



Centreville Labor Resource Center

YEAR 1, Volume 12

**Yearly Report
December 2012**

**Breakfast for Religious Leaders Thursday, January 31: stop by anytime between 8:30-10 am
(formal program 9-9:30 am)**

RSVP required by January 28 to CIFvirginia@gmail.com or 703-543-6272

Overview

This is the CLRC's first annual report. In our first year the Center has seen over 800 daily jobs and over \$175,000 paid directly to our workers. For further details, please see our report below.

CLRC Vision for 2013

- from Director Roberto Fernández

Dear All,

I have thoroughly enjoyed my new role here at the Labor Resource Center. Most of my time during the last month has been spent interacting with the workers, volunteers, and staff learning where our synergies need to be focused as we look forward to 2013. Part of my time has

Special guests Sharon Bulova and A.J. Dwoskin at CLRC's first anniversary



been spent visiting and learning from Joe Szakos of Virginia Organizing and also visiting the CASA de Maryland Shady Grove workers center. These experiences have served in providing orientation in my new director role. At the CASA de Maryland Center, we observed a day's operation and took away important points which will help CLRC improve. Among these, the importance of feedback not only from the employer, but also from the worker. This can help us educate and address reoccurring issues. Mr. Szakos provided a wealth of knowledge ranging from ways of getting more community support to attracting more jobs.

In the coming year, our key goals for the short and long-term need to be our driving motivation as the Center prepares for its second successful year.

Short-Term Goals:

- To target outreach to homeowners in an effort to increase the volume of daily jobs.
- To continue peer workshops that focus on new trade skills for the workers.
- To develop workshops that focus on personal development, leadership skills, personal finances, and health

initiatives.

Long-Term Goals:

- To develop a financial partnership with a local bank that will allow and facilitate our workers to open up savings accounts, by using the CLRC identification card.
- To attract more funding and support from local businesses and organizations.
- To increase outreach and education about day laborers to our community at large in order to promote the mission of the CIF.

Alberto Ramirez entertained guests with an acoustic guitar performance.



Roberto Fernandez– Director

Molly Maddra– Coordinator

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Happy Birthday CLRC!

The CLRC celebrated its first anniversary with over 50 friends, workers, employers and volunteers. Like the center itself, the anniversary was a community effort; delicious refreshments were provided by CLRC volunteers led by Ann Gilen, and by members of Alpha Delta Kappa teachers sorority. Members of the Spanish Honors Society of Westfield High School hosted the event alongside CIF board members and other volunteers.

Guests met and mingled with the CLRC's two-member staff team: new Director Roberto Fernandez and Coordinator Molly Maddra. Staff described for visitors some of the activities that take place in different areas of the CLRC including work negotiations, ESL classes and evening vocational skills workshops. Workers from the CLRC also attended to show their support for the center and to speak with visitors about how the center has benefitted them.

The anniversary also drew many important guests and supporters from all over Northern Virginia Supervisor Chairman Sharon Bulova presented awards to major contributors to Centreville Immigration Forum during the past year, including developer A.J. Dwoskin, Centreville Dentist Jose Aunon, and friend Ed H. Rice. Sully District Supervisor Michael R. Frey was unable to attend, and received his award formally at the Supervisors' meeting the following Tuesday. Also recognized were representatives of local churches who have been most supportive with funds and with volunteers during the year; these include Assoc. Pastor Marci Huntsman, representing Centreville United Methodist Church; Pastor Al Fuertes, representing Wellspring United Church of Christ; and Yom Chu Kim, representing Korean Central Presbyterian Church; also recognized were St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church and St. Charles Borromeo Catholic

Church. Thank you to all who attended, we look forward to working with you in the future!

Home Alone with *Chuchitos*, candy canes and lots of laughs.

The CLRC celebrated its holiday party this past Saturday with a potluck style dinner featuring dishes such as seafood Ceviche, Guatemalan *chuchitos*, empanadas and a variety of sweets. The group included about 40 workers, CLRC staff, friends and family.

There were plenty of games and raffled prizes for those in attendance including gift certificates to Grand Mart and Brick's Pizza and two lightly used bikes. A special kids' raffle brought smiles and genuine laughter for the kids. Books, a toy truck and a Build-A-Bear sewing kit were some of the prizes awarded to the delight of the kids.

