



**Boston Chinatown
Neighborhood Center, Inc.**

波士頓華埠社區中心



2011 Annual Report

Our mission.

The mission of Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, Inc. (BCNC) is to ensure that the children, youth, and families we serve have the resources and supports to achieve greater economic success and social well-being.





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Our vision

For more than 40 years, BCNC has been the vital link energizing the Asian-immigrant and Asian-American community of Greater Boston. It is the one source that meets the needs of the community by providing essential services that ease integration into American society, while preserving a rich cultural identity.

BCNC is the place where immigrant cultures and American lifestyle converge. BCNC provides exemplary programs in childcare, youth development, adult education, family services, and art and cultural activities. Rooted in the Asian-American community, BCNC understands their needs and how to help them become self-sufficient.

Dear Friends,

At BCNC, we seek to provide access and a voice for the Asian community – a community which increased by 46% in Massachusetts from 2000 to 2010 as stated by the U.S. Census. We are facing the opportunity and challenge to meet the needs of this fast-growing population by expanding our services to Quincy while deepening opportunities for Asian immigrants and Asian Americans in all aspects of civic participation.

The year 2011 will be marked as a year in which the nation and the world took notice of and included divergent voices, changing opportunities for people worldwide. Here at BCNC, this democratic spirit resonated with us as we worked to engage our community members in efforts to improve education and outcomes for children and families. This past year, **BCNC's immigrant Asian parents** participated in a city wide coalition in which they found a common voice with other parents throughout Boston. Together, they advocated **for keeping the children's needs at the forefront** as the Boston Public Schools and the **Boston Teacher's Union negotiated contracts**. To better engage the voice of non-English speaking, low-income parents in their **children's education, we deepened our work with the school system's Parent University** program and hosted a forum on parent engagement to highlight the importance of

BCNC's work and a nationally recognized organization in Chicago in educating and increasing parent involvement.

In the following pages, we invite you to read about two families who illustrate that learning is a continual process and that education, civic **engagement, and involvement in one's community has a direct impact on a family's** success. We hope their stories inspire you as much as they do us.

We thank you, our BCNC family of friends, for making our work possible and for your support **in improving the community and our families' access to a better future.**



Selina Chow

Selina Chow
Board President



Elaine Ng

Elaine Ng
Executive Director

Strength from the Community



Joselyn Zhong

came to the U.S. ten years ago with her family. Today, she is married and lives in Weymouth, a Boston suburb. Joselyn has two children, a three year old girl and a one year old boy who was born with many medical issues. Like many parents with special needs children, Joselyn dealt with stress, isolation and feelings of inadequacy. Unfamiliar with American systems, she found navigating the social and medical services in the U.S. very challenging.

Joselyn first came to BCNC for the bilingual Chinese and English early education and child care center for her three-year-old daughter. Joselyn soon discovered BCNC had so much more to offer.

Joselyn joined a weekly Healthy Cooking Class that BCNC offered. While immigrant parents learned about nutrition and how to cook healthy American foods, they also found support from each other as they shared parenting challenges and other

issues they faced as immigrants. The support Joselyn received helped her reduce the stress in her life and be **more confident as a parent.** **“I feel at home when I attend BCNC workshops with other Chinese parents,”** Joselyn explains. **“The connection among us is valuable. It feels like a family, we share a lot in common.”**

BCNC Family Services staff encouraged Joselyn to sign up for the Parent Solutions workshops, a series that helps parents understand the education system. Recognizing the effectiveness of the Parent Solutions program, the Boston Public Schools now uses it as a model curriculum and it will be translated for other immigrant groups. Joselyn also participated in a training program to help parents to be more confident in taking on leadership roles in their schools and communities. Joselyn explains how BCNC workshops **empowered her:** **“The staff are so helpful and encouraging. I knew so little about the school system. The workshops were an eye opener for me. I am now prepared to get involved with the school for my children. I know I will need to.”**



In June 2011, BCNC brought Joselyn and 20 parents and children to meet Governor Deval Patrick. **“A few years ago, I would have never imagined that I would have the courage to speak to the governor. I was able to talk to Governor Patrick about how BCNC helped me as a first-time, Chinese immigrant obtain resources I needed to adjust to American life and culture,”** shares Joselyn. **At**

BCNC, Joselyn found a caring community, the connection to resources and opportunities for immigrants like her, and the strength to speak up and face challenges that come her way.

New Direction and New Hope



Two year old Jenny was being cared for by a family child care provider who was licensed and supported by BCNC. The BCNC family child care staff noticed that Jenny was having some developmental challenges so she reached out to the family to express her concern and offer help. She then learned about the difficulties the family was facing.

