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MEDIA ADVISORY

Tucson Chinese School Instructor witness to disaster

Nation's First Earthquake Relief Concert set For Friday at Tucson Chinese Cultural Center

WHO: Tucson's Asian communities are mobilizing to help victims of a catastrophic earthquake that destroyed countless buildings and killed tens of thousands of people in China's SiZhuan province. Larry Lang, leader of the Sino Choir, has led the efforts to organize the concert with the help of many groups including the Tucson Chinese Cultural Center, the Tucson Chinese Association, the Pan-Asian Community Alliance, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance Tucson Lodge and Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

"We must act now to help," said Jason Wong, Tucson Chinese Association president. "These people have lost everything, their loved ones, their homes, their livelihoods. The concert donations will help raise money for the Red Cross to purchase emergency food, medical supplies, clean water, blankets and temporary shelters, which are urgently needed."

TUCSON

CONNECTIONS: Rongji Chen, Tucson Chinese School Instructor, was visiting family in Zhengdu, SiZhuan, when the earthquake hit. He, his family and his wife's family are safe but Chen's firsthand stories and photos of the devastation sent to his wife by e-mail speak to the huge and immediate needs of the survivors.

His wife, Hua Xu, works at the University of Arizona conducting biomedical research. **She can be reached by phone at 520-750-1896 or by cell at 520-991-4284.**

Tucsonan Jennifer Lan also has parents and relatives in Zhengdu, SiZhuan. She is a member of the Sino Dance Group. **She can be reached at cell 520-245-2204, work 520-795-0787, or home 520-881-3141.**

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WHAT: Chinese Earthquake Relief Benefit

WHEN: 7 p.m., Friday, May 16, 2008

WHERE: Tucson Chinese Cultural Center
1288 West River Road, Tucson
(520) 292-6900/ www.tucsonchinese.org

PERFORMING GROUPS:

- Tucson Sino Choir – Founded by Larry Lang in March, 2007, the 51-member choir will perform. “After seeing the first images on TV, we wanted to help,” Lang said. He’s led the efforts to organize the event. **Lang is available by calling 520-749-2388 or 520-749-5188.**
- Tucson Sino Dance
- Tucson Sino Taiji
- Huaxia Martial Arts
- Summer Thunder Music Group
- Tucson Chinese School
- Larry Leung, playing the guzheng, a traditional Chinese stringed instrument
- University of Arizona Steel Drum Band
- *Other performers are still signing up to help*

AUCTION: An original Chinese artwork donated by Datong Xu will be auctioned as part of the fund raising activities that evening.

ADMISSION: Free

DONATIONS: Funds taken at the door and during the evening will be given to the International Red Cross in care of the American Red Cross of Southern Arizona, Chinese Consulate LA Earthquake Relief Fund or the Wells Fargo China Relief Fund. The TCCC will be accepting donations and assistance. They are located at 1288 W. River Rd., or call 520-292-6900.

Tucson Chinese Cultural Center

The Tucson Chinese Cultural Center (TCCC) opened in August 2005. The TCCC is a part of the Tucson Chinese Association (TCA), a nonprofit (501C3) corporation that promotes, sponsors, and educates the community relating to the Chinese culture and heritage via activities and the Tucson Chinese School throughout the year. The TCCC has a garden for outdoor venues, and basketball and volleyball courts; and inside classrooms for art and language courses for the Chinese School, a large room seating up to 280, and a full-size Chinese kitchen with three built-in woks which support dining events as well as cooking classes. The TCCC, a 16,000-square-foot structure, is located at 1288 W. River Rd. Tucson, Arizona, USA, 85704 with a main phone number of 520-292-6900. The center’s hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Sundays. For more information, visit their website at www.tucsonchinese.org.

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