This year, we also played and competed in a variety of games including Molly's egg and a spoon walk, a balloon over and under relay which



delighted and brought out laughs in everyone.

We also enjoyed live music from Alberto and his guitar. Between songs he reflected on the hardships of being a worker in a foreign land, the past year in the CLRC and also on the friends of the center who had moved but remain part of the center's history. Most of these friends and collaborators are featured in a group photograph that hangs in the Center. He played a number of songs including America and ended the night with a rendition of José Feliciano's *Feliz Navidad*, a song which was a crowd please as it drew a subdued sing-along.

The night came to a close with a modern American Christmas favorite movie screened on the wall. *Home Alone*, or *Mi Pobre Angelito* (Poor Little Angel) in Spanish. The movie drew some laughs and cheers from some of the workers, and it reminded us of the wonderful joy each other's company can bring to our lives. Thanks to all for a wonderful 2012. And get ready for 2013!

Obama Girl

- By volunteer Phillip Mariscal

When I first tried teaching ESL, one of my first students was Obama Girl. Obama Girl has an excellent attitude about learning which she anchors in not taking herself too seriously. Obama Girl impressed me when she informed me that she went to Centreville Regional Library every week to read books in English in order to improve her language skills. My curiosity piqued, I asked Obama Girl what books she read and she told me that she reads about "the life of Obama."

It seemed silly to me that Obama Girl journeyed to the library every week when she could just check the book out and take it home. When I asked Obama Girl why she didn't take the book home, she informed me that she feared that her grandchildren would tear the book up and she would have to return it to the library in tatters.

I took Obama Girl's explanation at face value. I imagined snarling grandchildren bearing sharp canines hovering over Obama Girl's belongings and ferociously obliterating them with sharp raccoon-like claws. Though Obama Girl presents a pleasant demeanor, her face is sometimes painted with resignation. I pondered if years of watching her beloved grandchildren ravage her belongings had slowly brushed this image onto her face.

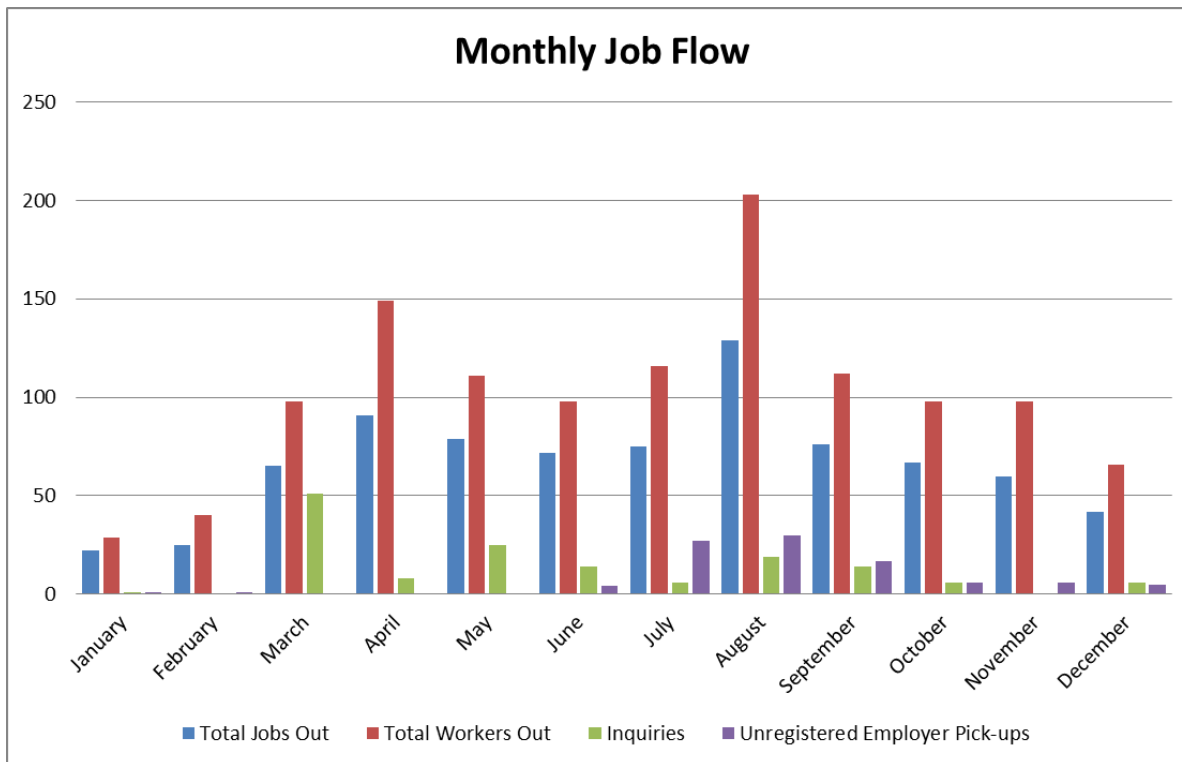
I want to buy the book for Obama Girl so that she doesn't have to worry about her grandchildren destroying the county's property. I go to Centreville Regional Library the following week and acting the genius, I search through the 300 page novels in the library's political section. I think to myself, Obama Girl would have to read a page a day for a year to get through one of these books. Then I consider what kind of book I would read if I were learning Spanish. I certainly would not choose a 300 page novel like the ones I perused. I would begin reading a children's book or something more manageable. I ask the librarian at the reference desk for help and I find the book Obama Girl described. I go home and purchase the cheapest

