



Centreville Labor Resource Center

YEAR 2, VOLUME 15

MARCH 2013

HAPPY MARCH

Featured in this newsletter is the CLRC's first quarter report for 2013. The Center is showing progress, with a growing pool of repeat employers, job growth is becoming more stable and consistent. Note that March numbers are lower than expected; the cold weather has pushed back the start of the busy work season and we expect the warmer weather in April will bring us some much needed jobs! Despite the cold weather, the CLRC is staying active with worker trainings and workshops, including financial planning and public speaking. CLRC staff also continues to assist workers in arranging for tax IDs and updating their paperwork at their respective consulates. The Center has also conducted its quarterly highway cleanup on Old Centreville road.

VISITING THE GUATEMALAN CONSULATE

March was a busy month. Another CLRC initiative the staff has organized has been to visit the Guatemalan Consulate in Silver Spring Maryland. In total, we have visited the Consulate three times in the last few weeks. The purpose of the trips is to



Guatemalan Passport

help our workers validate their National passports, obtain a consular identification card, or to inquire about case specific situations.

The trips usually have started in the early hours of the morning as it is important to get there as early as possible before the 7:30 AM opening time. The importance of the early

arrival dictates how quickly your process for the rest of the day will be. We arrive and the line outside is long. And the process is longer but hopeful: Get a number for your name to be called, wait for your name to be called, wait for your interview/paper processing session, go back to the waiting area, not once but twice for photos (if you're getting both a passport and the consular ID). Five hours later, success! We have completed the long progression of what seems like a convoluted but necessary process.

In retrospect, the five or six hours would equate to a day or two trek to the nearest town back in Guatemala. So five hours aren't so bad, or so one of the workers told me. The workers have started to realize the importance of having all paper work completed with a possible Immigration reform looming. Now if only the Guatemalan consulate could keep enough blank passports to process them, everything will be okay.

HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST SPEAKER

CLRC staff and a small group of workers attended a talk hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Church of



Guatemalan activist Juan De Dios

Arlington and sponsored by the Guatemalan Human Rights Commission.

Indigenous activist Juan de Dios spoke of the 36 year armed conflict in Guatemala and the trial of ex-president Efraín Ríos Montt, who is charged with war crimes committed during his presidency.

Staff and workers also learned of scholarship programs for youth affected by the armed conflict. For the workers, the experience was bittersweet; while Mr. De Dios brought news of progress and hope, he also noted that corruption, mistreatment and violence directed at poor and indigenous populations is still prevalent and it is the responsibility of the diaspora populations to be alert, conscious and active of the ongoing issues back in Guatemala.

Roberto Fernández– Director

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PUBLIC SPEAKERS TRAINING

The CLRC plans to conduct a number of leadership development activities in the coming year, the first of which was a public speaking training conducted by David Rocha. Workers were given guidelines on how to develop a compelling personal narrative and were then asked to share a short story about their lives. Further trainings like this one are being planned for the spring. The goal of this project is to help workers be their own advocates and gain confidence in interpersonal communications. These soft skills are as important in the work environment as they are in the community as a whole.

ART WORKSHOPS

The CLRC is bustling with exciting activities this spring. Teri Thomas, who is getting her master's in art education at George Mason University, has started a



Teri Thomas, facilitator of the workshop

popular art workshop with CLRC workers.

The CLRC plans to hold at least one workshop a month for workers to improve their skills of artistic expression. The CLRC will eventually plan a public exhibition of worker-produced art to introduce workers to the northern Virginia art community and help workers sell their creations. So far these workshops have boosted the self-esteem of participating workers and created a sense of community among participants, volunteers and staff.

The CLRC is always looking for creative ways to engage the community and help workers build vocational and interpersonal skills. Please contact us if you or someone you know would like to develop and lead his or her own project!

MR. CRANE GOES TO THE UKRAINE

This month we bid *bon voyage* or *feliz viaje* to our former collaborator Devin Crane. Mr. Crane is embarking on the journey of becoming a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Ukraine where he will work for 27 months as an Economic Development volunteer.



Devin Crane Former CLRC Staff

Devin first arrived to the CLRC through the Wellspring United Church of Christ summer intern program and was later hired as part-time staff. Devin collaborated on the day to day operations of the CLRC and had an excellent relationship with the workers and staff.

