



Centreville Labor Resource Center

YEAR 2, VOLUME 2

February 2012

CIF Board of Directors Meeting: Tuesday, March 26, 7PM at the CLRC

Volunteer Fairfax Awards Breakfast, April 18th

CIF Spring Fiesta, April 27th

Thanks for Latest Donation

Yom Chu Kim, member of Advisory Council and participant in CIF since 2007, last week presented a check for \$1000 from Korean Central Presbyterian Church to the work of Centreville Immigration Forum and CLRC. Many thanks to God for this witness by members of KCPC who continue to be strong volunteers and supporters of our outreach mission in the community.



CIF Volunteers to be Honored

Congratulations to CLRC volunteers who will be honored by Volunteer Fairfax for their many hours of service to CIF and CLRC! Nominated for a Competitive Award and a Benchmark Award is Terry Angelotti, our fearless fundraiser! Terry recently organized the Religious Leaders Breakfast, and she has been

our primary grant-writer during the past 2 years. She has spent countless hours sharing our work with others in the community, and encouraging others to become involved in our mission. Terry is also a



debate coach at Thomas Jefferson and Centreville High Schools, and she is active in her church parish, St. Mary of Sorrows. Terry is an artist, wife and mother. Congratulations to Terry and to her family, husband Neil, and children Kyle, Brendan and Emily. Terry's giving spirit and persistence in service are an inspiration, and remind us of our many volunteers who build a welcoming community every day.

Esther Holtermann is nominated for the INTÉGRATE Individual award, given to a person who is an immigrant, and makes outstanding contributions as a volunteer to oth-



Esther Holtermann

ers. Esther is a very busy college professor, wife and mother, and still takes time to volunteer as an ESL instructor at the Center. With her skills and her warm heart, she reaches out to the immigrants in our community.



Luis Flores

Centreville Immigration Forum is nominated for the INTÉGRATE Group award, as a community organization that welcomes the many skills and talents of immigrants to build a better community for all in Centreville. Named in the nomination are



Carlos Cunha

Board members Carlos

Cunha, Luis Flores, and Alejandro Santiago. Many, many others, including all of the workers at the Center, are part of this nomination!



Alejandro Santiago

Roberto Fernández- Director

Molly Maddra- Coordinator

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Monthly Statistics

The CLRC now has 381 workers registered. Year to date jobs are steadily growing and the totals are greater than last year. So far, the center has arranged 65 jobs, employing 90 workers. At the end of last February, the center had only seen 47 jobs and 69 workers had gone to work. The majority of jobs this year have been in general labor and moving, with few specialized or outdoor jobs.

Wheels and Dreams

-By Coordinator

Molly Maddra

I passed a major milestone this month. I was in my first car accident. A lot of my job involves eliciting responses and generating ideas with workers. Most workers, well, most people really, aren't used to being asked what they think all the time. So my job is a lot like pulling teeth. I could have been a dentist, and made more money.

Talk of the accident was different. The workers took the lead on the conversation. First came the initial, obligatory, concerned questions. Was I ok? Mostly, I did just walk into the office on my own after all. Was the car ok? No. And I show the twisted metal photos, just so I can at least squeeze some fun out of the whole awful ordeal. And the other guy? Probably intoxicated. Then came THE question: what car are you going to get? Of course, I wanted another tiny car that only has room for a modest amount of friends and my biking

gear. Well, the guys did not approve. What I needed was a big truck, you know, to carry big things with. No specific big things, just things. That are big. Or with a big motor that makes lots of noise, with the big tires and stuff. Yes, yes, that's what I should get of course! At 5' 2", I would need a step ladder to get into such a vehicle, but I digress. It doesn't take a psychologist to figure out that the workers are living vicariously through me. I think every single guy in the center has a car fantasy. Most workers, for some reason or another, don't have vehicles and cannot drive. Most are also far from their families and all they have ever known. Therein lies a paradox, here, workers are more alone and self-reliant than any of us, hopefully, will ever have to be. At the same time, they find themselves in a new infancy, they rely on their employers to pick them up, trust them to drop them off, and hope their more fortunate friends will give them a ride at a reasonable price if they need to run errands outside of Centreville. The whole point of coming to the US to work is to become self-sufficient, productive adults, and here they are, stuck in this weird limbo land, knowing they can drive, some with enough money to buy a car, but knowing that it's not allowed.

So, I know that I would look ridiculous in a big truck, and they probably do too, but I'll play along. As many of the workers say "dreams don't cost a thing".

CIF Spring Fiesta!

The CIF spring fiesta will be held at the Centreville United Methodist Church on Saturday, April 27th from 7 to 10 pm. Please come and bring your friends and family for a wonderful evening of music, dance and food! The program will include Guatemalan and Mexican dance groups; and songs from the KCPC Senior Group and from our own Alberto Ramirez. If anyone is anyone is interested in participating as a dancer or as a group, please contact us at contact@centrevilleLRC.org.

None of these festivities would be possible without some truly fabulous volunteers! We need volunteers to help with food concessions during the evening (sign up for a 1-hour shift, 7-9); with set up (5:30-7); or with clean-up (10-11); and with decorating (5:30-7).



Spring Fiesta 2012

Education and Activities at the CLRC

The CLRC continues with its peer education program with plans to wrap up its peer-led workshop in tiling by the end of March, hopefully with both of the Center's bathrooms retiled! Check in next month for photos of the finished products! The tiling workshop has already logged over 15 hours of class time and should be well ready to put their knowledge to use! The CLRC's electricity workshop will be taking an extended break for the spring, many thanks to Fernando Silva, a local electrician who has been leading popular the class for the last three months.



Tax season is coming! The CLRC is helping as many workers as possible get their tax IDs and get their taxes filed. Nelly Pike, a local tax preparer has offered to help the workers in this process, and has already given a presentation on how to prepare all the necessary documents to send to the IRS. For many, getting all their documents together means a trip to the Guatemalan Consulate in Silver Spring Maryland. Some CLRC workers have already made the trip and staff is becoming more familiar with all the paperwork that needs to be done to renew passports, get birth certificates sent from home and many other forms of paperwork conquering necessary to get the job done. Dare we say it, we even have a good time doing it!

TESTIMONIAL FROM A VERY HAPPY EMPLOYER

"I just wanted to let you know that Bobby* and Marco* did an excellent job yesterday...above and beyond the call.

I had a number of problems that cropped up and they were very accommodating...not the least of which was a 4 hour delay when the rental truck blew a tire. They worked unto 11:00 pm saying they wanted to finish the job!! Everything made it over safely.

I would definitely hire them again."

*Names have been changed.

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.