



### *World Journal's People of the Year Award 2006*

On January 2, 2006 *World Journal*, the Chinese newspaper with the largest subscription in the US, recognized seven men and three women as People of the Year in the Greater Bay Area. Isabel Chiu, CPA, co-founder of the American Cancer Society-Northern California Chinese Unit (ACS-NCCU), was recognized as American Cancer Society's "super volunteer".

When *World Journal* nominated Isabel for the Award, Isabel declined because she felt NCCU's accomplishments are a team effort, not her personal effort. Isabel's profession as a CPA helped to a degree in organization planning and raising necessary funds to support NCCU's work, but she felt strongly that the big family of compassionate and committed volunteers and donors are the real heroes and heroines who deserve to receive the Award. Isabel proposed to nominate ACS for this Award instead, but she was told the Award was intended to recognize outstanding individuals, not organizations. Isabel agreed to accept the Award with the understanding that the honor goes to all ACS staffs, volunteers and donors who have joined her in her work in the Chinese American community throughout the years.

After Isabel lost her beloved father to cancer, Isabel decided to use all her hard-earned knowledge and experience to help other Chinese patients and their families to overcome cultural barriers and many other difficulties in the fight against cancer. A promise Isabel made to a dying friend who she supported till the end, Losaline Wang, was the driving force behind the founding of ACS-NCCU. With a determined group of like-minded people and \$80,000 contributions from her clients, ACS-NCCU opened its doors to serve Chinese cancer patients and families in more concerted efforts. To ensure sound and long-term financial resources, Isabel raised more than one million dollars to set up the Endowment Fund for ACS-NCCU. To this day, NCCU is the only ACS Unit receives benefit from its own Endowment Fund.

Since its founding, NCCU has served more than 1,800 patients, provided more than 4,200 rides and more than 3,300 visits to patients. NCCU currently has 250 active volunteers. Isabel emphasized NCCU's volunteers are the Unit's most valuable assets. With the Unit's realignment to become a CA Division entity in February 2005, Isabel wished to share NCCU's experience and expertise with not only the Greater Bay Area cities and towns but also cancer organizations in Taiwan and China.

At the conclusion of *World Journal's* Award interview, Isabel announced a NCCU patient service pilot, Respite program. It is an extension of the Unit's long-running Home Visit program to support cancer patients. Respite is designed to provide some respite for end-of-life cancer patients' families, a program very close to Isabel's heart.

Isabel acknowledged her mother, sisters, brother and other family members for their continuous loving support and encouragement to volunteer for ACS. They all believe to share and help others are the best way to honor their beloved father, Mr. Hsuan-Chen Chiu.