



建橋者基督教華人社區服務中心

American Chinese Christian Educational & Social Services

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

*The Sovereign Lord is my strength he makes my feet like the feet of deer, he enable me to go on the heights.
[Habakkuk 3:19]*

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION (ABE)

From September 2017 to August 2018, ABE experienced many adjustments. Through ABE, we continued our partnership with Tai Tung Village Management and completed a 10-week computer literacy class for 8 Tai Tung residents and a 24-week dance class for 10 senior residents. Our collaboration with Tai Tung in basic computer education and health fitness improved the quality of life for residents. Also, with Eastern Bank's grant, we completed a second Pathway to Citizenship Class and helped 12 students prepare for their 100 questions.

For ESOL, we continued to run three levels of classes, serving 97 students. Most of our students are new immigrants and working individuals who need basic English skill to adapt to America. However, due to insufficient funds, recruitment difficulties, and competition with other Chinatown ESOL programs, we decided to close our ESOL program at the end of December 2017. From January 2018, we chose to heavily concentrate on our mission and vision to provide support to immigrant families and their children.

We are very thankful for all our teachers, volunteers, partners and supporters who made great contributions to help low-income, Chinese immigrants in their life adjustments, in pursuit their American dreams and for their physical well-being.

-Pasang Drolma, Executive Director

COMMUNITY SERVICE & OUTREACH

Besides running classes, our teams has made great efforts to serve the community. We co-organized our third annual Christmas tree lighting in December 2017, and over 150 Tai Tung residents, ACCESS staff and volunteers, and Enrichment Program (EP) families participated in this joyful event. We made this event more meaningful by inviting a minister to share the true meaning of Christmas. One ACCESS ESOL student and two EP mothers opened their hearts to receive the good news. It was a tremendous, successful

gospel outreach. The message of peace, joy, and hope, with all the lights and decorations created a beautiful and uplifting atmosphere in Tai Tung Village.



ACCESS families and Tai Tung residents listening to the Good News of Jesus

To raise mental and emotional health awareness in the Asian community, ACCESS partnered with EACH to hold an Emotional Health Forum in May 2018. About 20 participants from our community joined the workshop and learned from two professional trainers about prevention and reference resources. Due to cultural sensitivity and stigma, the Chinese community does not openly bring up these issues, seek counselors or medical treatment. This workshop was able to increase awareness and knowledge among all participants. ACCESS also has been cooperating with EACH and provides on-site social services and consultation for low-income immigrants for their various social and health welfares.

In 2018, to celebrate World Environment Day and promote environmental protection and public health in Chinatown, ACCESS took initiative and co-organized a Chinatown Cleanup Day event with Tai Tung Village. About 40 volunteers came to this community service event to make a positive impact in our community. Wholefoods and East Boston Savings Bank joined our efforts and provided material support

to our event. Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn and his staff also joined our event. Both ACCESS and Tai Tung Village received an official recognition from the City of Boston for our commitment to the local community.



Chinatown Clean-up: Volunteer group picture with Boston City Councilor, Ed Flynn

We are so encouraged and inspired that God can use a small community agency like ACCESS to make a difference in our community. With God, everything is possible. We are also thankful for your support and prayer. We are looking forward to extending and improving our community outreach and social services in the coming year.

-Pasang Drolma, Executive Director

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

In 2017-2018, our Children and Families branch reached a new level of growth that can only be attributed to God. With God's guidance and the hard work of our staff and volunteers, we not only improved our existing children's programming but also developed new partnerships and programs for our families.

2017-2018 After School Enrichment Program (ASEP)

Last year, our Enrichment Program goals were to enhance our program, strengthen teacher professional development, and improve our facilities for our 35 students from 28 families. In partnership with our faithful supporters and two \$50,000 grants from the Chinatown Trust Fund (one for 2017-2018 and one for 2018-2019), we were able to achieve each of these goals and more.

If you step into ACCESS today, you will see a brighter, more welcoming environment. All classrooms have brand new tables that are safer. For our youngest students, we have low-height tables and chairs, creating a more developmentally appropriate

space for our Kindergarteners and 1st graders as they do their homework and activities.

Our bulletin boards and walls are decorated with quality themes and posters to motivate and inspire our students. To address the growing amount of computer homework, we purchased 10 Android tablets with the grant, equipping our older students to achieve the best they can. If you have ever seen our supplies storage areas, you know that we struggled with keeping things organized. But by the great work from BCEC's Peter Fellowship Brothers, you will be amazed to see these areas! Our teachers can finally see our supplies without having to go on a treasure hunt, all thanks to our Peter Fellowship Brothers, volunteers, and staff.

