



CAlex

Annual Report 2020

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Overview

As a nonprofit, non-partisan organization, Chinese Americans of Lexington (CALex) is dedicated to serving the community in general, promoting civic engagement, and helping address issues that raise concerns in the Chinese American community.

Since its inception in 2017, CALex has put its words to action by initiating and engaging in various activities that serve our community. In 2020, faced with unprecedented challenges posed by the pandemic, CALex stepped up with unflinching support of its members to serve the Lexington community and beyond.

In the first half of 2020, CALex volunteers worked tirelessly to support frontline healthcare professionals, essential workers, as well as Lexington residents in need in their fight against the coronavirus. In addition to collecting personal protective equipment (PPE) from the local Chinese American community, we also navigated uncharted waters to procure them globally. Through around-the-clock work of our team, we were able to purchase 10,000 highly sought-after N95 surgical masks from overseas in April. The total donations, including those co-led by CALex and two community partners, were valued over \$200,000, including 110,000 pieces of PPE. Earlier in 2020, we also raised \$30,000 to support the people of Wuhan in China.

In addition to prompt responses to the COVID-19 onslaught, CALex has also continued to host many events in 2020 that promote community service and civic engagement. We hosted a town-election candidate forum in February, a Town Meeting Member (TMM) introduction session in December, and a series of seminars on education throughout the year. Additionally, we co-hosted the high-profile #Lex4RacialJustice event in June, and we spoke at the No Hate November event organized by Lexington Human Right Committee and Association of Black Citizens of Lexington (ABCL). We also supported Special Town Meeting Article 8 (Systemic Racism Resolution).

We believe that education has the power to enrich and transform lives. In November 2020, we launched a project called LexYouth: Learning Help Program. This program aims to connect students in primary and secondary education who need help to high school students who are capable of offering assistance in a wide range of subjects, including academics, visual arts, music, chess, and sports.

To conclude this eventful year of 2020, our sincere appreciation goes to our volunteers, the community members, and friends. These heroes have stared down the pandemic and made our community strong.

Support Lexington Community and Frontline Workers

From early March, CALex started fundraising and collected PPE from the community to support the Lexington community, frontline healthcare workers and other essential workers.

Monetary Donation

CALex made a total donation of \$10,000, of which:

- \$8,500 went to the Lexington community, including Fund for Lexington, Food Pantry, and other organizations.
- \$1,500 went to three local Black organizations to help with their relief efforts.

Donation to Fund for Lexington - \$5,000

CALex donated \$5,000 to Fund for Lexington, including restaurant gift cards with a total value of \$1,100, to support local restaurants.

Donation to Food Pantry - \$3,000

CALex donated \$3,000 to Food Pantry, which included a \$2,000 donation match by CALex. This donation match helped Food Pantry raise more than \$4,000 from other Lexington community members in its “Support the Food Pantry Month” drive in June.



Lexington Interfaith Food Pantry
June 10 at 7:45 PM · 🌐

Just a reminder that during the month of June CALex (<https://www.facebook.com/calex.caex.75098>) will match every donation to the Food Pantry up to \$2,000. We have raised \$725 so far!!!! Please consider supporting us this month to double your impact. <https://www.lexingtonfoodpantry.org/support-us.html>

LEXINGTONFOODPANTRY.ORG
Support Us
Checks can be mailed to: Lexington Interfaith Food Pantry P.O. Box...

PPE Collection and Donation

Individual community members, many of whom members of CALex, donated over 40,000 pieces of PPE, including 30,000 masks. Over half of those masks were much-needed Surgical N95, N95, KN95 and sterile level-3 surgical masks, of which a significant portion came from the oversea relatives and friends of CALex members. Having collected these PPE from numerous individuals, CALex made 60 donations to hospitals, nursing homes, long-term-care facilities, Lexington Police Department, Lexington Fire Department, Lexington Post Office, as well as community residents in need.


Small Donations Made a Big Difference Together

We are extremely grateful for the community's generosity. The masks received by CALex are a testimonial of broad community support – they were made of small donations from hundreds of community members as well as their friends. As an example, a friend of a CALex member mailed 37 small packages of medical masks (100 pieces per package) to us from China.



Surgical N95 Procurement From Overseas

Overcoming complex supply and logistical challenges, CALex led the effort, with support of the following Asian American organizations, to purchase from overseas 10,000 critically needed N95 surgical masks which were donated to hospitals in the Greater Boston area: Chinese American Association of Sharon, Chinese American Network of Winchester (CAN-Win), Chinese American Association of Westborough, Chinese American Community of Shrewsbury, and Running Group of Middle Massachusetts.

