Donations

Atlanta Chinese Christian Church (ACCC)
Atlanta Chinese Christian Church North (ACCCN)

Foundations/Grants

Chopstix for Charity/NAAAP-Atlanta
GA Asian Pacific Islander Community Coalition
(GAAPICC)/Center for Pan Asian Community Services
(CPACS)
Home Depot Foundation (Matching Gift Center)
PBI Foundation

Business/Organization Donations

Café Sunflower Buckhead
China Pearl Bistro
Janie Chu/Water Mirror Records, Inc.
Global Engineering Co./Alex & Daisy Wu
Institute of Chinese Opera-ATL/Mr. David Yu
JONSA Technologies Co., Ltd.
Law Offices of Jing Dong, P.C.
Mikai Technologies/Mr. Kai Hsu
Ms. Evelyn Phuah/KLH Investments
Razo Landscaping & Irrigation
Ms. Li Tang/Creative Montessori School
Mr. Li Wang/Wang Law Firm, Inc.

Individual Donors (excluding ACCESS Partners)

Mr. & Mrs. Min Au-yeung
Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Chan
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Chang
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Chang
Mr. & Mrs. Hai-Ru Chang
Dr. Rebecca Chang
Stephen & Elma Chang
Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Chee
Ken & Nancy Chen
Ms. Qing (Grace) Chen
Mr. & Mrs. Jih-Shiang Chern
Ms. Alynna Chew
Rev. & Mrs. Allen Chi
Mr. & Mrs. Fuling Chiang
Ms. Sally Chow
Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Chu
Mr. San Fu (Jeff) Chu
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Dr. Chung Hong Fu
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Mr. Hamlet Hua
David & Nana Huang
Mrs. Eleanor Huang
Rev. & Mrs. Jeff Huang
Mr. Leo Hung
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Jeng

Hung Kao
Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Khoo
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Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Ku
Mrs. Cressida Lai
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Bert & Carmen Mills
Mr. Andrew Milnes
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Pastor & Mrs. Christopher Pu
Mr. Eric Shin
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Shou

Mr. Stanton J. Singleton, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. James Siwy
Rev. & Mrs. Allen Swanson
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Tai
Becky & Jeremy Tan
Victor & Felicia Tan
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Ting
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Tioe
Mr. Abraham Wang
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Wang
Mr. Kung Wang
Mr. & Mrs. Ling Wang
Mr. Michael Warren
Mr. Wilson Wei
Jim & Sylvia Williamson
Ms. Fanny Wong
Mr. & Mrs. William Wong
Ms. Fang Amanda Xia
Su Chuan Yang
Grace & Ting Yao
Mr. Shawn Ye
Ms. Linda Zhang
Mr. Hao Wan & Ms. Ping Zhang
Mr. & Mrs. Shawn Zhang
Ms. Xiaoli Zhang

 Thank You 



A Very Special Thanks to our ACCESS Partners!

The "ACCESS Partner's Program" is designated for donors who wish to support ACCESS on a regular basis, whether monthly, quarterly, or annually. We greatly appreciate our **ACCESS Partners**, who have so generously stepped out in faith (especially during these tough economic times!) with the vision to help us further the mission of culturally-sensitive, affordable professional counseling services, to help bring hope and healing to those in need. While some had to discontinue their support for various reasons, we want to acknowledge our ACCESS Partners listed below for continuing to support us during 2009. If you would like to become (or rejoin as) an ACCESS Partner, please call or email Rebekah Wang.

Mr. David Chyen

Ms. Rena Crews

Mr. & Mrs. Thao Kane

Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Leo

Mr. & Mrs. Cheng Kuang Lin

Dr. & Mrs. Philip Low

Pastor & Mrs. Christopher Pu

Mr. & Mrs. Joshua Wang



... and to Our 5th Anniversary Celebration Sponsors!

**"It is more
blessed to give
than to
receive."
Acts 20:35**

Gold Sponsor

Moore Colson, CPA

Ms. Nikki Kee/Kee Agency, Inc. (Allstate Insurance)

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Lee

Mr. & Mrs. Sean Liew

Mr. & Mrs. Ping C. Liu

Mr. & Mrs. Choulin Woo

Silver Sponsor

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Wachovia Bank

Friends Sponsor

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Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sand

Ms. Guang Cheng Shen

Mr. Stanton J. Singleton, Jr.

Ms. Tricia Sung

Supporting Sponsor

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Ken & Nancy Chen

Color Stone International, Inc.

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Joey & Li-Wan Hsu

Rev. & Mrs. Jeff Huang

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Gift Sponsor

Chequers Seafood Bar and Grill
China Inn

Janie Chu/Water Mirror Records, Inc.

