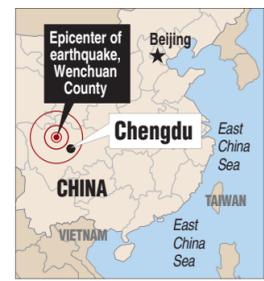


Metro & Region

Local Chinese community connects with earthquake survivors



Online: Hear Michael Zhou, member of the Chattanooga Chinese Association, talk about China's devastating earthquake. [Comment on this story.](#)

BY PERLA TREVIZO
STAFF WRITER
Chattanooga resident Jean Lau has heard horrific stories of attempts to rescue survivors of last week's massive earthquake in China. Family members living in

Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province, about 50 miles from the epicenter of the magnitude 7.9 earthquake, are keeping her informed of the round-the-clock recovery efforts. "I talked to one of my aunts for over 30 minutes," Ms. Lau said. "She said that in her lifetime she had never seen anything as devastating or as heart-breaking. She couldn't describe it with words. (It's) very hard to talk of

the truth." Ms. Lau and other members of the local Chinese community, including the Chattanooga Chinese Association and the Chinese Church, are raising money to help the people affected by the quake that likely killed more than 50,000 and left hundreds of thousands homeless. More than 32,000 deaths have been confirmed so far and another 220,109 people suffered injuries, according to a

statement Sunday from the State Council, China's Cabinet. Michael Zhou, a member of the Chinese Association who also has relatives in Chengdu, including his daughter and parents, will travel next week to China to assess the damages and identify the needs of the children who survived the earthquake. "I'm more interested in the
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HOW TO HELP
■ SunTrust Bank, Chattanooga Chinese Association Earthquake Relief Fund. Mail checks to 736 Market St., Chattanooga TN 37402, or drop off at the lobby.
■ For more information, call Michael Zhou, member of the Chattanooga Chinese Association, at (423) 316-9002.

Military families finding support

Online: Hear Key Volunteer Network coordinator Annissa Hackney explain how it works. [Comment.](#)

BY LAUREN GREGORY
STAFF WRITER
Keeping tabs on a loved one's whereabouts and well-being in Iraq can be like playing a game of "Telephone," says Annissa Hackney, whose husband is deployed in Iraq with the Marines. "Sometimes it can get distorted from when someone tells my husband, and then when he turns around and tells me. Or maybe he might forget to tell me something," said Mrs. Hackney, whose husband, Staff Sgt. Michael Hackney, is in the Chattanooga-based "Mike Battery" Marine reserve unit.

To cut down on miscommunication, each Marine unit has a Key Volunteer Network to serve as an information and referral service. Mrs. Hackney coordinates the Mike Battery's network, which has 25 volunteers to stay in touch with the 157 deployed members' families. The Key Volunteer Network is helpful to units across the country, she said, but especially so in units such as Mike Battery, a reserve unit that does not have regular contact with a military base. Mrs. Hackney receives information directly from the unit's commanding officer, and she and her volunteers can relay it immediately. "It's a Christmas tree-type formation," explained Lt. Col. Eric Merkle, who serves as Mike Battery's spokesman and oversees the program from the unit's office off Amnicola Highway. "The assistance can be the form of phone and e-mail contact. But in addition to being an instrument of information, it can become a network of assistance if spouses or parents need help." Key Volunteer assistance can range from providing the unit's mailing address abroad to answering questions about health care coverage to serving as a sympathetic ear or hosting a holiday party, Mrs. Hackney said. This becomes a very important source of support as deployments wear on, said

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STAFF PHOTO BY ANGELA LEWIS

Ken Crisp, left, and Bob Zakas install new stained glass at the former First Congregational Church that is being restored at the corner of M.L. King Boulevard and Lindsay Street.

Old church receives face-lift

BY ANNE P. BRALY
STAFF WRITER
Craftsman Bob Zakas worked for nine months to clean and replace old lead and colored glass in the windows of a former downtown church that will reopen as a public meeting place.

"There's a richness in color here that is near impossible to duplicate today," he said while pointing to a deep red piece of stained glass used in one window of First Congregational Church.

Mr. Zakas and partner Alayna Kyle cleaned and refit the panes of glass into original wood window frames of one of Chattanooga's oldest black churches. There are about 6,500 individual pieces of glass in the windows.

"It was a very time-consuming, tedious process," Mr. Zakas said. "But I'm glad to have a little hand in history."

The church sat vacant at the corner of M.L. King Boulevard and Lindsay Street for more than a decade.

Developer Ken Crisp and his son, Ken Crisp Jr., purchased the 4,000-square-foot, one-story building in 2006 for \$300,000. Workers have replaced the roof, and the continued restoration includes the old pressed tin ceiling and installation of new

BEING RESTORED

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has designated May as National Preservation Month. Recently, the Lyndhurst Foundation, the RiverCity Co. and Cornerstones formed a partnership to assist the following five properties with certain aspects of development:

- **First Congregational Church**
- **Stong Building** beside the Chattanooga Choo-Choo
- **The St. George Hotel** on Market Street
- **The Industrial YMCA** on Mitchell Avenue near Main Street
- **The Levin Building** at the corner of Main and Mitchell

plumbing, heating and air conditioning.