 CALex (Chinese Americans of Lexington)
@CALex_MA

Over 5000 critically needed FDA/NIOSH surgical N95s finally arrived from overseas! Will be donated to front-line healthcare workers ASAP by CALex and other members of the N95 Alliance! @mciccolo @BarrettSenate @CindyFriedmanMA @TownOfLexMA @LexMediaTV



 CALex (Chinese Americans of Lexington)
@CALex_MA

Another 5000 Surgical N95 masks for frontline healthcare workers also arrived from overseas! Will work with the members of the N95 Alliance for donation.
@mciccolo @BarrettSenate @CindyFriedmanMA @TownOfLexMA @LexMediaTV



Two Community Partners Made Enormous Contribution

Two community partners raised significant funds and used overseas resources to purchase quality masks. One is Diyi Boston, which donated more than 10,000 masks, and the other is Chinese American Resource Exchange (CARE), which donated nearly 50,000 masks.

Diyi Boston:

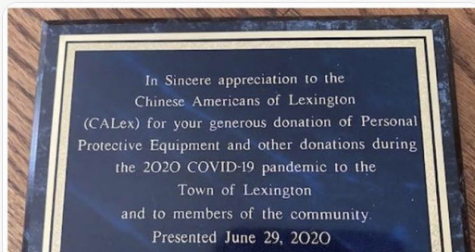


CARE:



Donation Distribution and Recognition

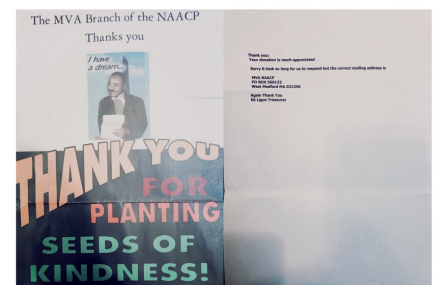
CAlex (Chinese Americans of Lexington) @CALex_MA · Jun 29
Thanks Select Board, Town Manager and all leaders for your great effort during the pandemic crisis! We are so proud that we have been able to help. Thanks to our volunteers and our community members and friends for your support and generous donations!@TownOfLexMA



04/27/2020: A ThankYou picture was received from Lahey Hospital in Burlington



CAlex (Chinese Americans of Lexington) @CALex_MA · Jun 15
Thank-you note from the Catholic Medical Center in NH for CAlex PPE donations! Thanks for our Lexington Chinese community for donating PPEs to our frontline healthcare workers!



Thank You!
From NAACP

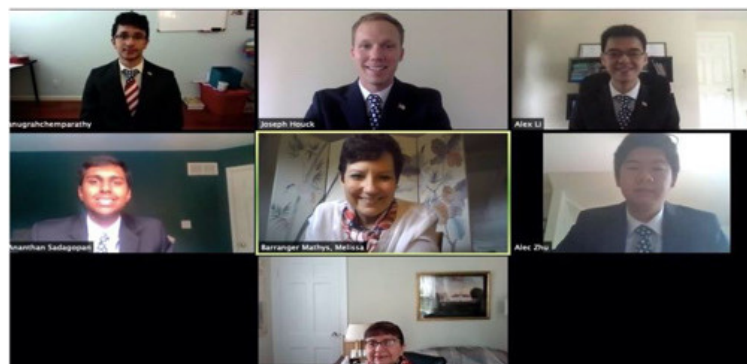
Supporting Wuhan

From January 24 to February 28, 2020, CALex volunteers worked diligently to provide support to frontline medical professionals in Wuhan, the epicenter of the pandemic in China, with the support from people in the Greater Boston area. In the first week of our fundraiser, nearly \$30,000 of donations poured in. We switched the focus from Wuhan to local soon after as the situation worsened in the U.S.



Education

On August 16, 2020, CALex helped Ms. Fiona Young, the Campus Director of AoPS Lexington, organize an online information session to introduce AoPS to the community. On August 22, 2020, CALex invited Alex Li to share his learning and leadership experience with the community online. Li was the top gold medal winner in this year's International Chemistry Olympiad.



Education (Continued)

In the summer of 2020, CALex facilitated conversations between Lexington parents and school administrators to explore ways of improving the remote learning experience. CALex invited each school committee member to meet the parents. We also conducted a survey to understand the parents' thoughts on synchronous learning and asynchronous learning respectively before sharing the results with the school administrators.