copy Amazon has and when it arrives, I deliver it to Obama Girl. I have not asked Obama Girl how her reading has gone, but I imagine her spending her evenings sitting on her floor, surrounded by toys, and taping together shredded pages of her book.

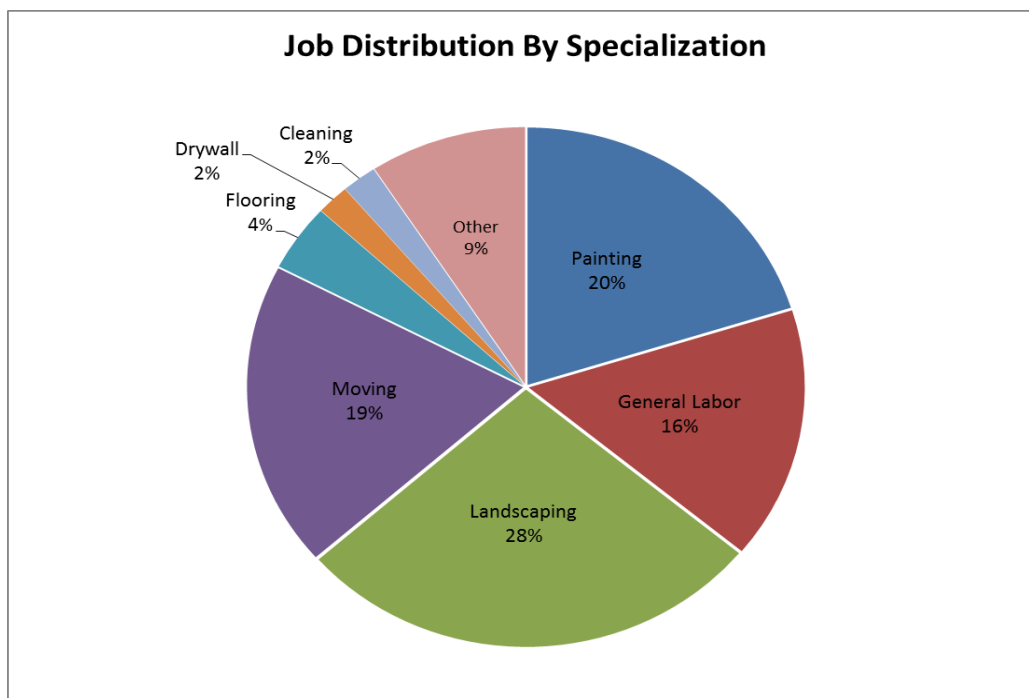
Yearly Report

Below is a series of charts that visually illustrate our first year. From job flow to funding, these charts contain information that is most often requested by employers, donors and individuals from the community. Each chart has a brief explanation of the data. Note the charts on funding and publicity. They are a true testament to the community support and love that blesses the CLRC every day. Both the majority of our funding and the majority of the publicity for the CLRC comes from individuals and organizations from the Centreville community. In addition, the Center saw over 2,500 volunteer hours in its first year. To the readers of this newsletter, thank you! We could not exist without your support! We also challenge you to take a few minutes to talk to at least two friends about what we do and how they can help, especially by employing through the center! We would love to break this year's record of \$175,000 collectively earned by CLRC workers. See you in the new year!

