



# Centreville Labor Resource Center

YEAR 2, VOLUME 4

April 2013

## Next CIF board meeting: Tuesday, May 21, 7 PM at the CLRC

### Monthly Statistics

The CLRC is very pleased to finally have one year of data under its belt so that job growth can be measured. To date, the CLRC has seen approximately 8% job growth, while April alone has seen 16% growth, with 123 jobs employing 199 workers. Please note that March was colder than average, which delayed the start of the work season. All Saturdays in April have brought nearly 100% employments of available workers. However, weekdays are still slow and can use more work to come in. If you know people in need of help during the week to work on their home-improvement projects, please spread the word that we have many workers available to help out during the week!

### International Music and Dance Festival

The CIF held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual International Dance and Music Festival on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at Centreville United Methodist Church. The festival featured delicious Central American food made by CLRC workers and families with other snacks provided by volunteers and staff. The CIF raised over \$6,000 at this event. In addition to the diverse music and dancing, the festival also included a

silent auction, with some special items including a round of golf with Sully district supervisor Michael Frey and lunch with Jerry Foltz, candidate for delegate of Virginia's 40<sup>th</sup> district. Special thanks to: Committee Chair Jim Daniels, Food Chair Tammy Higgs, and Silent Auction chair Carol Robinson, members of Beta Zeta Alpha Delta Kappa. Please check our website and Facebook page for photos in the coming weeks!

The Spring Board match mentioned at the Festival will be continued until May 15. All donations of \$100 or greater will be matched by contributions by our board of directors.



### March For Immigration Reform

The CLRC, within a year and a half of its opening, finds itself in a historic moment. For the first time since the mid-eighties, the possibility for comprehensive immigration reform is very real. Neither the CIF nor the CLRC are partisan political organizations, yet to deny that comprehensive reform could benefit our work-

ers would be irresponsible and insincere. In early April, CLRC workers voted to close the Center for work on April 10<sup>th</sup> to attend a march on the capitol in support of comprehensive immigration reform. The initiative and solidarity of the workers for this march was absolutely astounding.



Workers gathered the night before the march to make signs, with the help of a worker who is also a talented airbrush stencil and artist. Workers also pitched in to help make sandwiches for the march on the morning of the 10<sup>th</sup>. Two buses, generously provided by CASA de Maryland, carried over 60 people to the rally in Washington, DC, which drew tens of thousands despite a record of 91 degree heat. Special thanks to all volunteers who helped with the donation of water and sandwich materials. Most of all, thank you to the worker/volunteers who made sure everyone was safely on the buses before returning to Centreville!

**Roberto Fernández– Director**

**Molly Maddra– Coordinator**

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## Intégrate Award

The 2013 Volunteer Fairfax awards held on April 18 at the Waterford in Springfield. The annual breakfast honors individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions in communities both locally and abroad. Included in this year's nominee list were Mrs. Terry Angelotti nominated for the Adult 250 hours and Over and Benchmark 250

Awards, Esther Holterman nominated for the Intégrate Individual Award, and the Centreville Immigration Forum for the Intégrate Group Award. The CIF won in the competitive category of the Integrate award which represents the efforts and contributions of Bilingual Hispanic Volunteers in the area. This serves as an important recognition to the CIF for its important work through the Centreville Labor Resource Center with the day labor population. Many thanks to everyone who has supported the CIF and the CLRC, your valuable contributions are represented and acknowledge with this important recognition.

Congratulations to Everyone!



## Advisory Council

The Centreville Immigration Forum hosted an advisory council meeting at the home of Ken and Marci Huntsman on April 18. Members of the advisory council were treated to an inspiring presentation on fundraising led by Ellen Cobb Church and Tom Costello. One of the most important messages they delivered was that individual donors compose the large-

est sector of funding for non-profit organizations. The board was also reminded that anyone can be a fundraiser, and that it is the responsibility of each member to use their social networks to spread the word about the work of CIF and CLRC and help raise funds for a prosperous future.

## The Land of opportunity?

-By Coordinator Molly Maddra

I just turned 25. On the day of my birthday, before the smoke from my birthday candle had even cleared, one worker said to me very seriously "soon you will get married and have babies and you won't care about us anymore". By their standards, I'm like milk that's two days past the expiration date; probably not too old but kind of iffy. By US standards however, no one really expects me to get married until I'm near thirty. As a middle class American I am supposed to finish college, then grad school and then work on my career development for at least 5 to 10 years before I can even dream of settling down and starting a family.

Like it or not, we are all shaped by society's expectations of us. Had I been born in a developing country, things would no doubt be different. The same goes for a lot of the workers. In rural Guatemala, where the overwhelming majority of our workers come from, most people have multiple children by the time they are my age. But what happens to the workers that migrated here a decade ago while still childless in their early twenties?

A while ago, on a slow, rainy day at the center, I asked Juan what he thinks his life would have been like if he had never left Guatemala. Of course he would have been poorer, he explained, but at least he would have had a family by now, and he's starting to feel that, now in his mid-thirties, it will be very difficult to find anyone to marry when he goes

back home. People get married and stay married where he is from, late-life marriage does not exist for women. If you miss the time window, you rarely get the chance to ever have a family. There are very few single women from their communities here, and dating outside their cultural group is rare for many reasons, which he explained but I won't repeat here. Here, working in the states, many single workers inhabit a liminal space between their cultural expectations for their age, and their reality as aging adult men far from home. Time stands still here. Work, soccer, repeat. Some days, they won't think about how their extended youthful freedom slowly turns into an unfulfilling rhythm of work and play and... nothing more.

But every once in a while I get a little insight into the lives of many of our workers when I least expect it. It's Thanksgiving in the Center, and Juan is talking to a friend and scarfing down turkey and stuffing, and someone's child toddles by. Juan stops what he's doing, picks up the child, no more than two years old, and starts bouncing him on his knee. I see the sparkle in his eyes when the little boy starts to laugh and tug at Juan's nose and ears. But soon, the boy gets bored, as toddlers do, and wants to get down. Juan hugs the squirming child close, longer than the little boy would like, a kisses him on the head, and puts him down. For just a second, Juan seems much older than I know him to be, like he is about to turn to dust, right in the middle of Thanksgiving dinner. This was not how he planned his life to be, I can read it on his face from across the room. He looks up at me, gives me a slight shrug, and pensively chews the last of his turkey, staring out the window.



Dance and Music Festival 2013 Photos



MC Hubert Graves



State Senator Dave Marsden and Center Organizer Molly Maddra



Translator Luis Flores and Pastor Marci Huntsman



Singer Alberto Ramirez



Guatemalan Traditional Dancers





Korean Children's group



Traditional Korean hammered dulcimer



Mexican Dancing

**TESTIMONIAL FROM A VERY HAPPY EMPLOYER**

“I was so happy with the work Pablo did on my garden! I even had him back the next day to do some handyman work the next day. He’s great with detail, is very honest about any issues that might need further work and is so nice as well!”

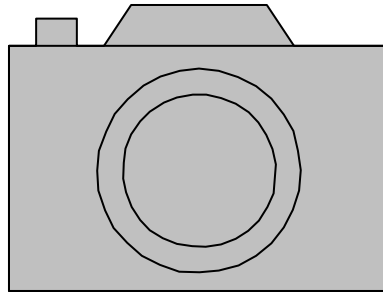
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**HOW TO HIRE A WORKER FROM THE CLRC**

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](http://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.



Do YOU have any photos of some of the great work that CLRC workers have done? Want to help us out with this section of the newsletter? Send us your work photos and they might be featured in the newsletter!