Sai Mak Hau

came to the US to reunite with his wife, he was looking forward to a new life with his family. Life took a sudden tragic turn when his wife was diagnosed with cancer and passed away within a year. Alone with two daughters, an older daughter who was nine and Jenny who was just an infant, Sai Mak was overwhelmed with grief.

With limited English and job skills, Sai Mak worked tirelessly at a minimum wage job at a restaurant and was barely able to keep up with bills. Like too many immigrants, he did not speak English well enough to

access basic services, get more education, or seek a higher paying job. Without a support network, he felt lost as a single parent.

Because of the spectrum of services offered, BCNC was **able to provide for the many needs of Sai Mak's family.** BCNC family services staff counseled Sai Mak to give him direction and access to services in collaboration with the Department of Children and Families and South Cove Community Health Center. BCNC enrolled him in English classes. Sai Mak was thankful for the opportunity. He made friends in the class and hopes to get a better job with his improved English.

At BCNC, Sai Mak is also enrolled in a parenting class with topics including communication, child development, discipline, balancing Chinese and American culture, and working with schools. With a supportive network of parents, he is gaining confidence, skills, and resources to become a better father. In the class, Sai Mak was comfortable sharing his struggles and challenges; other parents responded with encouragement and advice.

BCNC is committed to a family-centered approach. BCNC linked this family to the services and support each member needed - Jenny received high quality early education and her father received counseling, English classes and parenting training. More importantly, Sai Mak has a new sense of hope and direction in his life. Sai Mak looks toward a brighter **future: "I know that the time I spend now on education will pay off later. I want to get more education and get a better job. As for my daughters, I want them to excel in school and pursue their own dreams. Education is the key for everyone."**

Financial Highlights

Statement of Financial Position Fiscal Year 2011 (July 2010 - June 2011)

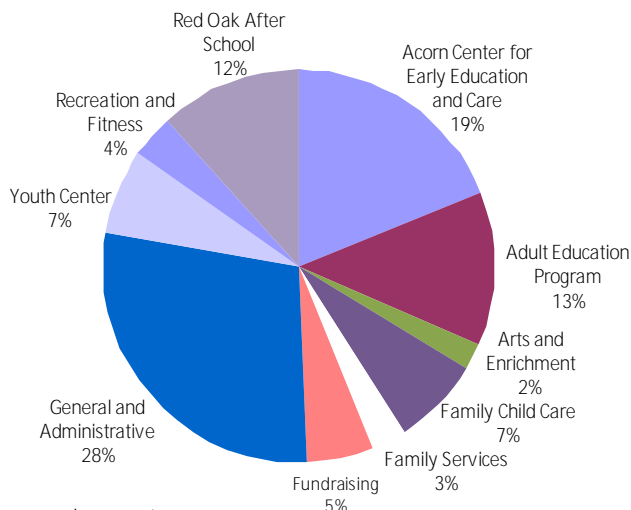
Assets	FY 2011
Cash and Investment	1,592,785
Current Assets	594,946
Property and Equipment	2,669,586
Other Assets	102,453
Total Assets	<u>\$4,959,770</u>
Current Liabilities	
Accrued Expenses	193,673
Accrued Payroll	81,434
Accrued Vacation	37,977
Advances From Funding Sources	129,030
Service Fee Advances	46,543
Funds Held In Trust	129,596
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	3,823,029
Temporarily Restricted	416,035
Permanently Restricted	102,453
	<u>\$4,959,770</u>

Statement of Activities

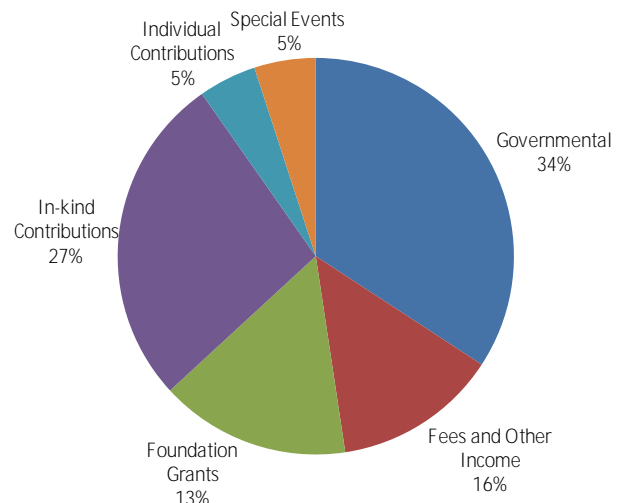
Revenue and Support	
Governmental	1,670,575
Foundation Grants	655,752
Fees and Other Income	759,065
In-Kind Contributions*	1,323,720
Special Events	230,870
Individual Contributions	245,197
	<u>\$4,885,179</u>
Operating Expenses	
Acorn Center for Early Education and Care	952,937
Adult Education Program	637,276
Arts and Enrichment	109,485
Family Child Care	369,192
Family Services	144,450
Fundraising	273,116
General and Administrative*	1,431,623
Youth Center	355,457
Recreation and Fitness	183,223
Red Oak After School	588,701
	<u>\$5,045,460</u>
Total	\$5,045,460
Change in Net Assets	(160,281)

* Includes \$903,434 of in-kind advertising from Comcast public service announcements.

