



# Inside *ACCESS*

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

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*Bilingual Chinese Counselor*

## ACCESS to Celebrate 5th Anniversary

This month Asian Christian Counseling & Educational Seminar Services (ACCESS) marks its 5th Anniversary, so in celebration of this milestone, we will be having a special event this fall combined with our Annual Fundraising Dinner. It's hard to believe that we have already been in existence for five years! We are extremely grateful to God and to all of you who have supported us and enabled us to serve the community through counseling and educational programs these five years.

You are invited to join us on Saturday, November 7th, 2009, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., as we commemorate this special event, under the theme of "Looking Back, Looking Forward," with a 10-

course Chinese banquet at Oriental Pearl Seafood Restaurant in Chamblee in celebration of God's faithfulness. As the theme suggests, we will be looking back on the past five years, as well as anticipating the future of ACCESS.

Fox 5 News TV reporter Patty Pan, who was the Master of Ceremonies for our First Annual Fundraising Dinner in November 2006 will once again be emceeding for us. Our favorite musical guest Eric Shin will also be returning to perform for us, along with some of his friends. If you have been to any of our previous annual fundraisers, you'll know how talented Eric is, and if you attended our first fundraising dinner, you will also know

— By Rebekah Wang, LMFT



Mar. 2008 ACCESS Fundraising Dinner Musicians Peter Choi (left) and Eric Shin (center)

how supportive both Patty and Eric are of ACCESS and counseling in general.

Of course, there will also be a fun door prize drawing at the end, and some other possible exciting surprises during the program. If you would like to help contribute to some of those surprises by donating a gift for a door prize or by sharing how ACCESS has ministered to you through our counseling or any of our seminars (in person, by video, or in writing), or if you wish to help sponsor the event, please call the ACCESS office.

Thank you for your partnership with ACCESS. Please join us for an evening of delicious food, great music, and encouraging presentations in celebration of our five years of service to the community, and the continuation of this vision to serve the Atlanta Asian American population.



March 2008 ACCESS Fundraising Dinner 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:

As we look forward to celebrating our 5th Year Anniversary this fall, we at ACCESS cannot help but look back on these last several years in amazement at what has happened and at God’s goodness to us. We are especially thankful for those of you who have supported ACCESS since the very beginning, but whether you have journeyed with us since we started, or you recently joined our mailing list, thank you for your part in helping to make what we do possible!

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 are down, and some of our clients are not able to come in as often because of cutting back on expenses.

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 this fall addresses 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.

During times like these, we are particularly grateful for your support and prayers. Please consider attending and/or sponsoring our upcoming 5th Anniversary Celebration and Fall Fundraising Dinner. 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 support, and we hope to see you in November!

Gratefully,

*Rebekah Wang, LMFT*  
Executive & Clinical Director

## Help ACCESS go GREEN!



Going green is very trendy these days, as people become more environmentally conscientious, especially if it helps with cost-cutting. ACCESS is trying to do both by not only recycling (paper, plastic, and toner cartridges), but also by starting to do more online instead of by paper or mail. We have started paying some bills and filing some taxes online, and we sent our last prayer letter out by email to all those on our prayer volunteer list for whom we have current email addresses.

In the future, we hope to have our newsletters by available by email and/or posting them on our website. If you are in-

terested in receiving our mailings by email, you can help us in these efforts 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.

## ACCESS Staff News

Congratulations to **Yunsuk Jung** on finishing up her M.A. in Community Counseling at Mercer University. Yunsuk, who has served as our Korean- and Japanese-speaking counselor since February 2008, graduated from Mercer University in mid-May, and found a job elsewhere, which is keeping her busy. Sadly, we regret to announce that officially, Yunsuk has resigned from working at ACCESS, but she hopes to rejoin us in the future, and appreciated the opportunity to work with us to serve the Asian community. We miss her.



