

PUI TAK CENTER

FY2023 ANNUAL REPORT



From the President & Executive Director

If you've seen Pui Tak Center this year, you couldn't help but notice the scaffolding. Workers have been tuckpointing, replacing terra cotta and restoring the canopy so that the building will be ready for its centennial in 2028 and beyond.

But being ready for the future is about more than our building but strengthening Pui Tak Center's services, human resources and finances. In May 2022, our board approved a strategic plan that prioritized expanding our Immigrant Welcoming Center and developing mental health and senior services. In FY2023, our IWC's budget doubled which enabled us to serve 1,807 clients through 3,168 cases of assistance. After a year of planning, we launched Hope Counseling Services this fall to address mental health.

From our first-ever employee engagement study, Pui Tak Center was certified as a "Best Christian Workplace" by BCWI. The study found that our staff are highly engaged as the work is life-giving and leaders are inspirational. As we want to be a flourishing workplace, we are addressing compensation and talent development.

Our board always prefaces finance discussions with a reminder that God provides. This year, we had a surplus primarily due to a generous estate gift. Just as we've learned to be good stewards in challenging times, we are learning to be good stewards when God provides funds so that we can better meet the physical and spiritual needs.

On the next page, Walt, Jim and Judi share about serving at Pui Tak Center. All three retired this past spring. They were motivated by our theme verse, Mark 10:45: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Pui Tak Center is grateful that they and many others use their time, talent and treasure to help those in need at Pui Tak Center.

John Wong
Board President

David Wu
Executive Director

Reflections

After retiring from pastoral ministry, I taught English in China. When I returned, I looked for a place to help Chinese immigrants. I recall dropping off my resume at Pui Tak on Thursday, being interviewed on Friday and teaching the following Monday. I served as an ESL teacher for five years and as the Adult Education Manager for six. I've worked alongside very dedicated staff. As Illinois began its COVID-19 lockdown, our teachers worked hard at the remote transition and didn't miss a day of class. I enjoyed finding new ways to serve students from starting accelerated classes and piloting classes with New Life Centers in Little Village to help migrants. For many students, their first contact with Christianity was through their ESL teacher. It has been my greatest joy to do Gospel work at Pui Tak, seeing students become Christians and witnessing their baptisms.

- Walt Schoenfuhs



Serving at Pui Tak has defined my retirement. I began teaching ESL classes as a retired high school English teacher in 2003 and later volunteered in different programs. Being an *encourager* is an integral part of my faith, and God has allowed me to encourage and be encouraged by many students at Pui Tak. One of my most rewarding moments was being invited to a past student's graduation from UIC. I was proud to see his growth and success as he now teaches at an elementary school near Chinatown. I've cherished the time spent building relationships with students and being among others who enjoy serving. In my 21 years at Pui Tak, I've learned and witnessed a profound lesson about servanthood where there is joy, and not a sense of obligation, in serving.

- Jim Hanert

I returned to Chicago after retiring as a missionary to be a caregiver for my parents. I had appreciated Pui Tak Center's vision to bridge the community to the church and agreed to help start the Immigrant Welcoming Center. After seeing ministries elsewhere, it was crucial to have a strong team built on relationships and trust. This takes time and a commitment to core values. Our team has helped many clients resolve their everyday challenges. But more importantly, our staff cared about each person and never treated them as a statistic. I hope that the love and patience of our staff have broken down the barriers that immigrants might have about stepping foot in the church so that they can taste the hope and joy found in Christ.

- Judi Chow



Adult Education

The Adult Education and Training department helps immigrants develop English and work skills so that they can integrate into American life. Classes include ESL, citizenship and workforce preparation offered in-person, hybrid and online. This year, we offered two new classes - Career Pathways (which helps students explore different careers) and Food Service Management (which prepares students to earn a nationally-recognized certificate). The department also offers ESL tutoring, transition support to work and further training, and Food Service sanitation training and certification.

