



Centreville Labor Resource Center

YEAR 2, VOLUME 9

SEPTEMBER 2013

Reminders-Upcoming Events

- Centreville Day is October 19 from 8AM-5PM @ Trinity Center
- CIF Annual Meeting (Advisory Council, Board Meeting) October 22 at 7:30pm @ Mt. Olive church
Public is welcome.

Garden Box Update

The CLRC "Green" Garden Box Project has launched! CLRC workers held their first garden box kit creation night on Tuesday, September 2nd. Workers created two completed box kits and finished the initial cuts for at least 4 more boxes. We are still working out the best way to set up an assembly line to create more boxes during our workshop time and a lot



Installed Garden Box

of the guys have some great ideas to try out in October. Someone is now the proud owner of our first two garden box kits! We will hold another production session in early October to have more boxes ready to go! You can come take a look at them at our booth at Centreville Day, Saturday, October 19th. We will be raffling off one of our 2X2 boxes, tickets will be on sale for

\$5.00 Can't make it to Centreville Day? You can still buy a ticket beforehand at the CLRC from 6AM to 12 noon Monday through Saturday!

Suggested donation/pricing for the boxes are listed below:

2x2, 2 boards deep: \$100
2x2, 3 boards deep: \$125
3x6, 2 boards deep: \$150
3x6, 3 boards deep: \$175

Stretching, before working

The CLRC now has a health education volunteer that visits us once a week! She is already inspiring more healthy behaviors among workers (and staff!).

One such change is warming up and stretching before doing physical labor. Proper stretching can greatly reduce the likelihood of muscle injury on the job. So the CLRC has added group stretching to our morning routine, every morning, at 6:30 AM.

In addition to preventing possible injury, it is a great team builder and leaves everyone refreshed and ready to start the day!

The Teachings of Bryan Adams *Molly Maddra*

Being bilingual opens up a whole new world of professional and personal opportunities for anyone lucky enough to acquire a second language. Juan is particularly impressed with my bilingual talents. Of course, I had a university education and years of Spanish classes. But truth be told, I am much more impressed with him. Juan speaks about 4 languages pretty well, and cannot read or write well in any of them except English. He is especially good with English and has an excellent accent. And what does he have to help him along? The music of Bryan Adams.

Yes, Juan has accomplished with Bryan Adams what I have accomplished with 4 years of university and tens of thousands of dollars of my parents' money. I stumbled across a stray notebook one day while I was tidying up the center, and found it full of handwritten Bryan Adams lyrics.

I think I counted "Everything I do (I do it for you)" in there at least 10 times. I was shocked when Juan claimed it; he can only read and write in English, largely because of these copying exercises. I also have to admit that his handwriting is a bit better than mine as well. He went on to show me that nearly all the pages

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front and back, were covered with the lyrics of 80's ballads.

I then started asking the workers who their favorite musical artist was, and at least one out of ten guys says Bryan Adams because he is easy to understand and they feel like his songs really capture what it feels like to be in love. They also seem to have the same affinity for the movie *Titanic*, which can also be a valuable teaching tool. It seems that I am surrounded by hopeless romantics. I seriously doubt that Mr. Adams has any clue how many people he's helped learn English, but I'm sure glad the man is so prolific. I don't care for his music personally, but I will admit that he has served a noble purpose regardless of his sappy lyrics.



Bryan Adams

If we were born in the same conditions as Juan, would we have found our Bryan Adams? Juan went ahead and taught himself English because no one told him he couldn't. I doubt most people have that kind of tenacity without some of the advantages we may inherit at birth. We can only control what we do going forward, and we can all learn from Juan's example. And I'll try a little harder to like Bryan Adams.

GMU Cornerstone

Roberto Fernández

Workers and CLRC staff were invited to speak in the panel discussion, "Narratives of Identity of the New Century College," at George Mason University during the first week of September. The panel was held at the Johnson Center Cinema and was attended by over 170 undergrad students and faculty, who are taking part in GMU's Cornerstone program, which is designed to engage students in small discussion-oriented classes that expose students to different issues. For the immigration portion of the panel, CLRC workers detailed

their personal journeys traveling to the United States, and the reasons which led them to that decision.

