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CHINATOWN HEALTH FAIR COMMITTEE

C/O ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHAPEL

46 HENRY STREET,

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10002.

TEL. 732-9545

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 1

December 3, 1971.

Dear friend,

The three goals of the Chinatown Health Fair were, to bring the examining room to the people, to establish a free health clinic in Chinatown, and the hiring of more Chinese speaking workers at the New Gouverneur Hospital. We have successfully completed the health fair. The health clinic will be opened on December 12, 1971, Sunday. And many people have been working to increase more Chinese speaking workers at Gouverneur Hospital. This is not the end of our work nor is health the only issue that we concern ourselves. This is only the beginning of our greater involvements to improve our community and we will be going into problems other than health. Because of our expanding involvements, needs of communication among members of this committee arises. To keep all of you informed of the developments, this newsletter is created.

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep all of you up to date on the developments of the Health Fair Committee since the conclusion of the health fair. To inform you of future projects which we will be involved in. To serve as a clearinghouse of informations, a pilot for a full size newspaper. But the most important objective of this newsletter is to be a place where ideas could be exchanged. You are encouraged to write articles, letters and ask questions concerning relevant subjects. Send all materials to the above address, att. Joseph Lau.

The materials covered in this issue are ; Health Fair Aftermath (Follow-Up) Statistics of the Chinatown Health Fair, Chinatown Health Clinic, Concerning Gouverneur Hospital (Public hearing, demonstration), Past general meeting, Matter on Incorporation (Status of the Chinatown Health Fair Committee), membership, odds and ends, next general meeting.

Because of limited amount of materials this newsletter can cover, the articles will necessarily be brief, for more detailed information contact the person whose name appear on the article or the above address.

And finally,

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Yours HO! Ho! ho!

Joseph Lau

Follow Up

After the health fair ended, the Follow up Committee was involved in arranging registration forms and test results in order, screen through results, mail them out, contact patients, accompany them to hospitals, and act as translators. Much difficulties were encountered by the committee because of the lack of volunteers who could work during the weekday hours. Over 35 patients were referred to Bellevue Hospital which had donated the services of a minibus to transport patients and volunteers for two weeks. Syphilis patients were treated by the Betance Health Unit located at Lower East Side Neighborhood Health Council - South. For more information on the follow up, contact Joseph Lau.

Statistics of the Health Fair

A 25 page statistical report of the health fair was completed in October. The statistics included analysis of general information and the results of medical tests of health fair participants. 2492 registered for various tests at the fair, of which 2246 were Chinese. Out of 2246 Chinese registered, 1542 were living in Chinatown. Among the findings of the resident:

-----Out of 696 Chinatown residents who took Chest X-rays, 37 or 5.3% showed abnormal findings indicating a presence of tuberculosis, heart diseases, or some other ailments.

-----Over 12% of the 66 residents who took a syphilis screening test showed positive results.

-----Of 717 residents who took the diabetes screening test, 26 or 3.6% of those examined showed positive diabetic tendencies.

-----Dental examinations showed serious service gap. Almost 10% of those examined had never been to a dentist.

-----Almost 60% of the Chinatown residents have no medical insurance.

A copy of the complete statistics is available for 50¢ from the above address, \$1.00 if mailed.

General Meeting

The last general meeting was held on October 8 at St. Christopher's Chapel. The election of the executive committee of the Chinatown Health Fair Committee was held with the following results:

Chairman - Marie Lam	Liz Lee
Vice-Chairman - Kenneth Chin	Lily Soohoo
Treasurer - Joseph Lau	Corky Lee
English Secretary - Susan Fong, Liz Young	Nobu Sera
Chinese Secretary - Tom Tam	Fay Chew
Rose Eng	Milan Chong

Other items discussed were incorporation, new name for our organization, demonstration for hiring of more Chinese-speaking workers at Gouverneur Hospital.

The next general meeting will take place on December 12, Sunday at 1:30 PM at St. Christopher's Chapel. It will coincide with the opening of the health clinic. Films, slides and pictures of the health fair and the demonstration against HHC will be shown. Refreshments will also be served.

Health Fair, Public Hearing, Demonstration, and Other Thoughts

Tom Tam

On a hot day in the summer, August 6, when Dr. Joseph English, president of the Health and Hospital Corporation, came to visit the health fair, he was shocked to find the welcoming committee of senior citizens carrying posters and signs and chanting for the hiring of more Chinese-speaking personnels at the Gouverneur Hospital. Obviously embarrassed at this unexpected greeting, Dr. English sheepishly asked what the elderly people are demanding. That was exactly the point of the mini-demonstration: nobody in the hospital understands what the Chinese patients are saying. That is why Chinatown has such a health crisis.

In a maneuver to get himself out of the situation, meetings were arranged, promises were made by Dr. English that this language barrier must be shattered.

Three months has since gone by without any indication that the Health and Hospital Corporation is seriously committed to the solution.

In the wake of our fighting for the employment of more Chinese-speaking personnel at Gouverneur, several Chinese newspapers published a very strange article reporting that Gouverneur already had enough Chinese workers and service there for the Chinese community was excellent. There were obvious lies. Whoever submitted this article was betraying the interests of the Chinese community for some private gains.

One imminent task is clear to us: the community must be informed about the real facts of our struggle.

On Sunday, Nov. 7, a public hearing was called at the Golden Age Club of Hamilton Madison House. Banners were raised across Mott Street protesting Gouverneur's disregard of Chinese community. More than a hundred fifty people came, including Congresswoman Bella Abzug. Many protested passionately at the indifferent attitude of Gouverneur towards the Chinese patients. Marie Lam recounted the recent death of a Chinese waiter who would not have died if there are Chinese speaking operators at the nearby clinics. Dr. Kai Ming Shul further stressed that not only was it necessary to hire more Chinese-speaking personnel, it was essential that these people work for the interest of the community and not for the interests of the hospital administration.