English as a Second Language

778
ESL CLASS
STUDENTS

160
TUTORING
STUDENTS

377
STUDENTS
IMPROVED
1+ ESL LEVELS

40
VOLUNTEER
TUTORS

125,312
ATTENDANCE
HOURS

8
DIFFERENT
CLASS
OFFERINGS



When I first came to the US from Taiwan, I often visited Chinatown to take a break from speaking English. Because I struggled to communicate without someone to translate, I wanted to improve my English to become more independent so that I don't have to rely on my kids, so I was determined to learn English as quickly as I could. I spent hours learning English at Pui Tak. I enrolled in an ESL class, the one-on-one tutoring program, and conversation classes. I also consumed a lot of American culture through listening to pop music, watching TV, and speaking with my American friends. Now that my English has improved so much, I come to Chinatown just for the food.

- Hui Ming



Being a teacher at Pui Tak has been an incredible blessing. I find joy in teaching, even more joy in seeing my students find hope through learning English, and the most joy when they become Christians. Our students come to America looking for a better future. I hope they can sense that the teachers here are pouring out their hearts with love to teach them. At times when I don't know how to teach so that students fully understand, I just pray and hand it to God. Students are so busy trying to survive so I can't always share the Gospel with them. I simply have to walk with them, do my best and trust God to do the rest!

- Lisa Louie

Food Service

201
SANITATION
STUDENTS

181
CERTIFICATIONS
OBTAINED



Children & Youth

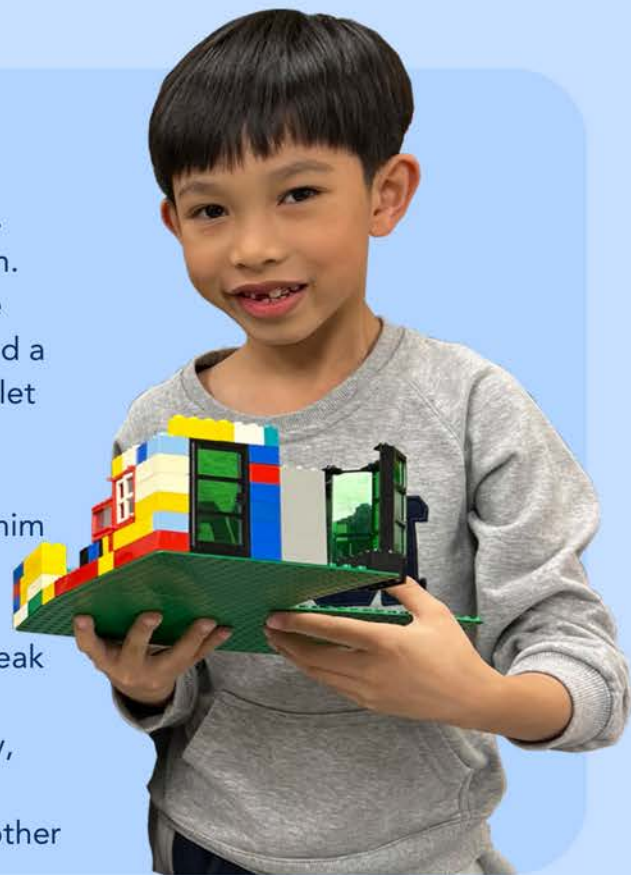


The Children and Youth department provides academic and enrichment programs primarily targeting immigrants and kids whose parents are immigrants. Programs include after school tutoring, JSP Jumpstart, service learning, internships in community service, LEGO robotics, computer coding and college prep classes. This year, the youth program began receiving grant support from the City of Chicago's Department of Family Support Services which enabled youth after school and ESL classes to be free for students.

