

Current

CAMERON HOUSE 金美倫堂



Shades of Cameron Carnival at Joy on Joice

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LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Honored. Excited. Energized. As the incoming Board President, these three words best describe how I am feeling as I begin my new role. The importance and impact that the board has on how Cameron House functions is not lost on me.

Leading the Board is a full-circle moment for me. I began my relationship with Cameron House at age seven in day camp, continued on to the Friday Night Club and college program, at age 18 was the Carnival chairperson, and was a day camp director for two memorable summers. I was baptized at the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown and currently attend the First Chinese Baptist Church down the block where my late father-in-law James Chuck was the pastor for 40 years.

With the recent departure of Executive Director (ED) Michael Lee, our organization is in transition. As we go to press, the search for an Interim Executive Director (IED) has begun. The Transition/Search Committee, led by Board and Presbytery member Leslie Veen, is busy at work.

The IED will be a bridge to keep our organization stable as we begin the search for a permanent director. (The IED will not be considered for the permanent position.) During this time of change, communication is key. Expect to hear from Cameron House regularly about the transition and search progress.

A few acknowledgements... Many thanks to Robert Lim, the youngest Board President in CH history. His leadership, dedication and many long hours kept our board strategically focused and purpose-driven. Much gratitude to Connie Chern who served as Board Treasurer for six years. (Both of them will remain on the Board for another year.) And thank you to Ivy Yee-Sakamoto who just completed two terms, most recently, as Chair of the Program Committee.

The future is bright. Our 150th anniversary kicks off in 2024 with a slew of special events. We hope you can celebrate with us as we recognize this special place called Cameron House.

With gratitude,



Liane Wong
Board President



UPS AWARDS CAMERON HOUSE \$15,000



UPS's Community Internship Program (CIP) is a leadership training program for UPS upper managers from around the world.

Since the 1960s, the program has given managers the opportunity to immerse themselves in local communities across the United States and grow in cultural sensitivity.



In 2004, Harry Chuck (former Cameron House ED) and his son Josh agreed to coordinate a San Francisco CIP cohort.

26 different cohorts have since called Cameron House home for 3-4 weeks at a time while visiting and volunteering in the Chinatown, Tenderloin, Bayview, and Mission neighborhoods.

For three weeks in September, Cameron House welcomed the newest CIP cohort. At a closing luncheon, the participants shared their stories and lessons learned from the program.

UPS donated \$10,000 to commemorate the 20-year anniversary of the San Francisco CIP program, honoring the work Harry and Josh have done to bring this partnership to life. In addition, the UPS managers chose Cameron House as the recipient of a \$5,000 donation.

"Chinatown's really about supporting all the different members of the community...You can't book [the CIP program] on Expedia. [It] changes your life."

Ryan Mervyn, UPS Engineering & Operations Leader

MEET LEGACY MEMBERS AARON AND LYDIA JEUNG

For siblings Aaron and Lydia Jeung, joining the Legacy Society was an easy decision. Their father, Ed "EJ" Jeung came over from the YMCA in the 1950s to participate in Cameron House's original youth program, eventually becoming a youth leader himself. He also met his wife, Noddie (Maureen) at Cameron House, and the two got married at the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown. These connections meant that Aaron and Lydia practically grew up at Cameron House. Some of their earliest memories of Cameron House involved the annual 4th of July picnics at the cabin in Muir Woods.

Of course, the Jeungs' involvement with Cameron House extended beyond picnics. Even though the family lived in the East Bay, Aaron and Lydia usually stayed with family friends during the summers of their elementary school years in order to attend Cameron House's annual six-week summer camp. As they got older, that routine changed to commuting to San Francisco on the bus every day. Once they reached junior high school, they followed their father's footsteps and became youth leaders in their own right— as camp counselors and, in Aaron's case, as summer staff. Rounding out their experience in Cameron House youth programs, both Aaron and Lydia were also part of Friday Night Club for several years.

Throughout their time as youth participants, Aaron and Lydia developed a strong sense of community with their peers. They learned to interact with and learn from people from different geographies, experiences, and languages. While helping to prepare for the annual Carnival, they worked with a team to design and make creative prizes and keep the various Carnival booths running smoothly. Through all of this, Aaron and Lydia learned to collaborate effectively, communicate clearly, and lead confidently— all skills which stuck with them into adulthood.

"Being part of Cameron House provided a sense of community and family beyond [our] blood family."

Aaron has volunteered on Cameron House's Board of Directors (2002–2008) and Foundation Board (2009–2015), and continues to serve on the Legacy Society Committee (2015–present).

Aaron and Lydia chose to include Cameron House in their estate plans so that the next generation of young leaders could have the same wonderful community and learning opportunities that they grew up enjoying.

The Jeungs hope that their gift helps give youth a safe place to meet people, learn new skills, and gain confidence in themselves. If you're considering giving an estate gift to Cameron House, Aaron and Lydia want you to know that it's easy to do so and (more importantly), supports the community and the rising generation.

To learn more about including Cameron House in your will or trust, please visit cameronhouse.org/give/plannedgiving or contact Bill Vigna, Director of Finance and Operations, at bill@cameronhouse.org.



JOY ON JOICE: BUILDING ON THE LEGACY OF CAMERON CARNIVAL



For those familiar with Cameron House, the sights and sounds throughout Joice Street on May 6 may have felt like welcoming an old friend. Indeed, many of the activities were reminiscent of Cameron Carnival. After the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated a degree of social distancing, the Joy on Joice Street Fair provided a space for thousands of people to gather and celebrate the best of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community and creativity.