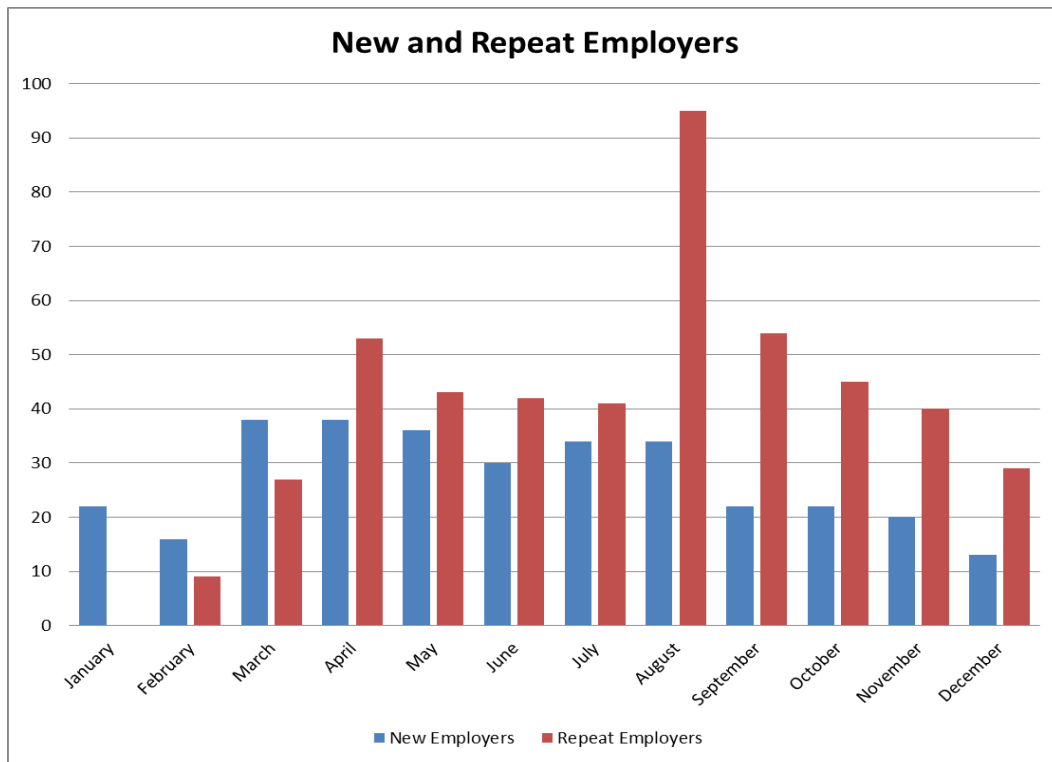
Below is graph of the monthly job flow through the CLRC. In total, over 800 jobs have been arranged through the CLRC leading to approximately 1220 worker-employer matches. There is an average of 1.5 workers per job and an average of 4 workers employed per day. As the chart shows, monthly job flow is largely seasonal, with as many as 15 workers employed daily during peak work times in the warmer months while some days pass, especially during the holidays, without any work. This chart does not reflect temporary job placements that turn into permanent jobs, thus this chart reflects a low estimate of jobs attributed to the CLRC.



