



Motivating Youth to Succeed
啟導青年 邁步向前

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CYC Celebrates 39 Years at Service to Asian Youth in San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – CYC (Community Youth Center of San Francisco) will hold its 39th Annual Festival of Youth Gala on Thursday, March 19, 2009, at the Westin St. Francis Hotel. The evening's festivities will include a silent auction, raffle, entertainment by youth participants, and presentations to De Wei He for the Outstanding Youth Award, Steven Truong for the Most Inspirational Youth Award, Jeanne Lei for the Most Motivational Parent Award, the Chinese Community Health Care Association for the Community Partner of the Year Award, and the Lifemark Group for Community Benefactor of the Year Award.

Founded in 1970 by concerned members of the Chinese community in response to escalating gang violence in Chinatown and the lack of services to address the issues, CYC has been serving indigent, high-risk and at-risk immigrant Asian and Pacific Islander youth and their families through 21 core programs that encompass behavioral health, education, intervention, leadership development, street outreach and workforce development.

"With the current global financial crisis we are experiencing we are extremely grateful to our sponsors, board, and friends and supporters for their continued commitment to CYC and the over 3,000 youth we annually serve in San Francisco," said CYC Executive Director Sarah Wan. "The next few years will be especially challenging, but we are determined to try and continue providing the programs and services our youth and community need and deserve," she added. This year's top major event sponsors are Straits Restaurant, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Affinity Bank, and the Lifemark Group.

"PG&E is proud to sponsor the meaningful work that CYC does to help at-risk youth in San Francisco. This is just one of the many ways PG&E is able to give back to the diverse communities it serves," said PG&E's Darlene Chiu, Manager, External Communications.

"Every employee of Affinity Bank is proud of our continuing support for the outstanding staff and volunteers at CYC as they provide such an important and valuable service to Asian youth and their families in San Francisco," said Michael R. McGuire, president and CEO of Affinity Bank.

Andy Bryant, President of Lifemark Group, believes it is important to involve Lifemark in the communities that it serves and is particularly proud of its unique partnership with CYC. "Every year, Lifemark Group has sponsored CYC's major events and activities. We have confidence in CYC to play a significant role in educating and nurturing local youth for leadership and responsibility," he said.

"The youth are what is inspiring and motivating us to do what we can and must to ensure they continue to receive programs and services that will prepare them to be the future leaders of tomorrow," said Board Chair Jaynry W. Mak, Esq.

The event will kick off with a silent auction and reception at 6:00 PM, followed by dinner and program at 7 PM which will feature cuisine catered by more than 15 well known San Francisco Bay Area Asian restaurants, some of which belong to the Asian Chefs Association.

For ticket information or to RSVP, please contact Cindy Tong, Gala Event Coordinator at 415-775-2636, extension 223, or Sarah Wan, Executive Director, at extension 218.

CYC empowers youth to reach their highest potential as individuals with a positive self and cultural identity.