FY 2011 Program Expenses



FY 2011 Operating Revenues by Source



Thank you to our Red Envelope Circle

The Red Envelope Circle represents a group of leadership donors who, through their support of BCNC, show their commitment to children, youth, strengthening families, and building a stronger community. We deeply appreciate the donors listed here for their generosity during fiscal year 2011 from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.

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Every effort is made to acknowledge each of our donors. If there is a misspelling or omission, please accept our sincere apologies and notify us at 617-635-5129 x1053. Thank you.

Our Programs

The Acorn Center for Early Education and Care, a licensed and accredited bilingual Chinese and English full day child care center, serves 81 children, ages 15 months to 6 years old.

The Family Child Care program helps license Asian Americans who wish to open family child care homes, and provides support for over 60 providers, with each home serving from two to ten children.

The Red Oak After School program provides licensed child care, education, and enrichment services for up to 160 children, 5 to 13 years old, every year.

The Youth Center provides education, leadership, and enrichment programs for 200 youth ages 11 to 18 years old to become strong, confident individuals who contribute to the community.

The Family Services program empowers and supports families in learning about the school systems and in advocating for their children through workshops, support groups, referrals, and counseling.

The Adult Education program teaches English, basic computer literacy, job-readiness skills, and provides U.S. naturalization test preparation for over 400 adults a year.

The Recreation and Fitness program offers swim lessons, swim teams, basketball, badminton, volleyball leagues, fitness, dance, and martial arts classes as well as a gym and pool for the community.

The Arts and Enrichment program provides arts education opportunities for individuals of all ages through after-school and weekend arts enrichment and cultural activities.

Adult Education received high marks

For 2010-2011, the Adult Education program received advanced level ratings in all areas of the Mass.

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's performance standards reports, scoring 24 out of a total 25 points.

Elaine Ng named Barr Fellow

Executive Director, Elaine Ng, was awarded a Barr Foundation fellowship in recognition of her work with children, youth and families. She is one of 12 Boston leaders to receive the fellowship. The Barr Fellows Program honors the contributions of the most gifted and experienced leaders in the Boston area. In June 2011, Elaine participated in a three month sabbatical and learning journey to Haiti as part of her Barr Fellowship.

Award-winning author Gish Jen held book reading

Author of *Typical American*, Gish Jen, read and discussed her new novel *World and Town* at BCNC.

Boston Public Schools adopted BCNC curriculum

BCNC collaborates with Boston Public Schools and Josiah Quincy Elementary School to provide Parent Solutions, a workshop series that helps parents understand the Boston education system. Due to its success, the Boston Public Schools now uses it as a model curriculum and it will be translated for other immigrant groups.

Early Education Center received high marks and NAEYC accreditation

BCNC's Center for Early Education and Care was reaccredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the national program for professional standards and quality for early education programs. BCNC has been accredited since 2000 and the latest accreditation resulted in high scores, including 100% and high 90s.

Joined StoryCorps National Day of Listening

BCNC participated in the 2010 National Day of Listening campaign. Over the span of several weeks, BCNC staff, volunteers and friends came together to share stories about their experiences in Chinatown.

Agency Highlights

Kicked off Bamboo Circle

BCNC kicked off the Bamboo Circle, a network of young supporters of BCNC who demonstrate their commitment to strengthening the local Asian immigrant and Asian American community by volunteering, raising funds, and providing experiential insight to support and grow BCNC's programs.

Hosted Joanne Chang

Joanne Chang, author of the book *Flour* and chef-owner of Flour Bakery and Myers + Chang Restaurant spoke about her new book as well as her incredible journey from Harvard applied mathematics student to renowned pastry chef and restaurateur.

Connected Digitally

BCNC and other Boston groups showcased youth's work with Digital Connectors, a technology and media program sponsored by Comcast and One Economy. Special guests included Senator John Kerry, Mayor Thomas Menino and Councilor Michael Capuano.

Serving 300 tax-payers

BCNC is part of The Boston Earned Income Tax Credit Coalition that participates in the national IRS VITA Grant Program. The Coalition provides low and moderate income taxpayers with free financial services. From January to April, BCNC provided free tax preparation to approximately 300 individuals, helping them to save over \$1 million in tax refunds.