On Tuesday, Nov. 16, more than 150 people from the Lower East Side demonstrated at the H & H Corporation, including Puerto Ricans, Blacks, and Whites. Most of the demonstrators were elderly Chinese. The middle age generation of Chinese was distinctly absent from the march.

The demonstration brought out a notion in the media of our health plight and a sense of struggle in our community. Other than that, it had achieved little. H & H Corporation promised us 17 nurses aide jobs, but 8 of them had to be filled by veterans; 6 of them head of households, and all must be US citizens. There was no commitment of hiring more Chinese-speaking personnel in the New Gouverneur. We are still in the same rotten, disgusting state that we have always been in!

Friends! The only way we can win our fight for better health services is by awakening every individual in our community: everyone must know what is at stake. If we don't work to change the bad environment, like everything

else, it will remain rotten.

Can the Health Fair Committee change everything by itself? Should it employ all its manpower to give needed services? Maybe we should become a pressure group to press the different government branches, social agencies and our "leaders" in the community to provide the services that are needed. Maybe we should educate ourselves to educate others, to build an alternative, an equitable and humane society.

A starting point to communicate with the community and discuss and consolidate our ideas may be the publication of a newspaper.

You will hear more of it.

Newspaper

It has long been felt by members of the Chinatown Health Fair Committee that the existing newspapers in Chinatown do not adequately reflect the needs and conditions of the community. Thus, the CHFC would like to take upon themselves to publish a newspaper that would truly serve the needs of the community.

At the first newspaper meeting on Dec. 3, the members agreed that the need for a paper which will deal with realities of the Chinese community was urgent. The paper will be concerned with not only health issues, but with political, social and economic questions relevant to the community. The paper will serve as a link among residents of Chinatown whose only sources of information are gathered from Chinese newspapers and those who are not really conscious of the problems of our community. Hopefully, it will be a bridge between the young and the old, the community and the outside world.

At this time, all issues are open to discussion. If you are interested in working on the newspaper, please come to the next newspaper meeting on Dec. 10, Friday at 4 PM at St. Christopher's Chapel, or write to the above address. Please send us all suggestions and criticisms.

On the Matter of Incorporation

Assisted by the MFY Legal Service, the Chinatown Health Fair Committee is in the process of incorporation. The main purpose of incorporating the Chinatown Health Fair Committee, or any other name which we might decide on, is to become a permanent group that would be recognized by other groups, organizations and agencies. As a non-profit incorporated group, it would be possible for us to obtain funds to expand into other programs outside of health care.

The process of incorporation usually requires a few months, and to facilitate the progress, the Health Clinic Committee and the Executive Board Members have decided not to incorporate the clinic into its by-laws. Instead the Chinatown Health Clinic will exist as a close entity to the CHFC but will remain autonomous in the operation of the clinic.

In the future we hope to get into other programs such as housing problems, and social and political developments. For more information, please contact Marie Lam.

Chinatown Health Clinic

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One of the goals of the Chinatown Health Fair was the establishing of a free health clinic located in Chinatown. After many weeks of planning and hard work, the Chinatown Health Clinic will be opening on December 12, at 2 PM. Located in two rooms of St. Christopher's Chapel, the clinic will be staffed completely by volunteer doctors, nurses, and trained community people. The clinic will provide general medical services, offer screening tests, and educate the community in preventive medicine. Bellevue and Columbus Hospitals have agreed to act as back-up for our referred patients.

The clinic will offer medical services Monday, Thursday from 6 to 9 PM and Sunday from 2 to 6 PM. Health Education programs will be conducted each Tuesday and Wednesday from 6 to 9 PM on such topics such respiratory diseases, heart conditions, pre-natal and post-natal care, drug information, and sex education. Training for volunteers will take place on Sat. 1 to 3 PM at 48 Henry St. If you wish to volunteer, please contact Liz Lee.

The Health Clinic is presently funded by the Health Fair Committee, but it remains independent in its operations. Funding proposals for the clinic have been submitted to Episcopal Church and to the TB Association. Many supplies and equipment have donated by the Health Department. (If you know of any places where free medical supplies can be obtained, please contact Liz Lee)

A community board will be set up by March to supervise the operation of the clinic. The board will consist of the medical staff, volunteers, but the patients will be the majority.

The purpose of the free health clinic is to provide a more personal and human health care to our people. The word free is not an economic expression, but a state of mind - free means freedom from the bureaucracy of existing health services. The spirit which made the Health Fair such a tremendous success will be essential in the operation of the clinic.

Odds & Ends

There has been an obvious lack of communication among members of the CHFC. To remedy this situation, various means are being established.

At 48 Henry St:

a library of records of the CHFC and related areas is in the process of being set up.

a bulletin board and a schedule of meetings

You are welcomed to use the facilities. Someone will be there from 12:00 to 5:00 Monday to Thursday and Friday 1:00 to 4:00. Telephone number of the clinic is 732-9545.

If you are interested in receiving future issues of this newsletter or if you know of someone who is interested in receiving them, please let us know. The next issue will come out January 8, 1972. Please send all articles, comments, opinions before that date.

Future Meetings

12/10/71	Friday 4:30 PM Newspaper	48 Henry St.
12/12/71	Sunday 1:30 PM General Meeting	"
	2:00 PM Clinic Opens	"
12/16/71	Thursday 7:00 PM	Clinic Meeting