Congratulations also to our founding staff member and former Chinese counseling colleague **Lydia Teh** (who still helps occasionally as an ACCESS volunteer with speaking and other miscellaneous help) on the birth of her third child back in June (another boy)! While we miss Lydia as well, we are so happy for their young, growing family.

We are pleased to inform you that earlier this year, we received our largest total in grants to date from NAAAP-Atlanta's Chopstix for Charity. Made possible by these grant funds, our male Chinese counselor **Yi-Shi Hsiao** will be leading an eight-week psycho-educational counseling group on "Facing Today's Financial Crisis," offered to Chinese-speaking clients who are facing the issues related to the current financial crisis, such as stress, anxiety, and tension in personal life and in relationships. Through these weekly sessions, participants will not only learn how to manage their stress levels, but they will also have the opportunity to share their experiences and concerns with group members, and to support each other, as well as to learn new skills to cope with critical situations in daily life, to improve their relationships, and to deal with job-search and career-related issues. For more information, or to register for the group, please call Yi-Shi at the ACCESS office.



## ACCESS Satellite office to open in Johns Creek

Thanks to the support and generosity of Atlanta Chinese Christian Church-North (ACCCN), ACCESS will be able to better serve the Asian and Asian American population in the northern suburbs of Atlanta! ACCCN helped ACCESS get started in 2004 with a temporary office by letting us use part of their rental space at the time, before their church building was built. Now that they have been in their church building for almost four years, they continue the favor by opening their doors to ACCESS once again so we can start a satellite office in their church building in Johns Creek/Alpharetta, and at pretty much no cost! ACCESS is extremely grateful for their support and vision.

While ACCCN may largely be doing this to help make our services more accessible to those who attend their church, this location will be especially helpful for any who live in North Fulton and Gwinnett Counties and find it hard to drive to our office in Doraville, especially during weekday Atlanta traffic. Gwinnett County has the largest Asian population in the Atlanta area, so we are very excited about the potential of this location.

The counselors who will be working out of the new satellite location, at least to begin with, will be Rebekah Wang and Yi-Shi Hsiao. We hope to officially open the satellite office soon. In the meantime, if anyone has a loveseat or a lockable 2-drawer file cabinet to donate as we set up the office, please call Rebekah at the ACCESS office. All calls will continue to go through our main office number, even for appointments in the satellite office, so please do not call the church office for information or appointments (unless you are on your way to an appointment there, and are lost, in which case they can give you directions right away).



ACCESS Satellite office location at ACCCN in Johns Creek



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## 2009 Presentations by ACCESS

**February 28, 2009** — *“Caring Ministry in the Chinese Church” Seminar: “Overview of Caring Ministry in the Chinese Church,” “Stages of Helping/Caregiving,” and “People and Their Problems”*

Atlanta Chinese Christian Church - North (ACCCN)  
Church Leadership Training Seminar (Alpharetta, GA)  
Speakers: Rebekah Wang, Dr. Edward Lai, Tabitha Chee

**April 24, 2009** — *“Understanding and Managing Parent-Child Conflict”* (in Chinese only)

Cross-Church Family Seminar at ACCCN  
Speaker: Dr. Edward Lai

**May 16, 2009** — *“Culture and Conflict: Challenges in Parenting Teenagers” Seminar: “Cultural Issues in Parenting” and “Understanding and Managing Parent-Teen Conflicts”*

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



**July 25, 2009** — *Atlanta Chinese Christian Church Health Fair*

Community Resource Information Table  
ACCC (Tucker, GA)  
Representative: Jane Cheng, Yi-Shi Hsiao

**August 15, 2009** — *“Parent-Teen Communication” Seminar: “Understanding Ourselves, Understanding our Kids”* (in Chinese only)

Cross Church Parenting Seminar at ACCC  
Speakers: Dr. Huey-Jen Chen, Yi-Shi Hsiao

### Upcoming Events:

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

Cross-Church Seminar at ACCCN  
Speakers: Rebekah Wang, Dr. Edward Lai

**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