

China Chef—233 S. Central Avenue

China Chef is a family operated business that started with four owners, Jeffrey Tham, Alice Lim, Jason Tham and Cherie Tham. However, prior to the grand opening of February 22, 1994, China Chef was just an idea and a dream of the four individuals.

Jeff and Jason Tham are brothers from Selangor, Malaysia, while Alice was from Johor, Malaysia. Alice first ventured to California in 1981 to attend high school. She met Jeff in 1987 and graduated from college in 1988. That same year, Jason arrived in California and stayed with his brother. Jeff, Jason and Alice arrived in Rice Lake in 1989 to help a friend get started in the restaurant business. In late 1989 the trio found themselves in Marshfield. Here, Jason met his wife Cherie who is a birth resident of Marshfield, and they married in 1980. In 1992 Jeff and Alice finally married.



China Chef, currently located at 233 South Central Avenue, May 2012.

The two couples have worked together over time and strived to put their own recipes together for an ideal menu and a pleasant restaurant atmosphere. Combined together with each person's unique talents and abilities, the four searched various towns and cities to lay a foundation for their restaurant.

In 1994 there were already two Chinese restaurants located in Marshfield and the city was not ideal for three. However, when the Golden Dragon closed permanently. Jeff, Alice, Jason and Cherie found another opportunity. What was known as the Sports Page Bar came on the sale market. It was set up as a restaurant with a bar, so with a few renovations, the couples were able to convert their dream into reality.

When China Chef opened its doors in 1994, there was a tiny kitchen, 16 tables, a bar and a tiny wait station.

After careful consideration and the opening of the rental space next door, John Christner, the building owner, allowed China Chef to expand its dining room to facilitate approximately 75 to 85 people. So, in January of 1995, China Chef reopened its doors to accommodate twice the amount of customers prior to the expansion.

The original location was on the first floor of the Hotel Charles. The China Chef has Chinese—American cuisine and provides dine-in, to-go, delivery and catering services.

In 1997, Jason bought the building located at 233 S. Central Avenue. and moved the China Chef there. He currently shares the building with Tom Steimen.

Also see story of [Tiffault & Kamps Mercantile Company](#)

Also see story of Fair Store (story coming soon)

Also see story of McCrory's Store (story coming soon)

If you have any additional information (including pictures) regarding this business or location, we would really appreciate you contacting us and sharing. We will add information whenever possible.

For questions, or for sharing additional information, please contact us at schnitz1@charter.net. Please include what story the information relates to. Attach your text information in the form of a word document, please no PDF's. Photos should preferably be in jpeg format.

For additional stories on the historical sights and businesses of Marshfield, visit our website at: <http://www.marshfieldgenealogy.com/QR-Codes-of-Historical-Marshfield.html>.