



# Centreville Labor Resource Center

Year 1, Volume 11

**November 2012**

**Open House: December 1st, 2012 at the CLRC 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM**

**There will be no CIF meeting for the month of December**

## Introducing Roberto Fernandez



Roberto Fernandez, has been a resident of Fairfax County, Virginia, since immigration from his native El Salvador in 1988. Instilled

with persistence and a strong work ethic from a young age, Fernandez worked an array of jobs during his adolescent years as a means of contributing to his large family. After graduating from high school, Fernandez continued working with no immediate plans for further schooling. His long-standing love for soccer however, provided him with an unexpected opportunity, when he was offered a soccer scholarship at Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio.

Returning to Virginia after a year at Marietta to be closer to his family, Fernandez put his education on hold, to focus once again on contributing to his family. It was during this time that Fernandez began working in the telecommunications field. Through working for a small start-up telecommunications firm, Fernandez, later settled in at Sprint Corporation for the next seven years. Throughout his time at Sprint, Fernandez found a

renewed desire to finish his education and returned to attain his college degree at George Mason University. It was there that Fernandez graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications

After achieving success at Sprint, Fernandez, left his corporate career to pursue his life long passion for advocacy by joining the Peace Corps and serving those disadvantaged by unjust circumstances. Returning from the Peace Corps this past summer, Fernandez is now deeply committed to continuing to work for his fellow immigrants by empowering, leveraging, and motivating them to work hard and realize the resources provided by the CLRC.

## Operations update

Due to the time change, the worker assembly and CLRC staff have decided to change our operating hours to 6:30AM to 12:30 PM. Please spread the word!

The job rates at the Center are declining with the temperature outside. For the month of November the Center saw 57 jobs with 92 laborers out to work. The majority of jobs were in landscaping and moving. Many of the construction and gardening jobs that were plentiful in the summer are disappearing in the wintertime. Please keep us in mind for those little holiday jobs like hanging lights and shoveling snow. We can adapt to your seasonal labor needs! In the meantime, the CLRC is making good use of the extra down time, just as planned. Over 15 resumes have been made for workers by a handful of dedicated volunteers. We hope to continue to help workers get their experience down on paper in the coming months. ESL workshops continue in the daytime hours and the first electricity workshops for the workers have been very successful and well-attended.



Thanksgiving dinner at CLRC

## Did you know?

One in five day laborers nationwide uses day labor centers to find work. Day labor centers are a growing trend. Not all communities have labor centers, the CLRC is part of a growing trend that will hopefully spread to more communities.



**Molly Maddra, Interim Director**  
**5956 Centreville Crest Lane, Centreville, VA 20121**  
**703.543.6272 (phone) 703.543.6274 (fax)**  
**Contact@CentrevilleLRC.org**

## Our "Santa" List

The CLRC has compiled a list for "Santa" this year! We have been very good this year and hope that some of you will be able to give some of these great gifts during the holiday season to help keep us running strong. We can never have enough of the following items: White paper, brightly colored paper, dry erase markers, trash bags, shovels (for snow), floor cleaner, hand soap, toilet paper, postage stamps, and coffee. We are forever appreciative of these in-kind donations, they are a true gift!



Thanksgiving fun with kids!

## Thanksgiving Dinner at CLRC

The CLRC celebrated Thanksgiving on Wednesday, November 21st with over 70 workers and volunteers. The table was truly overflowing with delicious food, and there was good conversation all around the rooms. Thanks to Myra Flemister of Wellspring Church who suggested the idea, and to many other volunteers who joined in. Thanks to workers who painted, cleaned, re-organized the space, and provided food and music; and to Dr. Jose Aunon who provided much of the delicious food. Special thanks to the Sully district police for stopping in to visit as well. It was one more dream made reality at the CLRC and we hope to continue the tradition next year.

**WORK - LEARN**  
**RESPECT & DIGNITY**  
**BUILD COMMUNITY**

## El Maestro

-By volunteer Phillip Mariscal

*El Maestro* worked as a Guatemalan professor before arriving to the states. Those viewing him would say that he has a slight build, but with a stringy ruggedness that indicates that he can work in the most forbidding conditions. *El Maestro* taught environmental, social, and family studies to sixth graders in Guatemala. He carries himself with dignity and elicits respect from his colleagues, but one can tell that at times he yearns for the stimulating conversation that only Socratic council in an Athenian courtyard can offer.

During one of my first days of teaching ESL, politics and the presidential election weighed heavily on *Obama Girl's* mind. *Obama Girl* is a regular Saturday student who had been reading books on Barrack Obama at Centreville Regional Library in order to improve her English. On occasion, I take the opportunity to improve my Spanish as well, so *Obama Girl* and I began discussing the pre-election political climate. As on several occasions, I started a conversation in Spanish that became too complex for me to complete. When a topic like politics arises, *El Maestro's* adrenaline pumps and he enters the fray like a World Wrestling Federation superstar rushing the ring accompanied by his favorite rock anthem. As *El Maestro* joined the discussion, I quickly found myself in over my head and questioning myself as to why I start such conversations.

I am quickly blown backwards as *El Maestro* launches into a lecture on politics. I had normally found that my Spanish could hold its own, but *El Maestro* launches devastating salvos at its walls while he lectures on Barrack Obama. I try to slow him down ("*mas lentamente...lenta...mas...*"), but *El Maestro* keeps going and I shake my head up and down in feigned comprehension knowing that I can't stop the professor from teaching, even though he is thousands of miles from his classroom.

## Worker Profile:

Name: Larry

Specialties: Painting, drywall, tile, ceramic

Reason for participating in the CLRC: "It's hard to find work because I have no transportation. At the center, you can get work and have a great experience, meeting people from all kinds of backgrounds." Best job from the CLRC: "It was a moving job; it was a joy to work for such a pleasant person. We worked so hard we got a \$100 dollar tip!"

Secret talent: "I've been told I should have been in politics because I have such a way with people!"



## December 1 OPEN HOUSE

Centreville Labor Resource Center celebrates its first anniversary with an Open House on Saturday, December 1st, from 2-4 pm at the Center, 5956 Centreville Crest La. 20121.

Supervisor Chairman Sharon Bulova will present recognitions from Centreville Immigration Forum (CIF) to supporters who made possible the success of the Center during its first year of operation. Awardees include developer A.J. Dwoskin and Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey.

There will be refreshments and the community is invited. There will be tours of the CLRC office and training area, with staff and volunteers to describe the work of CLRC. Assisting with the event will be volunteers from Alpha Delta Kappa-Beta Zeta, honorary teachers' sorority; and the Westfield HS Spanish Honor Society.

## 2012 CLRC

**354 registered workers**  
**1200 workers hired**  
**100+ volunteers serving**