

2008 Report

We are proud to share with you our accomplishments in 2008. Thank you to our valuable members and dedicated volunteers who continue to give CAAM their greatest support. This annual report documents what we have done, what we have learned, and what we are planning for 2009.

As we close the final year of my term as the Chairman of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to say that the past twelve months have been an extraordinary period of dynamism, optimism, and growth at CAAM. During 2008, CAAM continued to best use its resources. CAAM also continued to build and strengthen partnerships and collaborations across the whole Chinese community. A noteworthy collaboration during 2008 was the CAAM's important role to lead a community-wide fund-raising campaign for the 5-23 Sichuan Earthquake School Reconstruction Fund from May to August. A total of more than \$150,000 has been raised and most of the fund has been transferred to Sichuan Red Cross and is ready to be used for a targeted middle school rebuild project. CAAM actively called for the action, set up a bank donation account and an online donation account, and arranged fund-raising events. This has been the most successful fund drive in our community history to raise this amount of fund for the charity purpose. 2008 Festival of Nation that CAAM participated in was a big success. We are pleased to see more and more young volunteers join our volunteer team to help at our booths. CAAM has also continued to play an active role in many local events. Here is the list of some of the events:

- Chinese New Year Celebration, in February
- Chinese Art Exhibit 2008, in April
- Dragon Festival, in May
- Festival of Nations, in April/May
- China Sichuan Earthquake School Reconstruction Fund Raising, from May to August

- CDT Family Days and School Show, in June
- CDT Annual Production, in September
- University of Minnesota Confucius Institute Grand Opening Celebration Concert (Jiangxu Arts Troupe), in September
- Minhua Chorus Annual Production, in November
- Appassionata China Concert, in November

The reputation of CAAM continues to grow both within the Chinese community and outside of the community because of our outstanding outreach programs and rich activities. I am so proud of our board directors and all of our volunteers who have contributed their best to CAAM and our community. We look forward to having your support in the future.

In 2008, CAAM Chinese Dance Theater experienced some difficulties, including a load of administration works without a full-time managing director, and some other management issues. But the managing committee put on great effort to overcome all these, and in September they showcased a very successful annual production at the O'Shaughnessey Auditorium again.

In 2008, CAAM Chinese Language School maintained a good size of about 300 students and the school site lease contract has been renewed for another 4 years. The school's financial status is in a healthy condition.

At the end of 2008, CAAM is in a solid financial position. The numbers from our balance sheet may not look as good as the numbers from the past few years, but since we don't have any major expenses, we are still in a good position during this economic down turn.

Due to the world-wide economic crisis, 2009 will be a challenging year for most of our members and many organizations, and I believe CAAM will not be an exception. We will continue to work with other organizations closely. We will update our by-law to provide guidelines to better address the needs of our

community. We will continue to rely on our members' and volunteers' supports. Your support is not only important to CAAM, but also to our whole beloved community for the years to come.

It has been a privilege for me to serve this great organization as President. At the end of 2008 I will finish my fourth term. I have been serving on the board for seven full years. I hope it is time to pass the responsibilities to someone who will take CAAM to the next level and help to build a stronger community.

Vincent Mar, President
December 10, 2008