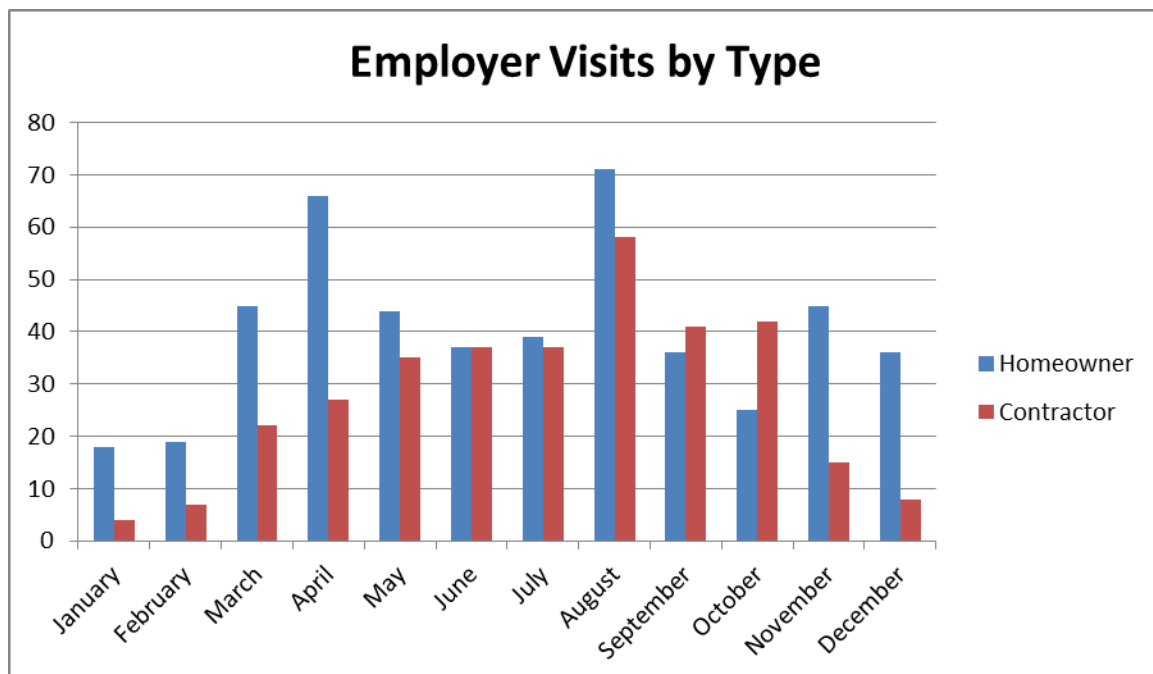
This is a breakdown of the percentage of jobs arranged in the center by specialization. The majority of the jobs are unskilled labor. The CLRC would like to expand job pull in the more specialized areas such as flooring, drywall and painting. By expanding the pool of skilled workers with vocational training workshops, the CLRC will be better able to attract individuals seeking skilled laborers.



One of the best reflections of employer satisfaction is repeated employment through the center. During the first 3 months operations, new employers were the majority. After April 2012, repeat employers make up the majority of employer visits every month.

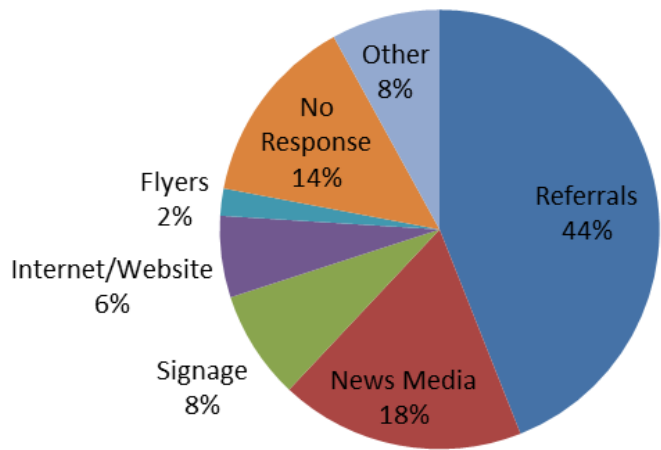


The CLRC categorizes employers into two types, homeowners and contractors. There are some business owners that also use the CLRC who are not technically contractors, but are classified as such for our statistics.



This is a breakdown of how employers hear about the CLRC. This information is collected on the employer’s first visit to the CLRC. The overwhelming majority of employers find out about the CLRC through personal referrals or the news media. Thank you again for your continued support!

Publicity Mediums: How Employers Hear About CLRC



The chart below reflects our major donation sources. Much like our publicity sources, the local community is a huge source of financial support, with individuals and religious organizations contributing half of the CLRC’s yearly funding. The CLRC hopes to maintain this support in the coming year while expanding upon and creating new relationships with businesses and increasing funding from foundations and grants.

Donations by Type

