

# CULTURAL AWARENESS IN AGING

CHINESE SENIOR CENTER



# STATISTICS OF CHINESE AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS

- The Chinese were the first Asian settlers in Arizona in the 1850's.
- There were 1305 Chinese in Arizona in the 1910 U.S. Census.
- According to the U.S. Census Report (1996) Chinese American was the fastest growing ethnic minority group.
- This trend is predicated to continue for the next 10 years.
- The INS Statistical Data show that 62,963 Chinese Immigrants entered the U.S. in 1996 alone.
- Ten percent of these Chinese American Immigrants were 60 years old or older.

# INFORMATION ABOUT CHINESE COMMUNITY

Arizona does not have an established, organized Chinese Community. The community is widely dispersed across the valley.

Most elderly Chinese who come to the Chinese Senior Center live in one of four HUD housing apartment complexes, which are four to five miles from the center.

Less than 20 % speak English.

Less than 5% of elderly Chinese speak English.

# CHINESE AMERICAN ARE CHARACTERIZED BY

- In Chinese Culture Filial Piety is an important social value promoting a care relationship between children and parents.
- Emphasis on “We” than “I” extended family is more important. May be manifested by addressing the health, housing and financial needs of older parents. Elders in family should be able to undertake supporting roles as mentors and caretakers for the young family members.



- During the weekend adult children would visit their parents and take them to dinner at a restaurant. Parents spend the weekend at adult child's home. Adult child takes parent to see the doctor or other medical appointments.
- Chinese elders would carry their adult children's burden such as baby sitting their grandchildren from infancy till teens. Some elders need to look after their adult children's household when adult children take vacations away from home or go on business trips.



- Parental authority is more absolute.
- Chinese culture is influenced by Fatalism. It's the stigmatization of bad adversary.
- Chinese elderly uses denial and silence as a popular strategy to avoid being recognized with mental health problems or any other family problems. They downplay the expression of individual feelings.



# CHINESE SENIOR CENTER

- The focal point for Chinese elderly Americans to gather together.
- Provides English classes and Citizenship classes.
- Provides various social services
- Provides transportation (only from 4 HUD apartments to Chinese center) and translation services.
- Provides cultural activities and programs.
- Educates Chinese elderly American to achieve cultural competency

# CULTURAL COMPETENCY

- Refers to possessing sufficient knowledge, skills, and experience to communicate effectively with someone from a different culture.
- Recognition & Acceptance - An Individual recognizes and values cultural differences without evaluating those differences as positive or negative. Respect for cultural differences in behavior and in values.

# ARABIAN CULTURAL