On behalf of all the workers, volunteers, friends and staff of the CIF and CLRC, we wish you the best of luck on this new venture. We will sure miss you.

Удачі! (Good luck in Ukrainian)

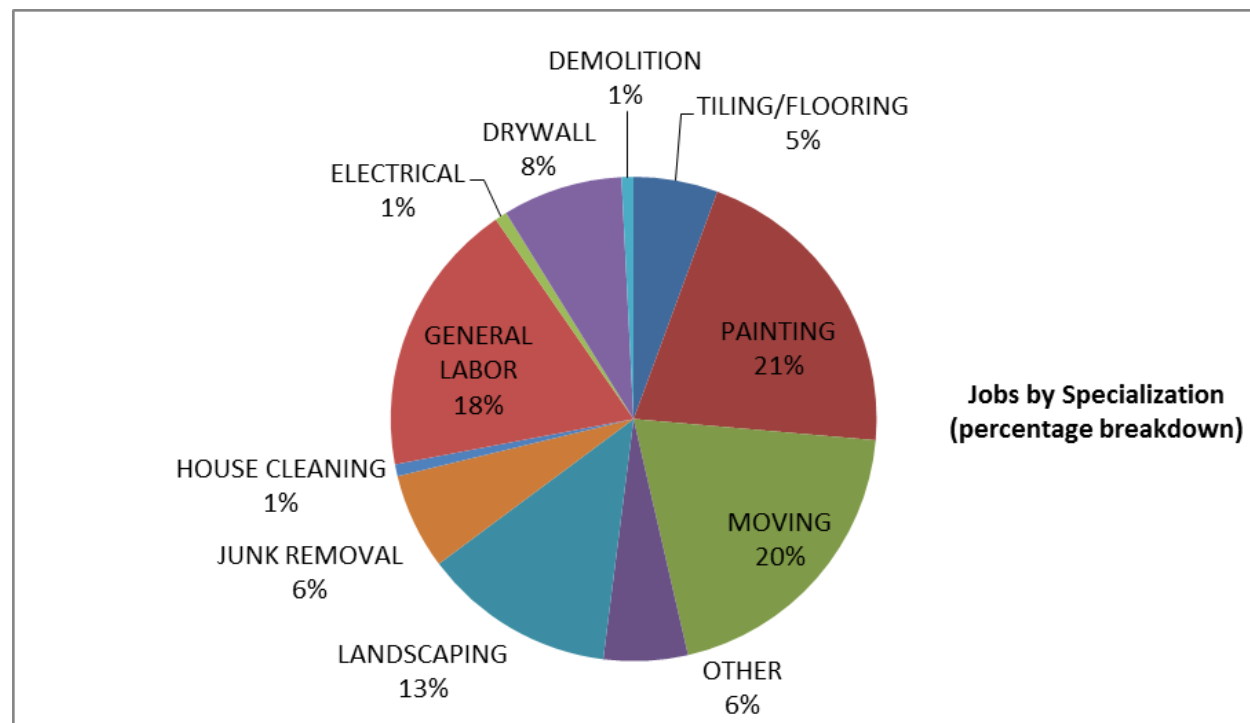
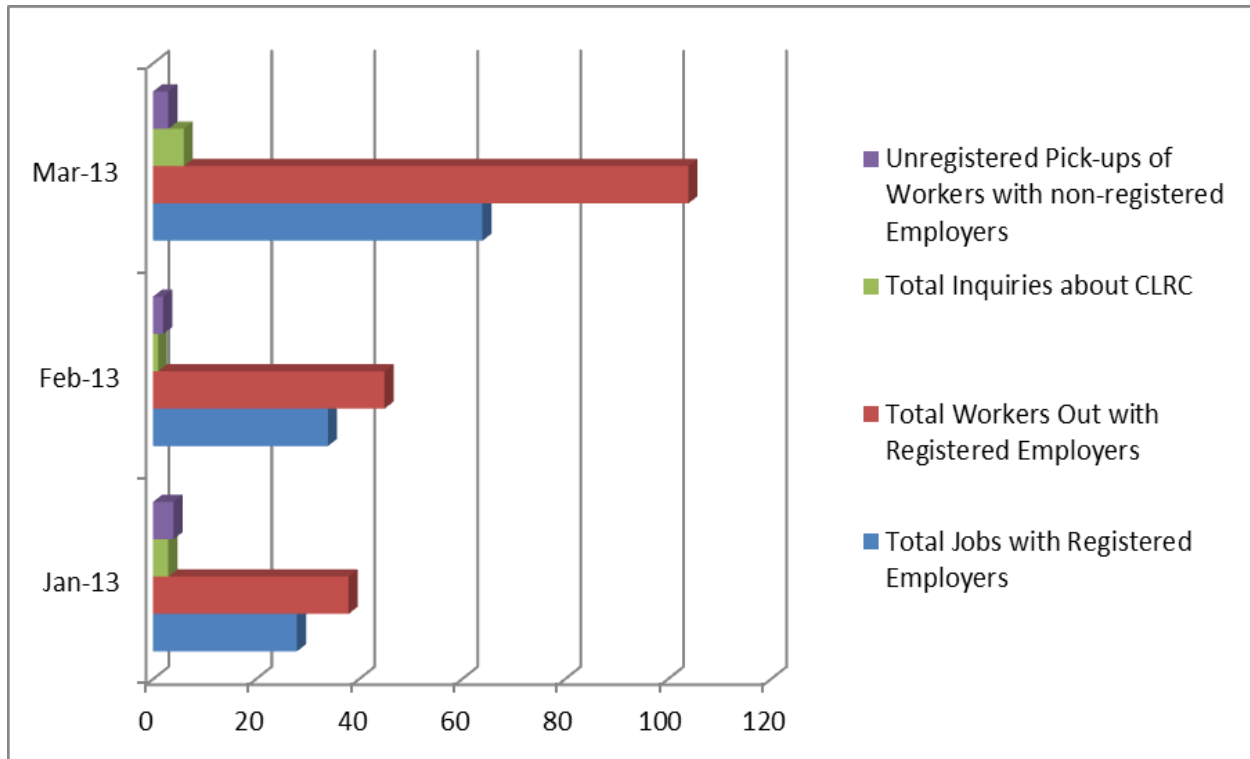
SUMMER INTERNS