Children Program

When my family arrived in 2022, my son didn't even know his ABCs. We learned about Pui Tak and he joined the summer program. He couldn't understand anything and was disruptive. Things changed in September as he embraced learning English. He thrived in Pui Tak's after school program as the tutors were exceptional and gave him personalized attention. They fostered a love for English and learning by reading books with him. They let him struggle and stepped in only when he really needed help. They gently corrected his pronunciation and speech. The staff engaged me in his learning by suggesting books to read with him and ways to immerse him in English. People often say that the program time is short, but I care about quality over quantity. I appreciate that the program focuses on results. He used to speak Chinese after school but since joining Pui Tak, he speaks in English. Not only do I feel like his English has improved quickly, many of my friends also comment the same.

- Junming & mother



231
CHILDREN SERVED



Youth Program

136
YOUTH INTERNS
& APPRENTICES



108
YOUTH
INVOLVED IN
SERVICE PROJECTS



When we arrived in early spring to the US, my son wasn't allowed to start school. He spent months at home with nothing to do until we found out that he could start learning English at Pui Tak. The staff gave him books to study at home and allowed him to join the last week of the after school program's ESL classes for youth. He joined the Summer English Camp and really enjoyed the learning atmosphere. Both his teacher and one-on-one tutor were very patient, tailoring their teaching to his personality, teaching him to read and helping him learn new vocabulary words. I am very grateful to Pui Tak. When I learned that he had a classmate who had just immigrated to America, I was so enthusiastic in my recommendation of Pui Tak that they almost did not believe me. As my son lost time that he could have spent learning English at Pui Tak, I hope others can find Pui Tak quickly.

- Ms. Ye and son

296
YOUTH SERVED

61
YOUTH IN
ESL CLASSES



Community

The Community Program department helps meet the social and physical needs of immigrants and other vulnerable groups. The Disability Services advocates with parents for services for their children affected by disability, offers a life skills and vocational training program (called "Poimea") and guides families who receive state-funded Home-Based Services. The Immigrant Welcoming Center helps immigrants and others with limited English skills solve their problems as simple as setting up an appointment or as complicated as helping accident victims. Our Service Projects are short-term campaigns that help community members access resources related to health, finances and other needs. In FY2023, we phased out our problem gambling education so that we can start Hope Counseling in FY2024.



Immigrant Welcoming Center

I'm 72 and have been in the US for over 40 years. After I became sick, I could not work full time anymore. I didn't have health insurance and nearly used up all my savings. My friend told me about Pui Tak. Three different staff helped me to update my green card (permanent residency), enroll in Medicare, get food stamps and apply for Social Security benefits. Even though I've lived in the US for many years, I didn't realize that there were government benefits that I was eligible for. Now, I get \$1399 every month and can afford my medicine. I know that the IWC staff is looking out for me and my needs.

- Mr. Kong

1807
CLIENTS

3168
CASES

280
PARTICIPANTS IN

14
WORKSHOPS



Disability Services



73
FAMILIES SERVED

100%
OF POIEMA
PARTICIPANTS ARE
EMPLOYED

13
HOME BASED
SERVICES CLIENTS

Doing meaningful work can change your life. Roger has been in Poiema's training program since April 2020. In 2021, he began working at a tofu factory. This has transformed Roger at home and elsewhere. He is more conscientious since starting work, remembering when he has to work and helping out with chores at home. This year, he has become more independent, displays initiative and takes on tasks without hesitation. At the tofu factory, he's become one of the fastest and most flexible workers, seeing what else needs to be done and doing it without prompting. From the money he earns, Roger enjoys giving - to help people in need as well as a ministry that inspires and equips Christians to fulfill the Great Commission.

- Roger and Iris (his caretaker)



Service Projects

1602

INCOME ASSISTANCE
APPLICATIONS PREPARED

\$679,000+

RECEIVED IN CITY & STATE
ASSISTANCE

90

HOUSEHOLDS HELPED
WITH INCOME TAX
ASSISTANCE

\$63,713

IN INCOME TAX
REFUNDS

561

COVID & FLU
VACCINATIONS

100

EDUCATED ABOUT
HEPATITIS B



I was struggling to feed five mouths on one income. As a single mother, I worked two jobs to support my children and mother. We didn't have enough money for food, school supplies, or clothes. Because I didn't know English, it was very difficult to find work. We were referred to Pui Tak because they teach English for free. I quickly found out that anything I did not know, I could ask Pui Tak and they would help us. Through my ESL teachers, I found out about government help available for undocumented individuals. The staff helped us apply and our household was eligible for \$5,500. I was so relieved to have this money so that I could buy the things we needed. I'm grateful for Pui Tak staff who have and will continue to help me.