"Mark," a CLRC worker who has been with the center for x months, described the difficulties around his decision to leave the comforts and familiarity of Guatemala, for a life unknown as the result of a family emergency. Many GMU students were surprised by Mark's story, particularly because Mark explained that emigrating to the United States was never something he had planned on.

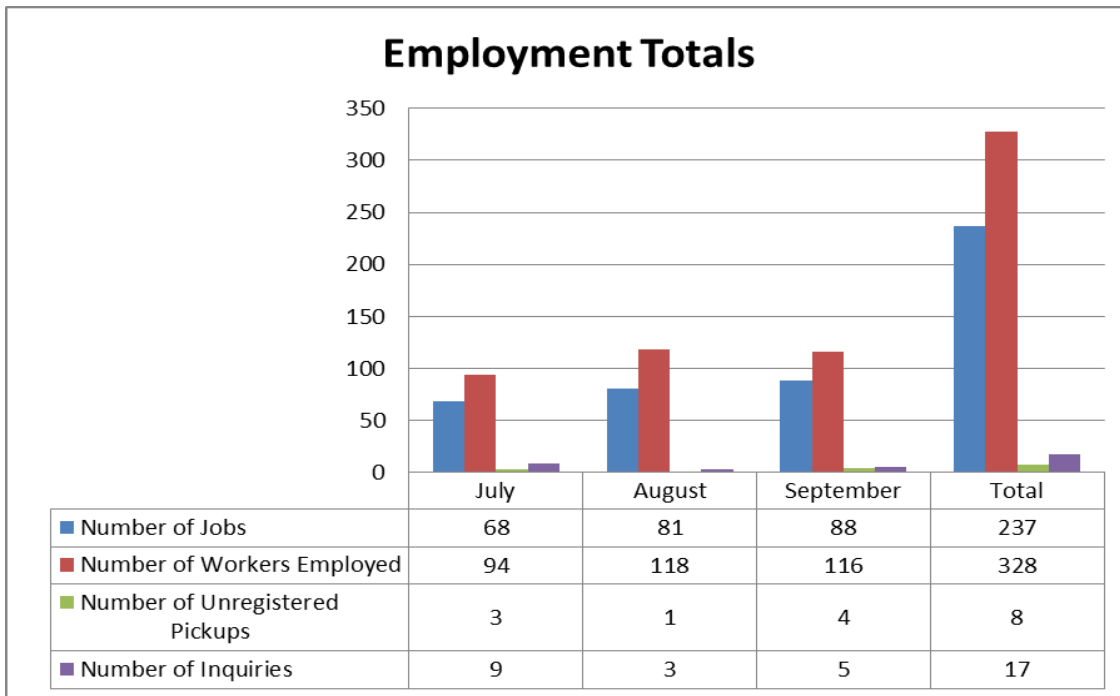
"Laura" shared not only her story, but that of her kids, and how migrating or the "trip" has changed. She described the situation and the way in which her daughter endured the journey, often traveling in packed trailers or vans with poor ventilation. She also spoke about how the economies in Central American countries force people to think about the United States, and the romanticized "American dream," because it is hard to provide for a family on five or six dollars a day, which is the average daily intake for people who are fortunate enough to secure a job.

All of the CLRC worker stories were impactful and educational, but "Adam's" story really resonated with the GMU audience, as they viewed him as a peer. His demeanor is nonchalant, and his ability to make light of any situation gives away his young age. Adam described "facing death" at least three times and wanting to turn around and head back home to his native Guatemala. Due to his friendly disposition, Adam made friends along the way who encouraged him and helped him gain the confidence to continue. Throughout the course of his story sharing, those in attendance developed an emotional connection to Adam, hopefully deepening their understanding of the difficulties faced when emigrating to the United States.