Our summer interns are almost here! In partnership with the Wellspring United Church of Christ, the CLRC will benefit from having summer interns this summer. From June to August, the interns will work on several projects benefiting the CLRC, the CIF and Wellspring United. We had the chance to speak to each of the candidates who have applied to the program and found candidates with a wide array of personal and professional experience.

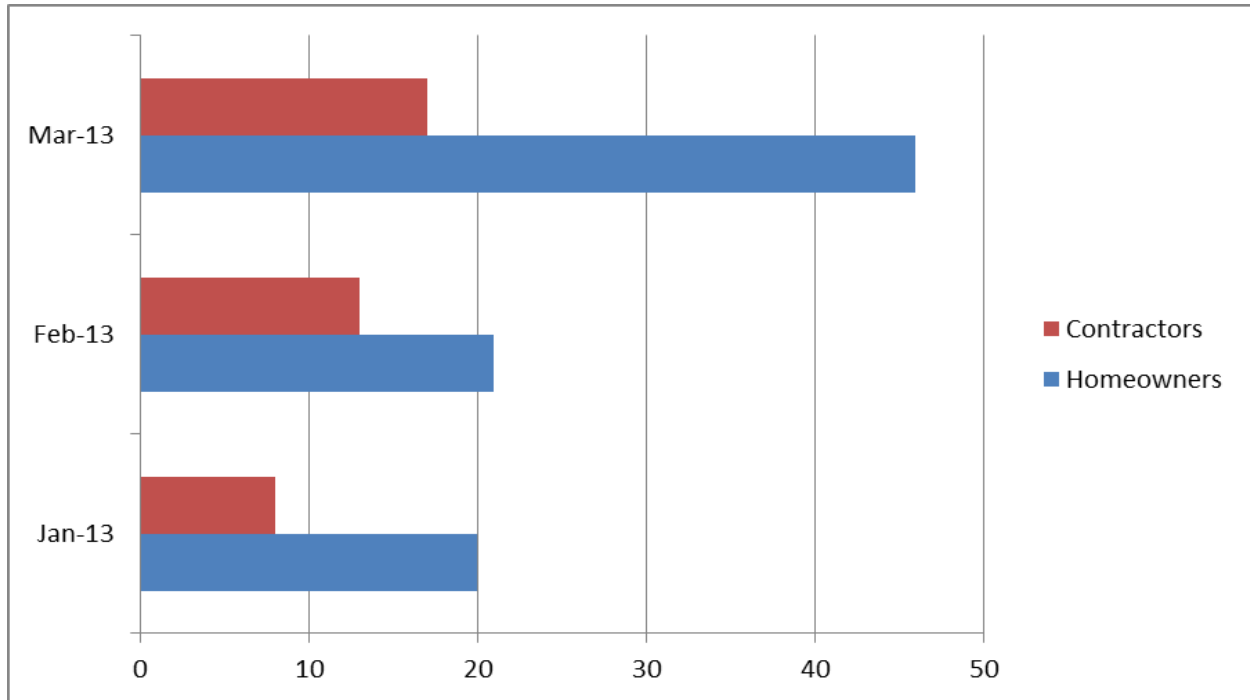
These experiences include NGO work in Africa, service and hospitality industry. Last year our summer interns helped a great deal during our busiest times and the CLRC benefited from having new eyes and hearts helping out the CLRC mission. We look forward to welcoming them for Summer 2013.

