



SUPER SUNDAYS!

It was at a Mission & Evangelism Committee meeting when Rev. Norman Fong presented the idea of the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown being partners with the Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC) to initiate the “Super Sundays” project. That was over 8 years ago and Super Sundays is still going strong! It continues to meet on the 4th Sunday of the month.

With some seed money from the Presbytery’s Hunger Action Fund (\$500) and a labor of love from the M&E Committee, we began a monthly “town hall”-like luncheon program at the Gordon J. Lau School. Helen Chin, the principal at that time, gave us the use of the school at a minimal cost (just janitorial services). The program started off primarily with the seniors from the Community Tenants Association.

The Mission & Evangelism Committee organized PCC volunteers to make sandwiches to “feed the masses”. Attendance increased rapidly as we incorporated the SRO (Single Room Occupancy) Families. Norman secured additional funding and food donations from many Presbyterian Churches at first, then expanded the outreach to include donations from other ecumenical groups like the Baptist Church, Buddhist Church and ongoing funding through the Jewish Community Fund.

Super Sundays has grown to a double lunch program serving the CTA seniors first between noon to 1pm and the SRO Families and kids from 1:15pm - 3pm with an average attendance of close to 500 children, youth, families and seniors each month! Close to 40 senior high school students volunteer each month to care for those adorable SRO kids and various volunteers help with serving the lunches.

Super Sundays is now recognized as “the best neighborhood town hall gathering” that meets regularly in San Francisco! City officials, department heads and social services organizations often come to Super Sundays to “get the word out” on important issues and concerns that impact Chinatown and numerous surveys have been done to get Chinatown’s opinion on various topics.

At first, it sounded like another one of Norman’s ambitious ideas to serve the community but after eight years, it really is a “dream come true” that has been institutionalized. Questions like: “How are you going to feed everyone?” “How can we provide child care for sometimes over a hundred kids?” The Chinatown CDC staff was initially concerned about giving up another weekend each month to run “another community program”....

Like the feeding of the five thousand, it can happen when the “spirit” of both community and church is present. I am so thankful for all the individuals, churches and organizations that have made Super Sundays an empowering and blessed event / gathering each month.

The dream of linking community and the Church together on Sunday afternoons is really something super! As of this spring, the seniors have taken on the job of serving the meals themselves, so that PCC volunteers are no longer needed to serve the meals but you are always welcomed to drop by and help out.

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Irene Young Ng, chair. Written by Rev. Norman Fong, October 23, 2009.*



PCC volunteers made a few thousand Egg Salad Sandwiches for Super Sundays!