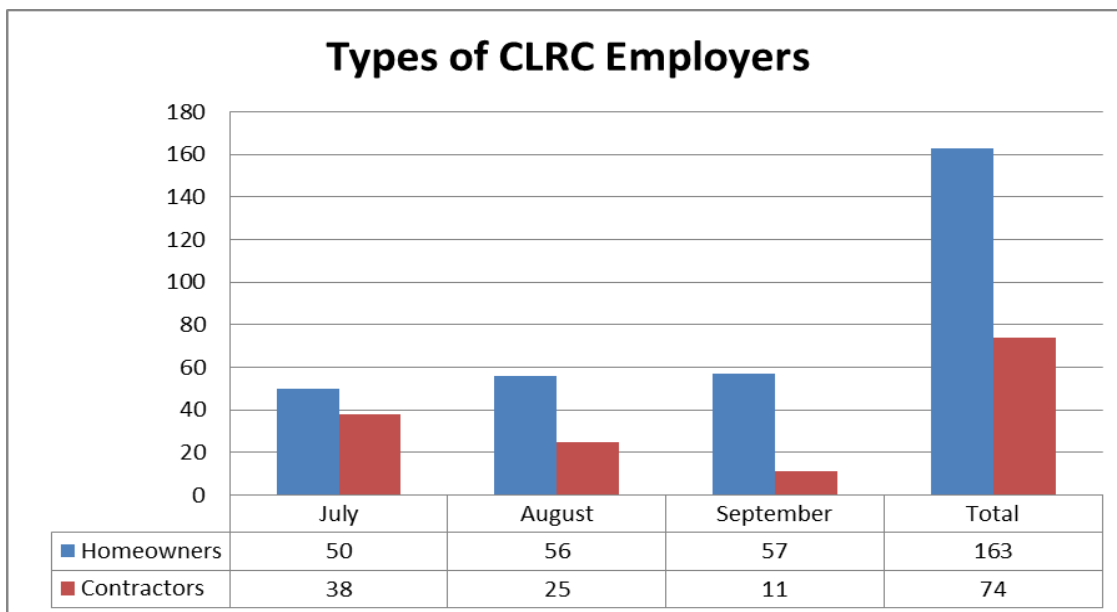
These outreach opportunities are an important part of the CLRC's work. It not only helps our workers to integrate to the community but it also helps to educate the community at large about the reasons day labor exists and de-stigmatize workers. Our mission revolves around the fact that we help people who want to better themselves and will stop at nothing to succeed.

JOBS TOTALS THROUGH CLRC

We had a total of 237 jobs in the third quarter of the year, employing 328 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.

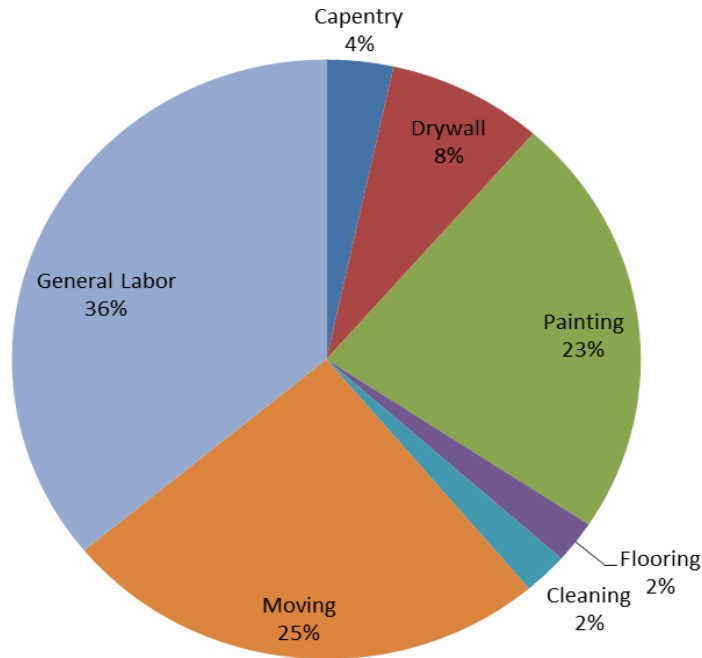


Above is a chart of CLRC's job totals for the third quarter. Note that there has been a steady rise in jobs going into fall, which may continue into October.



Above is a breakdown of the different types of CLRC employers. There has been a steady decline in employment from area contractors as we move closer to fall, while homeowner visits are on the rise.