JOBS TOTALS THROUGH CLRC

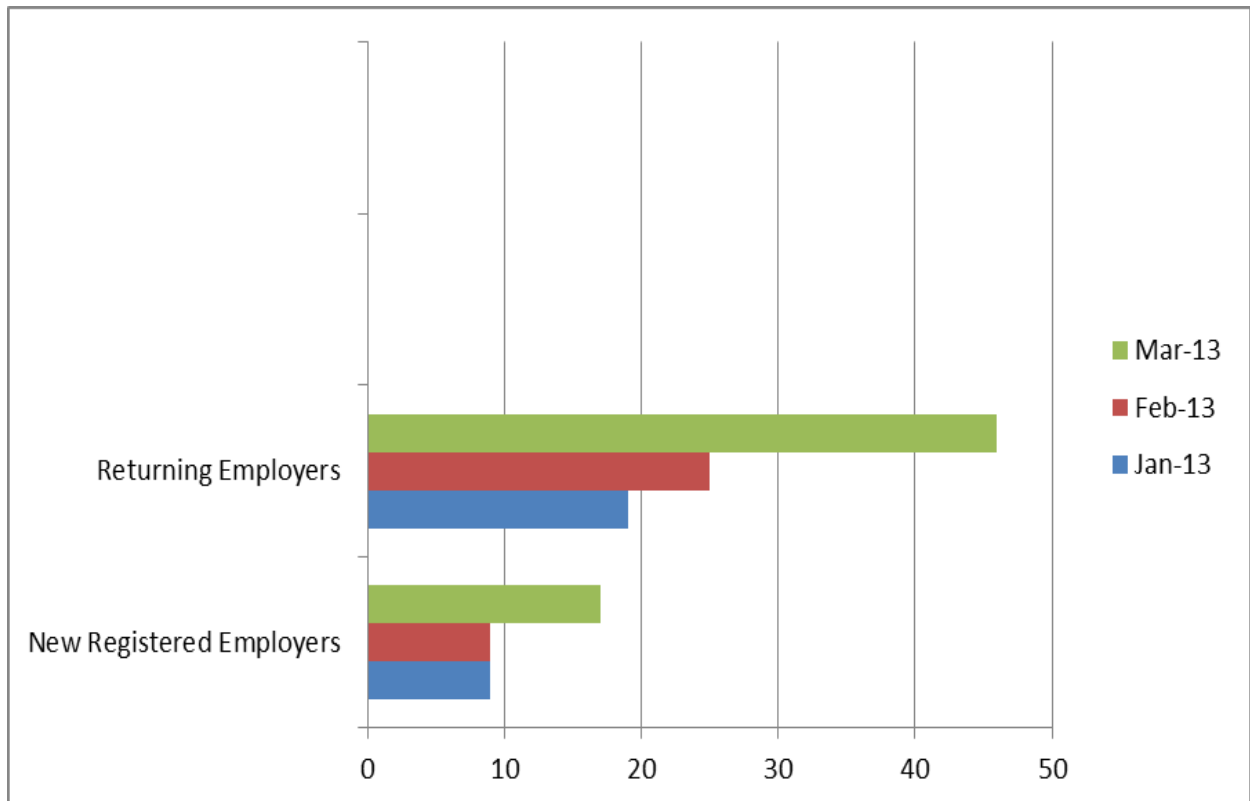
We had a total of 125 jobs in the first quarter of the year, employing 183 workers. Note the high number of returning employers and work through referrals. Please keep those going! And thank you to all who have referred and hired from us.