And perhaps what was most exciting for the 2017-2018 year was the ability to offer significant scholarships to many of our families for the first time in years. Part of the Chinatown Trust Fund grants was dedicated to reducing the financial burdens for our families, majority of whom are low-income. About 26 families were awarded scholarships of at least \$200-\$300 per student for ASEP, significantly reducing the financial stress for each family.



ASEP students sitting in our new low-height tables

2018 Summer Enrichment Program (SEP)

Our goal for 2018 SEP was to incorporate more varied experiences with the arts. On top of our typical scheduling and weekly activities, our 48 students visited the Boston Public Library Chinatown Branch a total of 6 times to encourage their love of books. We also invited three special guests to hold workshops: Rainforest Reptiles, percussionist Eddie 'Spaghetti,' and the Boston Ballet. The presenter from Rainforest Reptiles brought in 14 different animals the awe of all student. Percussionist Eddie Spaghetti brought 24 djembes to introduce a different style of music and rhythm to our students. And teachers from the Boston

Ballet school held beginner ballet workshops and brought some costumes from the *Swan Lake* production. Of course, if you ask our students, some might say their favorite part of SEP was BCEC's Vacation Bible School or CBCGB's Summerbridge. Partnering with these churches each summer has been truly a blessing to our students and families. With 10 teachers, 6 staff, 15 regular volunteers, BCEC's and CBCGB's troops of volunteers, and program enhancements, I believe we truly made this summer one of our best.



Playing the djembe, led by Eddie 'Spaghetti'

Reaching Families

In January 2018, we welcomed a wonderful sister, Hang Yee Grace Hung, to our team as our Adult and Family Life Coordinator. Pasang and I shared a vision of finding someone who could focus on our families, someone who holds a heart for immigrant parents, and someone who was part of this community. God answered our prayers through Grace. She came to us with an evident desire to help and has worked tirelessly to build relationships. Her testimonies in the next section radiate God's work.



"Father's Day Fun" event, organized by Ji-Sun & Grace

Final Thoughts

About 8 years ago, I came to ACCESS as a college student who saw the struggles of our young students and their families. I shared many of their struggles as my own parents had immigrated from South Korea many years ago. Since then, I have learned so much about the numerous hardships our students, families, and community face each day. I know that God has placed me here to share His relentless love. Our 2017-2018 year was filled with changes and challenges that pushed us to be a stronger, more intentional community. With all the support from our volunteers, donors, and prayer warriors, as well as the Chinatown Trust Fund, I give all thanks and glory to our God.

-Ji-Sun Ham, Director of Children and Families

ADULT AND FAMILY LIFE

On January 1, 2018, a new year began and so did my new chapter with ACCESS. Actually, I am not new to ACCESS. I volunteered and provided financial support for the organization in the past. This time, nevertheless, I want to share God's love to the community through ACCESS.

Two years ago, I was determined to be involved more in God's work. I resigned and started to search what God wanted me to do. When I heard that the vision of ACCESS focuses on caring for not only the children but also their families, I felt God calling me to be a part of their vision. As an immigrant myself, I know how hard it is to transition to a place with new culture and language. As an educator for 15 years, I understood how confusing it can be in getting around the school system. As the mother of a young adult, I could share a few parenting tips. My background and experience aligned perfectly with ACCESS' goals. That's how my journey of serving ACCESS parents began.

Over the year, I have learned more about the lives of immigrants in Boston. At the beginning, I did not understand why they were willing to pay for an after-school program when their wage was minimal. I soon realized that they wanted their children to get homework and English language help, which they could not give. I learned that they hope for a better future for their children, not working long hours with low pay as they do.

Every evening while waiting for their children, the parents enjoy conversing with me. We talk about life, children's education and parenting. I would recommend them some parenting books available in our library and encourage parents to read bedtime

stories to their kids, even in Chinese. They may have questions about the school system or ask me to translate their letters. As days go by, I have built a good relationship with most parents and some grandparents. I would like to share one such story.

A mother had come to pick up her six-year-old son from our summer program. Her son's underwear was wet because he forgot to take it off when he was changing into his swimsuit. When the mother found out that he had been wearing wet underwear, she was furious and kept scolding him. Even though I gently told her to stop, her temper remained, and she would not stop. I invited her to come the next day to talk. When she came the next day, I shared with her a poem about how our attitudes can affect our children. I described what I observed her behavior and how it could impact her son's behavior in the long term. I compared praising to scolding, talking to yelling. After this conversation, she held my hand and told me that she was moved. She said nobody had ever talked to her in this way. She would change her ways to raise her children.

Apart from these daily interactions, I held a few workshops on education and positive discipline. In the summer, I started a mother's group. Once a week, we meet to practice conversational English. We have fun and share many laughs. Recently I gave them a storybook. I taught them how to read it and asked them to read the story to their children. They reported that their children loved it. They never thought they could read a story in English to their children. I also wrote a short dialogue for them from each lesson so that they can practice with their children. I was deeply touched when a mother told me that this is the best family nighttime activity.