Types of Jobs at the CLRC



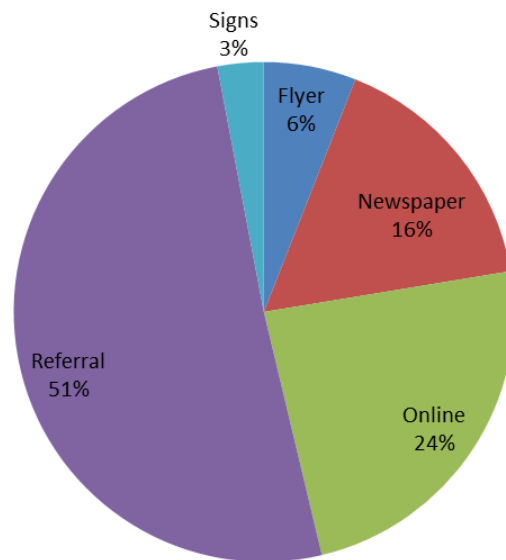
This graph shows the different categories of jobs that leave from the CLRC. While the majority of jobs fall into unskilled labor, there is growth in the skilled trades such as painting and drywall.

New and Returning Employers



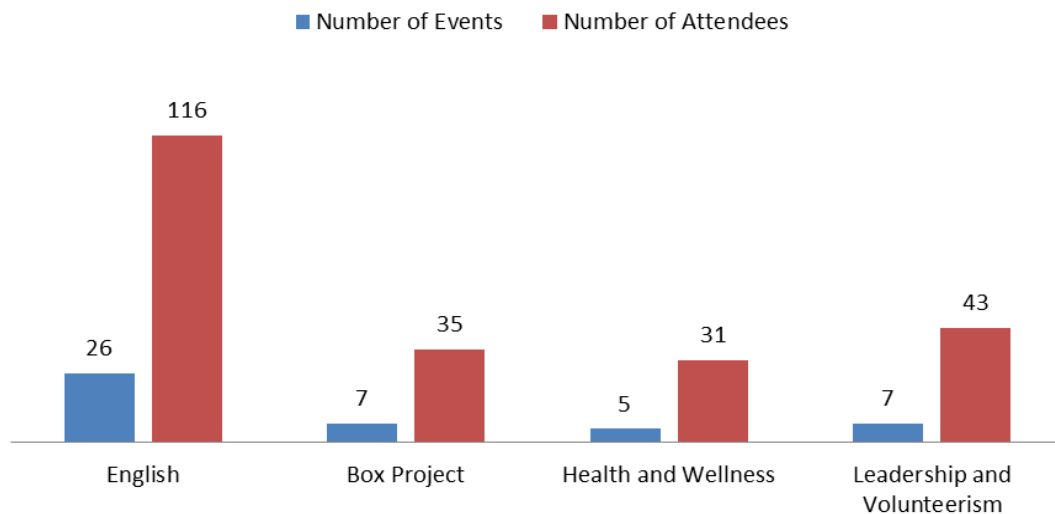
The number of new employers is slowly declining towards the end of the quarter, while the number of returning employers is rising. Keep in mind that a new employer one month may be a returning employer the next.

How People Hear About CLRC



Above is a graph depicting the various ways people hear about the CLRC. Word of mouth referrals remain our greatest source of new employers while our online presence brings in about one quarter of new employers. Thanks to some positive press this quarter, 16% of our new employers came in because they read about us in the newspaper.

Education and Volunteerism



The CLRC has some new programs this quarter. While English is still the most popular activity at the CLRC, workers are also participating in our various leadership development and volunteer projects such as speaking to students at local schools and universities. There have also been seven activities associated with the CLRC's garden box project which have been well attended. Thanks to a new health education volunteer, workers are also participating in a health assessment survey and health education workshops.

TESTIMONIAL FROM A VERY HAPPY EMPLOYER

“Just wanted to let you know “Sebastian” was a great help in moving on Saturday and [we] could not have completed the job without him. Now that my friend is moved I can refocus on my own home projects. I will be needing 2-3 guys to help me fix my cracked driveway.” 10/1/2013

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.

Featured Jobs workers have done

Prepping for painting



Painting window frame

Available only at CLRC: **GARDEN BOXES** for raised beds or cold frames
All-natural chemical-free treated cedar.

Start your own organic garden, or give a special gift to a gardener!

Call [703-543-6272](tel:703-543-6272) for details or visit <http://www.centrevillelrc.org/p/green-garden-box-project.html>