In honor of AAPI Heritage Month, Cameron House partnered with the Chinese Historical Society of America (CHSA) and Cut Fruit Collective to host this event.



Several vendors displayed their art prints, stickers, and handcrafted goods, while various ensembles performed live music and dance. Several of our very own 2022 Heritage School Apprentices contributed their talents through two dragon dances. Thank you to the performers, vendors, alumni, and attendees who made the afternoon such a success!

LAUNCHING A NEW COMPUTER LAB AT CAMERON HOUSE

On October 5, 2023, Cameron House held a press conference to announce the launch of a new computer lab to bridge the digital divide in Chinatown.



Left to right: Jason Shen & Bilal Mahmood (13 Fund), Liane Wong (Cameron House Board), John Jersin (Jersin Foundation), Danny Sauter (Neighborhood Centers Together), Barb Fong (Cameron House Board)

In partnership with the Jersin Foundation and 13 Fund, the lab will provide 25 laptops, 25 iPads, and accessories to students in our youth and senior programs. These computers will empower them with skills for a better life.

60 students in our Bilingual Afterschool Program, grades K–8, have been using 30 aging laptops to complete homework assignments. Soon, they will have new, state-of-the-art technology at their fingertips. New coding and programming classes will also be offered early next year.

Seniors in our ESL and computer literacy classes will also benefit from this donation. Each quarter, up to 30 seniors learn basic English and how to use a computer to schedule doctor's appointments and stay connected with friends and loved ones.

We are grateful to our angel philanthropists who recognized the need for greater access to technology in Chinatown.

ENGAGING CHILDREN AND PARENTS THROUGH FAMILY-CENTERED PROGRAMMING

by Samantha Hum

The Five Factor Protection Model is a comprehensive framework that guides social services for children and families, and its importance extends to immigrant communities in particular. Developed as a theoretical framework to promote child welfare and safeguard the well-being of children, this model emphasizes five key factors that contribute to protection: resilience, relationships, resources, recognition, and rights.

For immigrant communities, the Five Factor Protection Model holds significant relevance due to the unique challenges they often face. Let's explore each factor and its importance in the context of social services for immigrant children and families:

Resilience:

Immigrant families often encounter numerous stressors, including cultural adjustment, language barriers, and discrimination. Resilience plays a crucial role in helping them navigate these challenges and thrive in their new environments. Social services professionals can support immigrant families by providing access to culturally sensitive mental health services, promoting community connections, and offering interventions that enhance coping skills and adaptive strategies.

Relationships:

Positive relationships are essential for immigrant families, as they provide a sense of belonging, support, and stability. Building strong connections within their new communities can help immigrant families access vital resources, navigate systems, and feel welcomed. Social services professionals can facilitate these connections by organizing community events, providing mentorship programs, and offering support groups specifically tailored to the needs of immigrant families.

Resources:

Immigrant families often face economic hardships and limited access to essential resources such as healthcare, education, and housing. Social services agencies play a critical role in addressing these disparities by providing information and assistance in accessing available resources. They can also advocate for policies that ensure equitable access to resources for immigrant families. By addressing resource gaps, social services professionals contribute to the overall well-being and protection of immigrant children and families.

Recognition:

Cultural competence and recognition are vital in providing effective social services to immigrant communities. Understanding and respecting the unique cultural backgrounds, values, and traditions of immigrant families is essential for building trust and rapport. By acknowledging and validating the experiences and strengths of immigrant families, social services professionals create a supportive environment where families feel understood and empowered to seek help.

Rights:

Protecting the rights of immigrant children and families is of utmost importance. Immigrant families may face legal challenges, including immigration status concerns, that can impact their access to social services and their overall well-being. Social services professionals must be well-versed in immigration policies and laws to provide accurate information and advocacy support. By upholding the rights of immigrant children and families, social services agencies can ensure their protection and help address systemic barriers they may encounter.

“By implementing the Five Factor Protection Model, social services professionals can effectively meet the needs of immigrant communities and promote their well-being.”

In addition to these five factors, the Five Factor Protection Model also recognizes the importance of considering the unique needs and experiences of immigrant children and families within a broader socio-cultural context. This includes addressing issues such as language access, intergenerational conflicts, and trauma resulting from migration experiences.

By implementing the Five Factor Protection Model, social services professionals can effectively meet the needs of immigrant communities and promote their well-being. This model helps guide the development of culturally sensitive interventions, policies, and practices that address the specific challenges faced by immigrant children and families. By providing targeted support and resources, social services agencies can empower immigrant communities, promote their integration, and foster their resilience.

The Five Factor Protection Model is highly relevant to social services for children and families in immigrant communities. By focusing on resilience, relationships, resources, recognition, and rights, social services agencies can address the unique challenges faced by immigrant families and provide effective support. By implementing this model, social services professionals can play a pivotal role in promoting the well-being and protection of immigrant children and families, facilitating their successful integration into their new communities, and creating a more inclusive and equitable society.

Samantha Hum is a recent sociology graduate from the University of California, Davis. She is also a former Cameron House summer and Friday Night Club participant and former summer day camp leader.



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Thank you to those who joined us for our **Picnic in the Park** on Saturday, July 22nd! There were over 100 Cameron House alumni participants at the picnic in Golden Gate Park, including those from BAP, summer camps/Westminster Woods, Friday Night Club, Food Pantry, Computer and English classes, and Counseling. Attending were current and former CH staff and Board members. All are alumni family!

