In 1987, Dr. C.J. Huang, industrialist, calligrapher and philanthropist established a private family charitable foundation to further education and medical research. A successful overseas Chinese businessman typically looked back to his home village in China to do his charitable work.

He built doctors’ dormitories for the Liuyang People’s Hospital in Liuyang, Hunan. He built a school in honor of his deceased wife, the Ouyang Yu Experimental School in Hengdong, Hunan. He established a scholarship to help poor rural students at his alma mater, the Wuhan University in Wuhan, Hubei. He helped Project Hope build the Children’s Hospital in Shanghai and he helped Project Hope establish the Project Hope Nursing School at Wuhan University. He also established a scholarship at the Central Connecticut State University, bringing the earliest high school graduates from rural China to the United States. Later he established the Huang Chang Chien Scholarship at Academia Sinica Institute of Philology for history research in Taipei, Taiwan. Dr. Huang also had a long relationship with Stanford University School of Medicine, leading to the establishment of the Asian Liver Center.

In the 1990’s, when Dr. Huang himself immigrated to the United States, he turned over the management of the C. J. Huang Foundation to his children, who saw the need for services in the Asian American community. The Huang Foundation then diverted resources to invest in the Asian American identity. An early success was the establishment of the Institute of Asian American Studies at University of Massachusetts Boston. Other collaborations included Brown University and Queens College.

Since then, the Huang Foundation became more engaged in the challenges confronting the Asian American community: glass ceiling, the perpetual foreigner and model minority stereotypes, and worst of all, the funding disparity the Asian American community-based service organizations suffered at the hands of government and mainstream foundations. The Huang Foundation portfolio include CMP, Womankind, APICHA, CACF, A4, CPC, Minkwon, SAYA, Asian American Writers’ Workshop (AAWW), National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA) among others.