



On Saturday, May 17, Chinese Culture Center (CCC, www.ccc-ct.org) organized a Candlelight Vigil for China earthquake victims on the front lawn of the West Hartford Town Hall. The event was co-sponsored by Chinese Association for Science and Technology, Connecticut Chapter (CAST-CT), Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA) of UConn and Other Chinese Student Associations of local universities, UConn Health Center, as well as other local groups and organizations in Connecticut. An estimate of more than 300 people attended the Candlelight Vigil and the donations were pouring in during the event.

Hundreds of candles were lightened in heart shaped loops on the grass and held in people's hands. Poems, music and songs specially written to commemorate the earthquake victims were recited and sang. A group of people from local Chinese Christian Church also prayed for the victims. The audiences from a concert that was held inside the Town Hall by West Hartford Symphony Orchestra, once heard about the announcement of the event, also made donations when leaving the concert, showing their sympathy and support. "The Chinese music is very touching, I can not believe that we had nice music inside and the outside also has wonderful music!" one audience commented on his way upon leaving the concert.

Near \$7,000 were collected by the end of Candlelight Vigil on Saturday. Additional donation was collected through CCC's Sunday Chinese Language programs at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) and Timothy Edward Middle School in South Windsor. By the end of Sunday, a total of \$12,251.20 was collected by CCC. It is the largest fund raised by CCC in its 28 years' history. CCC will continue to collection donations and will send 100% of the total collected to the Red Cross. For updated information and photos, please visit www.ccc-ct.org. CCC is a 501(C)(3) not-for-profit organization established in 1980.

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