Grace leading a parent class

I also want to share with you that our Parent Essentials class began this fall. This class is in collaboration with

Parent University of Boston Public Schools. They provided us the materials, and I have been conducting the 10-week class in Chinese. This class will cover the school system, student learning and assessment at school. We are already half-way done, and I am encouraged by the parents' engagement. I can tell that they really want to support their children's education. They are very happy that the class provides so much helpful information and tips.

Over the last ten months, I have deeply felt that God loves the Chinese community very much. More importantly, He cares for each individual. I thank God that ACCESS is not a huge organization. We focus on people and not tasks. God loves every single human being, and He has a wonderful plan for each one to come back to Him. It is God's plan to let them know Him through our service. I am thankful that I can be part of His work.

-Grace Hung, Adult and Family Life Coordinator

2017 FINANCIAL REPORT

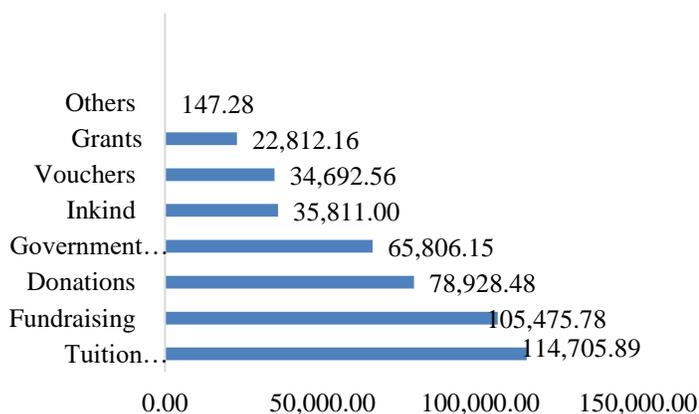
2017 was a special year, full of celebrations and blessings. ACCESS hosted a memorable event to celebrate its 25th anniversary with our board members, staff, partners, donors, students and friends of ACCESS in the Spring of 2017. We are amazed and touched by God's amazing grace to lead and guide ACCESS to walk through 25 years. We are proud of all the good and meaningful works ACCESS has accomplished in Chinatown by God's provision and our diligence and endurance. We are thankful to all our donors, volunteers, partners and prayer supporters, because your generous financial contributions and spiritual encouragements enabled us to achieve our program development plan and reach our financial goals.

To celebrate our 25th anniversary, we launched a break-through \$50K match fundraiser to generate financial resources for our work. We were able to match \$50K and received \$103,371 in total. This total amount broke ACCESS' fundraising historical record and increased our revenue dramatically. Aside from financial resources, our fundraising event enabled us to reach new prayer supporters, donors and volunteers from different churches and organizations. This event strengthened our connection with our founders, former and current Board Directors, volunteers and staff. We took a big step and walked by faith to take this initiative on generating financial resources. It was and still is such a blessing and encouragement to us.

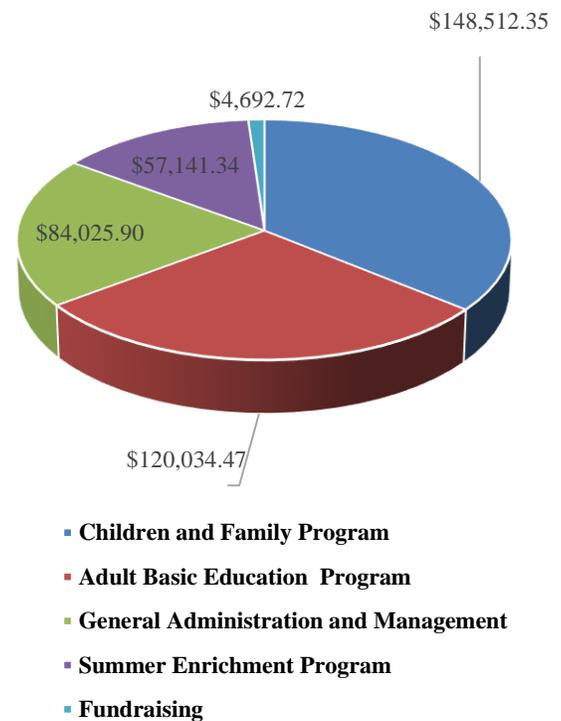
In 2017, we also put great effort in searching and applying for grants from different sectors. With God's blessing, ACCESS was awarded \$50K from Chinatown Trust Fund for our After-school Program, \$1,000 from Boston City for our Children and Elders' art project, and another \$1,000 from Eastern Bank for our Pathway to Citizenship class. Through all efforts and hard work for our fundraising and grant application, ACCESS total revenue of 2017 is \$458,379.30, and our revenue and expense ended 2017 with a good surplus. We cherish each dollar from donors and learned to be God's good stewards to manage our finances. We carefully budgeted and monitored our expenses by closing an inefficient program, cutting personnel costs, saving resources and improving work efficiency, helping our 2017 budget with a surplus at the end of the year.

