



Centreville Labor Resource Center

YEAR 2, VOLUME 13

JANUARY 2013

CLRC's New Year's Resolution!

We all have them. This year the Center's biggest resolution is to double its hire rate. How can you help? Take five minutes to tell a friend what we are doing and how they can hire. Those few minutes can turn into days or weeks of work for a talented laborer at the CLRC. When was the last time you did that with 5 minutes?

ADVOCACY DAY

Volunteers from the CIF and workers and staff from the CLRC participated in the Day for all People, organized by VACOLAO (Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations) and the Virginia Interfaith Center at the Virginia House of Delegates.

This event united activists statewide with the mission of educating state legislators about the effects of proposed legislation in the immigrant community. The delegation from the CIF and CLRC had the unique opportunity of meeting with Virginia Delegate Tim Hugo (40th District). Delegate Hugo learned about the



The CLRC-CIF delegation in Richmond.

resources the Centreville Labor Resource Center offers to Centreville residents, the impact the CLRC had in its first year of operations and the strides made with the contributions of friendly organizations, individuals and foundations.

Delegate Hugo also took a few mo-

ments to listen as CLRC workers told some of their stories of wage abuse and marginalization while working in the United States.

The group was later pleasantly sur-



With Delegate Tim Hugo (40th district)

prised when Delegate Hugo offered to give a quick tour of the capital building; they happily accepted.

Workers and staff were also able to speak with Senator Chap Petersen and Senator Dave Marsden. This was the first year that workers from Centreville were able to attend the Day for All People. This was the first contact and their interaction with politicians.

The workers were appreciative to attend the Day for All People and recognized that many would not be afforded the same access or courtesy in their countries of origin.

JANUARY BRIEFS

*January has seen a drop in hiring due to the holidays and the weather. This month the Center arranged 28 jobs, employing 38 workers. During the cold months, the Center has devoted most of its energy to educational programming and outreach activities.

*A second worker-led vocational training workshop has been organized to help workers learn the basics of tiling; this will be the first peer project of the New Year. So far, the group has conducted a planning session and an introduction to tools. The project's ultimate goal is to successfully retiling the Center's floor. The education project always appreciates donations of unused tile, grout and thin-set!

*The CLRC also coordinated a workshop on tax IDs (ITIN), which allows workers without social security numbers to pay income taxes.

Roberto Fernández– Director

Molly Maddra– Coordinator

5956 Centreville Crest Lane, Centreville, VA 20121

703.543.6272 (phone)

703.543.6274 (fax)



NETWORKING
PROFESSIONALS

NETWORKING PROFESIONALS VISIT

On Saturday January 19th, the CLRC hosted the Networking Professionals, an organization dedicated to promoting the cultural integration and education of migrant communities to help them adapt and cope with life in the United States.

President Louisa Meruvia invited various Latino professionals including, Silverio Coy, attorney in immigration law, Eliana Cortez of TD Bank, Ricardo Brun of Aflac, Deputy Hernández with the Fairfax County sheriff's office, Keisy Chávez of Primerica and special guest speaker Francisco Zamora of USAID.

These guests spoke to workers on various subjects including the importance of having personal budgets, financial planning, upcoming immigration reform and how to be better citizens in their communities.

The panelists also shared their personal stories about migrating to the United States and compared their struggles to those of the workers. Although there are some parallels, our workers today face different obstacles and sentiments from Federal and State governments.

The underlying theme of the panelist included a message of hope, perseverance and empowerment, which align with the mission of the CLRC's staff and supporters.

As a result of the panel, the CLRC gained more support from the Latino Community. These relationships are important to the CLRC and it hopes to gain supporters in other immigrant communities within the area.

EL CHIPOTLE BY VOLUNTEER PHILLIP MARISCAL

I play favorites.
I took to my favorite Centreville Labor Resource Center worker quickly. He contains a rare genuineness. He once told me that he sometimes eats breakfast, lunch, and dinner at Chipotle, so I shall address him here as "*El Chipotle*".

When loading up his burrito bowl, *El Chipotle* overindulges in corn salsa because he ate corn and fish daily in Guatemala. While reminiscing on corn, *El Chipotle* groans and holds his stomach as if to sooth an aching void which only moist yellow kernels can fill. Corn represents *El Chipotle's* caviar.