On September 20, 2020, CALex invited four students living in Lexington to share their experiences and insights on academic and life learning. These four panelists regularly work with Diyi Boston, and their discussions aimed to help young students better cope with special obstacles in a remote-learning environment.

On November 22, 2020, CALex hosted a seminar by Jie Madeline Wang on building soft skills and leadership skills to help middle and high school students. Ms. Wang has designed a series of online workshops, based on the 7Cs Leadership framework, to help students in Grades 5-9 to develop leadership skills and mindsets.

On November 29, 2020, we officially launched LexYouth: Learning Help Program. Initially run by CALex Youth Group, a branch of CALex, this program has received donations from parents whose children benefited from it. CALex Youth Group in turn donated \$2,500 to support the Black History Project of Lexington sponsored by ABCL.

Community Interactions

From March to June 2020, CALex actively participated in the community meetings hosted by the town of Lexington. We discussed issues, reported progress and status, shared information and ideas, and so on. It is our pleasure to have played a small part in this great effort and we cherish how the Lexington community comes together and supports each other during the difficult time.



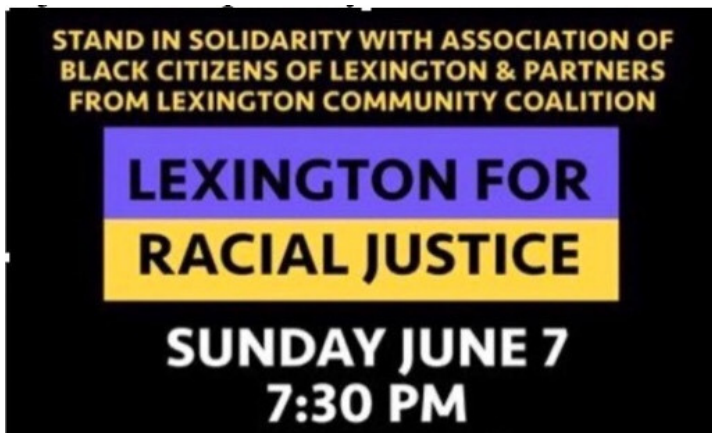
On November 26, 2020, CALex volunteers helped the Lexington Lions Club deliver Thanksgiving meals to senior residents at Countryside Village, Greeley Village and Vynebrooke Village. The need for Thanksgiving meals were greater this year due to the pandemic. Senior residents who received the meals expressed sincere gratitude for the Lexington Lions Club and community volunteers.

Civic Engagement, Social Justice, and More

On February 1, 2020, CALex hosted a Candidate Forum for the Lexington Town Election. Candidates for Select Board, School Committee, and Planning Board, several candidates for TMMs, and State Representative Michelle Ciccolo attended the meeting. The candidates took the opportunity to introduce themselves, and a wide range of issues topics were covered, including school budget, taxes and financial sustainability, high-density housing development, environment and economic development, issue on divisiveness, and diversity, equity and inclusion.



On June 5, 2020, CALex worked with the Lexington Community Coalition and its partners to co-host a virtual Lexington community gathering in support of the Black community amid nationwide public outcry over the police killing of George Floyd. At the gathering, we stood in solidarity with town leaders and partners from Lexington Community Coalition to condemn racial discrimination, as well as discussing tangible actions that need to be taken to end racial injustice, especially that towards Black people.



On November 17, 2020, CALex representative Helen Yang spoke at the No hate November panel discussion organized by Lexington Human Right Committee and ABCL. The discussion focused on lessons learned from the murders of Vincent Chin and Ahmaud Arbery, emphasizing that interrupting racist hatred can save lives.

On December 12, 2020, with the 2021 town election season approaching, CALex invited current TMMs Jensen Lin, Yingjie Wei, Yu Wu, Lily Yan and Lin Xu to speak with the local Chinese American community. At this online event, these TMMs talked about their relevant perspectives and experiences, such as an overview of the functions of the Town Meeting, their campaign experience, and their participation in the Town Meeting.

Conclusion

The year 2020 will become history soon. When we look back at this pivotal year, we see enormous human losses, and far-reaching social and economic disruptions. At CALex, we have risen to the unique challenges posed by the pandemic by doing our part in helping community members and others. We did not pause in promoting social justice, racial equality, and civic engagement. We continued to help improve the quality of life of our members, such as introducing LexYouth: Learning Help Program. We are greatly appreciative of the support of our members and partners in the community for all that we have achieved in 2020. When we look to next year and beyond, our remarkable journey in 2020 gives us confidence that CALex will continue to be a vibrant organization for years to come.