From our revenues and expense report, you will notice that our revenue came from several resources. In 2017, 35% of our revenue came from our generous and faithful donors like you who made a big difference of our work and ministry in Chinatown, especially those who supported us through our match gift fundraiser and who have been our long-time committed supporters. For a small organization like ACCESS, your financial contributions sustained our operations and stabilized our programs to serve the people in need. We are very blessed with the state government's subsidized childcare through contracts and vouchers, and grants that helped more than half of our children enrichment program tuition, teachers' professional development, and program supplies for our socioeconomically disadvantaged families.

ACCESS Revenue January 2017 through December 2017



ACCESS 2017 Expenses



God has faithfully and graciously blessed ACCESS financially to continue our services in Chinatown community in 2017. We trust God is expanding His hands through our work in our community. To further our mission, we hired an Adult and Family life Coordinator to provide daily services to the families, hired more professional, experienced teachers for our children programs, supported more families with scholarships, improved learning environment, and actively expanded various programs to reach different age groups of Chinese low-income immigrants. The needs and challenges are great at ACCESS, especially with our limited financial and human resources to achieve our goals.

We pray you will take serious consideration and prayerfully support ACCESS with your financial resources, time, talents and prayer. We also hope you can help us to share our work and needs in your respective circles. Thank you for your faith and trust in the Lord and your belief in us to do God's work and will at ACCESS.

We are looking forward to keeping our relationship with our committed donors and partners like you to continue this important and meaningful ministry. Thank you very much for your vision, love and action. God bless you and your family.

-Pasang Drolma, Executive Director

STAFF, PARTNERS & VOLUNTEERS

Board

Simon Nip	President
Victor Lo	Secretary
Hamilton Ho	Treasurer
James Lam	Board Member
Pasang Drolma	Board Member
Wilfred Chan	Board Member

Administration & Support Staff

Pasang Drolma	Executive Director
Anna M. Fan	Director of ABE
Ji-Sun Ham	Director of Children and Families
Grace Hung	Adult & Family Life Coordinator
Ji-Young Ham	EP Administrative Assistant
Susan Lodzsun	EP Administrative Assistant
Sue Cheung	Administrative Assistant
Rebecca Ho	Accountant
Yu Ling Cheung	SCSEP* Participant
Carol Fan Fei	Intern, Program Assistant

*Senior Community Service Employment Program

Partners

Boston Chinese Evangelical Church (BCEC), Chinese Gospel Church (CGC), Chinese Bible Church of Greater Boston (CBGCB), Enhance Asian Community of Health (EACH), Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center, Tai Tung Village Management

ABE ESOL Teacher

Anna Fan

C&F EP Teachers

Kevin Chen, Ji-Young Ham, Ji-Won Ham, Koki Hayashi, Mena Lam, Teresa Liang, Susan Lodzsun, Emma Neville, Shannon Pecora, Deanne Taylor, Joseph Teng, Nana Wen, Weiqi Ye

Volunteers

Petek Altug, Wilfred Chan, Felix Cheng, Joe Cheung, Carol Fei, Bernie Guen, YunJung Han, Rachel Hattemer, Erin Hung, James Jang, Benjamin Kim, Allen Lau, Jenny Lau, Sandie Lau, Hilary Lee, Teresa Liang, Sandy Liu, Spencer Liu, Ping Lo, Gary Look, Qing Lu, Kailin Luo, Eric Mui, Katie Mui, Tammy Mui, Simon Nip, Eric Szeto, Beata Shih, Anais Stupka, Iris Su, Amy Tan, Jessica Tsai, Toan Tran, Yang-Sheng Tzeng, Elaine Wang, Hanyi Wang, Kevin Wang, Stan Wang, Lisa Wei, Isabella Whitehill, Jessica Wong, Jessica Wu, Philip Wu, Nicole Xie, Zelin Xie, Kiko Xu, Rachel Xu, Melissa Yang, Glenn Yee, Kaitlyn Yeh, John Yip, Mandy Yu, Eva Yuan, Emily Zhao, Michelle Zhang, Meiqi Zhao, Yalong Zhou



Volunteers for 2017 Christmas Tree Lighting



2018 SEP Teachers & Staff

Thank You to All Our Staff, Partners & Volunteers!