Mr. & Mrs. Philip Shou

Ya Shu Yuen II Asian Bistro

Dr. & Mrs. Leon Yuan



ACCESS Banner at 5th Anniversary Celebration Check-in Table

ACCESS Staff Updates

Congratulations to **Jane Cheng** on becoming a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in December 2009. Jane had served as our female Chinese Bilingual counselor since March 2008. She officially ended her work at ACCESS on February 1st, and is now seeing clients at her church, where she has been on pastoral staff. We wish her all the best!

Po Fong Tse "Ruth" Wu, M.A. is a Master's student intern. She received her Master's degree in Clinical Counseling at Columbia International University and is currently doing additional graduate coursework in Marriage and Family Therapy. Her passion and desire is to care and work with Asians, especially Chinese, whether it be children, adolescents, adults, couples, families, or individuals who have struggled with relationship problems, or have other mental health, emotional and psychological needs. Ruth was born and raised in Hong Kong and came to the United States eighteen years ago. She can provide counseling services in Cantonese, Mandarin, and English and will be working out of our main office in Doraville. Welcome, Ruth!



Dr. Lai speaking at our ACCESS Parenting Seminar at ACCCN on April 17th

New Website, New Features

We have finally **revamped our entire website** and are still in the process of building and improving it. If you haven't visited our website lately, we encourage you to take a look! With the newly designed website, we have added a number of exciting new features.

ACCESS is now pleased to accept **donations online** through our website, to make it easier for those who prefer online transactions or using their credit cards. Please be aware, however, that a small portion of your donation will be taken out by PayPal for the transaction, which will affect both your tax-deductible amount and how much ACCESS receives. No additional fees will be added to the transaction, but it will reduce your donation amount slightly. If you wish for the full amount of your donation to go to ACCESS, please send in your donation "the old-fashioned way" by mail, or see if you can send donations (one time or recurring) through free online banking/bill pay at your financial institution.



As noted in our last newsletter, ACCESS has been trying to "go green" on various fronts, including by recycling (paper, plastic, and toner cartridges) and by starting to do more online instead of by paper or mail. We have started paying some bills and filing some taxes online, and last fall we started sending out our prayer letter by email to those on our prayer volunteer list for whom we have current email addresses.

Our **newsletters** are **now available on our website**, so if you missed a previous issue, you can look for them online at www.AsianChristianCounseling.org/resources.shtml and click on the various links for the different issues. Beginning with this issue, we are also starting to "go green" with our newsletter mailings by sending people links to our current issue, which will be posted on our website. If you are interested in receiving our mailings by email, please help by giving us your current email address (and adding us to your address book, so that our emails will not be blocked), or updating your email address if it has changed since you last gave it to us. The same applies to your mailing address, since a number of our mailings have been returned to us when people have moved.



Sending out newsletters and prayer letters by email will not only help us to save paper and on printing and mailing costs, but will likely also enable us to send out updates more often. Of course, if you do not email or you prefer to receive our mailings "the old-fashioned way," we will still have paper versions available, at least for the time being. A BIG thank you to Abraham Wang for helping with our new website!



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Visit our website:
www.asianchristiancounseling.org

Asian Christian Counseling & Educational Seminar Services, Inc.

Presentations by ACCESS

September 26, 2009 — “The Do’s and Don’ts of Couples Communication” Seminar

Cross-Church Seminar at Atlanta Chinese Christian Church North (ACCCN)
Speakers: Rebekah Wang, Dr. Edward Lai

October and November, 2009 — “Facing Today’s Economic Crisis” Counseling Group

Counseling Group at ACCESS office (in Chinese only)
Facilitator: Yi-Shi Hsiao

November 7, 2009 — ACCESS 5th Anniversary Celebration and Fall Fundraising Dinner

Oriental Pearl Seafood Restaurant (Chamblee, GA)
Emcee: Patty Pan, Fox 5 TV News Reporter
Musical Guests: Eric Shin and Peter Choi
Special music: Janie Chu, ACCCNW Men’s Quartet
Speaker: Rev. Allen Chi (with English translation by Rev. Thomas Wang)

April 17, 2010 — “Challenges in Parenting Teenagers” (in Chinese only)

Community Seminar at ACCCN
Speakers: Dr. Edward Lai, Dr. Huey-jen Chen

May 15, 2010 — “Challenges in Parenting Teenagers” (in Chinese only)

Cross-Church Parenting Seminar at Atlanta Chinese Christian Church (ACCC)
Speakers: Dr. Edward Lai, Yi-Shi Hsiao



Upcoming Events:

September 11, 2010 — “Priorities”: “The Art of Balance” and “But I was just trying to do my best...”

Community Seminar at ACCCN
Speakers: Dr. James Siwy, Rebekah Wang

October 9, 2010 [To Be Rescheduled]

Youth/Parent Communication Seminar at ACCC
Speakers: Dr. Edward Lai, Rebekah Wang

November 6, 2010 — ACCESS Annual Fall Fundraising Dinner

Happy Valley Restaurant (Norcross, GA)
Guest Speaker: Warren Wen, Liu & Associates, P.C.
(SAVE THE DATE and see flyer insert for more details)