- Ms. Wong

Outreach

When I started learning English at Pui Tak, I heard about Jesus for the first time. As someone who grew up in China, I didn't understand why so many people believed in God. Later, a teacher invited me to a Bible class where I learned about Jesus and decided to follow Him. I realized Jesus is the only true God and my Savior. Through Jesus Christ, I have restored a beautiful relationship with God! Before I believed in the Lord, I needed to have the final say about everything at home and would get angry over small things. But after believing in Jesus, I started talking to my husband and respecting his opinions. Recently, when I wanted to rent out our daughter's room, my husband disagreed. Instead of arguing, I respected his decision. My husband noticed my change. This change is because of my faith in Jesus. I'm thankful for Him.

- Wei Yan Na

Resources

Board of Directors

John Wong - President	Chris Javier	David Wu
Cheuk Yung - Vice President	Victor Louie	Kenneth Yeung
Judy Fan-Hsu - Secretary	Danny Mui	Ellen Yu
Julia Cheng-Kuk - Treasurer	Sally Song	Nam Shiu (term ended 6/23)
Mike Huang	Crystal Tam	
James Hwang	Vincent Tse (Sec in FY23)	

Staff

Our staff consists of 20 full-time program and support staff and 40 part-time teachers and tutors. Including summer and other temporary staff, 90 individuals worked for Pui Tak Center during FY2023. More than ever, our staff is known for their dedication to and compassion for each person who seeks help.

Volunteers

Over 200 volunteers served in many capacities - income tax preparers, special event chaperones, after school tutors, remote and in-person tutors for ESL students, webinar speakers and panelists. We're grateful that each of you found a way to use your time and talents to serve Chinatown with us.

Funding

We appreciate all who generously donated to support our work and enable us to respond quickly to new needs in the community.

Organizations providing financial, program or in-kind support: After School Matters, Arc of IL, Center for Asian Health Equity/Asian Health Coalition, Center Point Church, Chicago Bar Foundation, Chinatown Parking Corp., Chinese Christian Union Church, City of Chicago - Dept of Family and Support Services, Crossroads Community Church, Dollar General Literacy Foundation, Joni and Friends, Illinois Community College Board, Illinois Dept of Human Services, Meridian Health, Midwest Asian Health Association, Moody Church, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Phoenix Bean, & Salesforce.

Financials

Income

Government	\$2,723,195
Program Fees	\$333,726
Contract for Services	\$190,149
Individuals/Churches	\$161,094
Foundations/Corporations	\$100,913
Miscellaneous	\$117,980
In-Kind Rent/Services	\$323,140

Total Income \$3,950,197

Expenses

Salaries	\$2,050,262
Benefits	\$412,232
Occupancy	\$252,000
Program	\$132,847
Equipment/Depreciation	\$133,170
Contractual	\$100,111
Professional fees	\$42,738
Other	\$106,081
In-kind Rent/Services	\$323,140

Total Expenses \$3,552,581

Surplus \$397,616

Estate donation for future use \$1,274,353

The FY2023 (7/1/2022 to 6/30/2023) financial statements were audited by Illinois NFP Audit & Tax and are available upon request. The Adult Education and Training department received \$865,008 in federal funding, 41.2% of the total program cost.



Pui Tak Center
2216 S Wentworth Avenue
Chicago, IL 60616
(312)328-1188

www.puitak.org
www.facebook.com/puitakcenter
WeChat: ChicagoPTC

Scan QR code for
Annual Report in Chinese
掃描二維碼閱讀中文版的年度報告