The Lyndhurst Foundation, RiverCity Co. and Cornerstones paid for the renovation of the stained-glass windows.

"We're pushing hard to finish by the first of next year," Ken Crisp Jr. said.

The developers considered using the building for condominiums but determined a better use was to convert the old church into a facility for all types of occasions.

"I see choirs on Sundays as well as music groups on the weekends," Ken Crisp Jr. said. "This building is (good for) a lot of things, from wedding receptions to rehearsal dinners or corporate events. It will be a general-use venue for every



STAFF GRAPHIC BY LAURA E. WALKER

kind of event." Ann Gray, director of Cornerstones, which is dedicated to the preservation of downtown historic buildings, said the group worked closely with

the two developers. The process is under way to apply for a National Historic Register designation, which will enable it to receive additional federal tax credits.

Floral and event planner Jeffrey Dendy, owner of Jeffrey's Flowers, said Chattanooga needs more places for special events.

"This building (the church) has lots of charm," he said. "I would encourage my brides to take a look at it for receptions or rehearsal dinners."

As part of its history, services began in the church in the early 1900s.

Wallace L. Roberson, 70, attended First Congregational Church until the last service in 2001.

"It was a sad day when it closed, but the members of the church would be indebted to the remodeling of the church, leaving it as close to the original as possible," he said.

The church was donated to Fisk University in Nashville, which sold it to the Crisps.

"Fisk got the benefits and was able to use it for scholarships, so we feel that the church is still contributing," Mr. Roberson said.

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Yellow Deli recalls founding

Online: Watch video of the Yellow Deli grand opening and reunion. [Comment.](#)

BY KELLY GAUTHIER
STAFF WRITER
After quietly opening their doors six weeks ago, owners of the Yellow Deli flung them wide open Sunday with a grand opening celebration on the 35th anniversary of their first Chattanooga establishment.

Complete with Israeli folk dancing, live music, free food and group singing, members of the communal Christian sect the Twelve Tribes welcomed former members, visitors and curious passers-by to their new location at 737 McCallie Ave.

"It's not the same as a high school reunion," said founding member Pat Sheldon. "It's a reunion of the heart."

The original Yellow Deli opened in 1973 on Brainerd Road. For the next decade, the group stirred up controversy and was labeled by many as a cult. By 1984, most members had left Chattanooga and headed to Vermont to start a similar community.

Though their beliefs of communal living, loving all and strict discipline for children have not changed, leaders say this time they believe Chattanooga is ready for them.

"We've gotten an overwhelming response from people. We had many, many people asking us to come back," said Eddie Wiseman, an original Chattanooga member and native of the city. "More people are disillusioned with their traditional Christian experience."

Drizzly rain slightly delayed Sunday's eight hours of festivities, but smiling partygoers huddled under umbrellas and bright yellow awnings for cover. When the sky cleared, members young and old grabbed hands in a circle to dance traditional Israeli dances original members first learned at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

The Yellow Deli is well-known for its homemade

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STAFF PHOTO BY KELLY WEGEL

East Ridge High School student Jose Lucas sorts cans of food with Pat Cahill, assistant to the director of the food bank, left, and UPS financial controller Jeanne Mandoza, of Chicago, in the Chattanooga Area Food Bank.

UPS managers get real life challenges, lessons

Online: Hear Dr. Edward Cahill, coordinator of the UPS Community Intern Program in Chattanooga, talk about why the program was implemented in 1968. [Comment.](#)

BY PERLA TREVIZO
STAFF WRITER
After years of working in the corporate hierarchy of UPS — and the income that comes with it — David Craft admits he's not familiar with the day-to-day realities of low-income life. "In a corporate environment, we deal with corporations," he said. "With that level of thinking ... you get into a silo of what the world is based on Fortune 500

companies. "I've been blessed to live very well, although I'm not naive to inner-city problems," said Mr. Craft, director of sales customer solutions at UPS in Chicago. "But to me, to just to come here and saturate myself for four weeks was totally grounding for me."

Mr. Craft is one of nine top managers of UPS who came to Chattanooga a month ago to participate in the company's Community Intern Program, in which they learn about diversity and the disadvantaged by working with various social agencies.

Dr. Edward Cahill, a retired UTC professor of sociology,

helped start the program when he was teaching in Philadelphia. "What we are trying to do is give them an understanding of the history of the civil rights movement, why the laws for equal employment opportunity were passed and why the company has made policy changes to reflect the changing composition of various cities," he said. Seeing executives get involved with children at various levels is exciting, Dr. Cahill said. Program participants can return to "their respective cities with a better idea of what they, as managers, need to do to

improve the quality of life for all Americans," he said. Nationwide there are five community intern programs: two in New York City; one in McAllen, Texas; one in San Francisco; and, since 1977, one in Chattanooga. The UPS managers said the Chattanooga program, which included a ridealong with local police, opened their eyes to the realities of inner-city living, and especially the issues surrounding immigration and undocumented workers. "There are four different

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