When *El Chipotle* begins explaining his reasons for coming to the United States (U.S.), he says, "in my town, we have nothing," as he crosses and uncrosses his hands in a wiping motion for emphasis. His statement obliterates any attempt that one might make to say, "...but you must at least have..."

"No, we have nothing." His curt tone adds a period the size of a cannonball.

El Chipotle comes from Rio Palmeras, a small central Guatemalan farming town. Rio Palmeras translates in English to river palms. Despite the exotic name, I accept it: Rio Palmeras doesn't compare with Cancun. An internet search reveals that Rio Palmeras doesn't even have a Wikipedia page.

Ok. Rio Palmeras has nothing.

El Chipotle came to the U.S. when he could no longer afford to finish college. His teacher had paid for *El Chipotle's* schooling because he

recognized *El Chipotle* as an elite student. However, with three children of his own, his teacher could no longer pay for *El Chipotle's* final year of college. Nevertheless, *El Chipotle* recently sent his teacher a \$300 camera as a gift for all that he had done for him.

While *El Chipotle* does not wish to return to Rio Palmeras, he calls his mother and brother at least three times a week. He dreams of making money in the U.S. so that he can send it home to help his brother go to college. His mother feels content with *El Chipotle's* progress in creating a life. *El Chipotle* likes to make friends and expresses his requirements without a moment's hesitation – that they have education and Christian faith.

El Chipotle's lack of hesitation when expressing this reflects self-knowledge. He attends church four times a week, and he wants to "keep his life in good standing." Surprisingly, in Guatemala, *El Chipotle* did not practice Christianity or the mores that he lives his life by now.

Upon his arrival to the U.S., a stranger invited him to church and *El Chipotle* learned about self-



mainten-
nance
through a
positive
environ-
ment. For

instance, *El Chipotle* doesn't drink. When I asked him if he has ever smoked, he says, "No!" as if the mere suggestion sickens him. He quips, "I am not a train."

Such responses make me want to join *El Chipotle* at Chipotle for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

FIRST ANNUAL RELIGIOUS LEADERS BREAKFAST**Supervisor Frey's opening remarks.**

The Center hosted its first Religious Leaders' Breakfast. Over 20 members of Centreville's faith community attended the event, enjoying delicious breakfast casseroles prepared by CLRC volunteers.

The formal program was prefaced by a prayer by Marci Huntsman of Centreville United Methodist Church, followed by an introduction by Michael Frey (Board of Supervisors) who shared his continued motivation for supporting the Center.

CLRC staff presented information on presented information on the challenges that day laborers face and how the center is working to combat them. Two workers shared their personal stories as immigrants in the United States and how the center has shaped their experiences. Participants were then informed of how they can help the CLRC; by encouraging hiring, inviting volunteers and staff to visit their congregations to educate them about the Center, donating money and more. The center is blessed and grateful for the support of the local faith community. The Center would cease to exist without the contributions of the local community.

Thank you to all who came and for your continued support and prayers!

**Workers share their stories to the attendees****CIF & CLRC members and staff****MC Terri Angelotti addressing the crowd****Members of KCPC with Rev. Prince Howard**

TESTIMONIAL FROM A VERY HAPPY EMPLOYER

“I hired Carlos and Alejandro from CLRC to do drywall repairs, painting, and light fixture replacements in our home's foyer and several hallways. This included painting all walls, trim, banisters, and doors. These men are true professionals: friendly, skilled, and trustworthy. Their attention to detail and commitment to perfection goes beyond craftsmanship to artistry. Our foyer is now a warm and welcoming place for everyone who enters. Many thanks to Carlos, Alejandro, and the CLRC!”

HOW TO HIRE A WORKER FROM THE CLRC

If you have work you'd like some help on and would like to hire a worker, follow these simple steps:

1. Call us 703.543.6272 or visit us on the web at www.centrevilleLRC.org and click on the “How to Hire” link.
2. Tell us what kind of work you need, how many workers you need and when you need them for.
3. We will match your needs to our registered workers skills and set up the job.
4. Negotiate the price for work.
5. Provide us with feedback after the job to ensure we're doing great work, that you are satisfied and that our workers are fairly paid.

It's that easy!!! The CLRC serves businesses and homeowners who need help with just about any home remodel or maintenance project.



New ceramic tile installed in bathroom

Working on ceiling repairs

