

Dear FCC Families:

For many years, our families have always looked forward to celebrating the “Moon Festival” – sometimes called the “Mid-Autumn Harvest Festival” – by gathering on the banks of the White River and sharing mooncakes. Last year we partnered with the Indiana Association of Chinese Americans and enjoyed a magical night of dancing, singing, and strolling in the moonlight along the water’s edge.

Last spring the Mayor’s Office initiated a proposal for a city-wide Chinese Festival to be held in the fall. After consulting with our partners in both IACA and ICCCI (Indianapolis Chinese Community Center, Inc.), FCC decided to join this venture and thereby expand our wonderful tradition to include all of the Chinese-American community – and the entire community of Indianapolis.

I’m writing to assure you that key aspects of last year’s festival will be preserved – there’ll be plenty of performances to enjoy, mountains of mooncakes (and heaps of other delicious Chinese foods), and a walk with lanterns - safely filled with glowsticks - along the water. But the venue has shifted to Military Park, at the southeast corner of the IUPUI campus, and our walk will take place along the canal (rumor has it that Mayor Ballard is considering being dressed in traditional Chinese clothes and floated along in a gondola – we’ll have to keep an eye out for that!).

The Mayor’s office issued the following statement about this year’s festival:

For the first time, Indianapolis will host a festival to celebrate and honor the Chinese people in our city. This festival is long overdue. Chinese people in Indianapolis have been active participants and contributors to our city’s culture, yet they have never had an ethnic festival to call their own. We encourage you along with people from all races, ethnicities, and backgrounds to participate and enjoy the festival.

Our children are important members of the Chinese-American community, and I urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to celebrate their cultural heritage. The festival will take place at Military Park on Saturday, September 13, 2008, from 11 AM to 9 PM. It is a celebration of family, harvest, and prosperity, and the ‘moonlight’ walk is expected to take place at dusk – around 7:30 PM. The festival will be free and open to all (though there will be plenty of food and other items to purchase). FCC is coordinating the Family Area, which will provide fun activities for children to engage in. We also are grateful to the Junior Scouts of Troop 42 (many of whom are FCC-IN members), who will be helping the little ones with craft activities. FCC-Indiana will have a booth near the Family Area – please use this as a place to connect with other members of our organization.

If you’re interested in volunteering at the festival (or if you know of a willing teenager or college student who can help out), please review and return the enclosed volunteer form (note that this gets returned to the Mayor’s Office). Please also mark your calendars for Friday evening, 9/12, when there will be an ‘opening performance’ involving the Jiangsu Folk Art Performing Troupe at Clowes Hall – check the FCC website for information on tickets (<http://www.fcc-in.org/>).

Finally, please save the date for 2 additional FCC activities this fall: **October 11** will involve a trip to the pumpkin patch (and the first chance to purchase the beautiful 2009 From China With Love calendar). **November 12** will be an evening event for parents – focused on planning for the future of our organization, and hearing a presentation made by an adoption educator.

Many thanks,



Kathy Johnson, FCC-IN President