Young leaders presented in New York

Youth Center leaders were invited to present a workshop on gentrification to a group of 25 teens at the New York Chinese American Planning Council.

Families talked with Governor Patrick

BCNC families met Governor Deval Patrick and shared their experiences as immigrants with him.



The Alphabet Project was created by Jennifer Carpenter on a Lewis Hine Documentary Fellowship at BCNC in 2010-2011. Over 100 children, youth and **adults from BCNC's programs participated in a series of workshops with Jennifer.** By connecting picture making to creative writing, the Alphabet Project honors the power of photography as a catalyst for better understanding our community. You can view these photo collages hung in BCNC at 38 Ash Street. To see more go to: www.chinatownalphabetproject.com.

Legacy Circle

Honoring a Father and Creating a Legacy

Announcing the Chin Tunn Fon Endowment Fund for BCNC, Frank Chin spoke proudly of his father's legacy before 600 guests at BCNC's Chinese New Year Banquet in March, 2011. "In early 1900, my father, Chin Tunn Fon, followed three brothers and many Toishanese men to America. Why? For one reason: survival."

Frank and his five siblings were born and raised in an apartment on 81 Harrison Avenue in Chinatown. His father, like many early Chinese immigrants, worked long hours in restaurants and laundromats to raise enough capital to start their own businesses. In 1922, the year Frank was born, Chin Tunn Fon opened a restaurant on 25 Tyler Street called Hon Hong Low (House of the Fragrant Apricot). But it was a mouthful for the American clientele, so the customers simply called it "Number 25." Frank remembered growing up in the restaurant, helping out in the kitchen and serving as a waiter.



Frank and Rose Chin

"Our culture of self-help, self-reliance, and mutual support permitted the Chinese to survive through difficult conditions. The frugality and hard work of our predecessors allowed us to seek higher levels of education and improve ourselves," said Frank. Through hard work and determination, Chin Tunn Fon put his children through college. Two would go on to graduate from business schools, and Frank went on to study at MIT becoming a successful engineer.

"Now it's payback time. I believe that I should contribute to a cause that my father and mother would approve of. BCNC is a unique organization that helps and provides encouragement for immigrants to become independent and raise productive families," Frank stated.

The Chin Tunn Fon Endowment Fund embraces the spirit and legacy of immigrants. Utilizing appreciated stocks, Frank and his wife Rose established the endowment to generate an income stream in perpetuity for BCNC programs for children, youth, and families. BCNC is appreciative and grateful for such a farsighted gift.

The Legacy Circle

BCNC has established a planned giving program to meet the philanthropic interest of donors and the needs of the children, youth and families we serve. The Legacy Circle honors individuals who have made a life-long commitment to BCNC. There are a few ways to participate in the Legacy Circle:

- ◆ Include BCNC in your will;
- ◆ Make BCNC the beneficiary of your life insurance policy;
- ◆ Establish a charitable gift annuity which you will receive a fixed income for life for you and your family

For more information, please contact Carmen Chan at 617-635-5129 x1053 or carmen.chan@bcnc.net.

We are pleased to honor the following in our Legacy Circle:

Nobuko Kuhn

In 2011, our participants showed the following gains:

95% of parents gained new knowledge in parenting and parent leadership workshops

For Youth Center

- ◆ 100% of high school seniors graduated and are now in college
- ◆ 100% of ESOL students improved their reading, writing, understanding of English in our summer program

For Red Oak

- ◆ The average student report card showed improvement in all academic and behavioral areas
- ◆ The average student completed his/her homework 90% of the time by the end of the year, up from 76%

For Acorn

- ◆ 100% of children participated in daily dual-language activities
- ◆ 100% of graduating children were academically and socially prepared to enter kindergarten



And our programs accomplished the following:

BCNC remains a top Adult Education program, scoring 24 out of 25 possible points in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's annual performance report; BCNC ranks third in the entire state over the last 5 years.

BCNC maintained national accreditation for the Acorn Center for Early Education and Care, an indicator of high quality. Less than 10% of childcare centers nationwide are accredited.

BCNC offered 149 childcare slots for low-income families, allowing parents to work knowing their children were enrolled in high-quality care.

BCNC continued to support immigrant Chinese women interested in childcare careers:

- served 76 women in licensing orientation
- served 89 women in small business development workshops
- licensed 10 new childcare providers and assistants, providing 48 new childcare slots in the community



Over \$1 million in state and federal refunds went back into the hands of more than 450 clients served by the BCNC Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) free tax preparation service.

More than 1 in 3 program participants enrolled in two or more BCNC programs, a marker of quality and community trust across all services.

BCNC links the immigrant Asian American community
to instrumental resources to help them flourish.



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