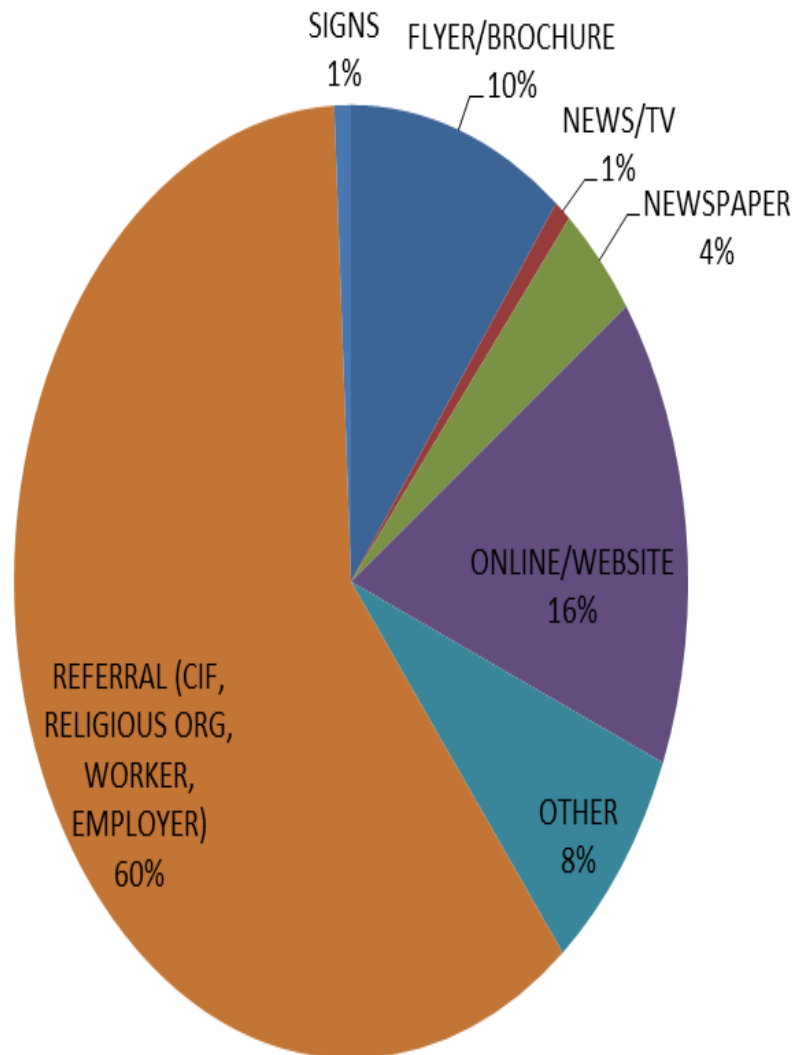
REGISTERED EMPLOYER USE OF THE CLRC



BREAKDOWN OF NEW EMPLOYERS VERSUS RETURNING EMPLOYERS



PUBLICITY MEDIUM DISTRIBUTION JAN- MARCH 2013



TESTIMONIAL FROM A VERY HAPPY EMPLOYER

“Every night for two weeks I would climb in bed ready to go to sleep. and then I would hear it. . . drip, drip, drip. . . and I’d have to get out of my nice cozy bed to close the door to the bathroom to muffle the sound of the leaky shower enough so that I could fall asleep. My husband diagnosed it as a problem with the cartridge and looked online for tips on how to fix it; after watching one video walking him through the process, he quickly decided he did not want to tackle the task. I knew that there were several workers with plumbing experience who were registered with the Labor Resource Center, so I called the staff to set something up. I didn’t want to take my chances as a walk-in employer since I needed someone with specialized experience. Juan drove to my house the next morning and after looking at the job and quoting me a price, came with me to Home Depot to help me find the right part and decide whether to buy the “name brand” replacement or a cheaper replica. It took no time at all for him to do the actual work—a sign of the experience he had with similar jobs. He re-calked the fixture and not only cleaned up the mess he had made, but shined the faucet, as well. Now it doesn’t matter if I remember to close the door to the bathroom on my way to bed. The silence is golden.”

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.



Painting job

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

Working on ceiling repairs

