



Centreville Labor Resource Center

YEAR 2, VOLUME 10

OCTOBER 2013

Reminders-Upcoming Events

- Thanksgiving Dinner November 24 5 PM
- Board Meeting November 26 7 PM
- December 7 Anniversary Open House 1-3PM
- End-of-year donations to CLRC can be made online; go to www.centrevilleimmigrationforum.org

Garden Box Update

Congratulations to Young Cho, winner of the "Centreville Day Raffle". Mr. Cho is the lucky recipient of one of our 2x2 kits. If you would like one for your home, they are available at the Center from 6AM to 12 noon Monday through Saturday! Or you can inquire about one at our website, where photos and more information is available.



Installed Garden Box

Center workers held two garden box production nights at the CLRC in October, making 5 boxes total. Workers are always finding innovative ways to divide their labor and streamline our process. We are more and more capable of working quickly with each new production session. Since our "launch" in September, three boxes have found happy, loving homes and will bring years of deli-

cious food and/or beautiful flowers to their new owners!

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

Centreville Day

Thank you to all who visited the CLRC's display at Centreville Day! Workers and staff were present throughout the day to greet the community and enjoy the diversity and history of the Centreville Community. We had a busy booth, with a garden box kit available to raffle, Guatemalan handicrafts for sale and a display of worker created art that can be found decorating the walls of the CLRC. We look forward to participating next year!



Volunteer Training

The CLRC is focusing on improving its volunteer program for 2014. New volunteer guidelines and job descriptions have been created, including positions for health educators and Spanish literacy instructors. A volunteer training and orientation was held on October 26th at the CLRC to orient new and former volunteers to our new policies and to provide them with helpful tips on how to teach and manage an adult classroom. The CLRC also continues to search for volunteers to lead vocational training workshops to increase workers' job skills. The Center also has need of a Wednesday morning ESL instructor. Please contact Molly Maddra at coordinator@centrevilleLRC.org for more information.

Holiday Ornaments

Be an angel for CLRC this Holiday season! Donate to a project that helps our workers support their families. The CLRC's tree has original ornaments, and you can choose one in exchange for a donation. Give a loved one a different gift this year, a gift that will help others.

The ornaments will be on display soon at the Center.

Roberto Fernández– Director

Molly Maddra– Coordinator

5956 Centreville Crest Lane, Centreville, VA 20121

703.543.6272 (phone)

703.543.6274 (fax)



OCTOBER RALLY

CLRC workers and staff participated in a second rally for immigration reform this year. While this rally on the Mall was a bit smaller than a rally earlier in the year, participants found it to be more intimate and meaningful. The popular Mexican music group Los Tigres del Norte (The Tigers of the North) gave a short concert free of charge for participants and also invited US citizen children who had lost one or both parents to deportation to speak on stage about their struggles.



Workers were also pleasantly surprised to see 8 US senators participate in a civil disobedience action that led to their arrest. Most have never seen elected leaders take such actions on their behalf. It was an emotional and unforgettable experience for all in attendance, including Coordinator Molly Maddra's mother, Linda, who had never participated in a rally on the capitol. Thanks to all who came out to support CLRC workers and those like them!

MAKING IT IN THE U.S.

Molly Maddra

Why can't we all just get along? We often ask ourselves this at the CLRC. Some CLRC workers are distrustful of other immigrants who come to employ workers. True, the CLRC has only had 3 cases of non-payment since it opened, but out on the streets the problem is still fairly common, and most common is simply low wages. The most frequent offenders, we're told, are other immigrants.

A lot of us, myself included, come into this sort of work thinking that other immigrants, having established themselves successfully here would empathize with those who are still struggling.

Pablo in particular had an anecdote that illustrates this process perfectly. He had a friend that finally got enough money saved and bought a work truck. He took on some contracts under the table for a while, then got his LLC, licensure, etc, and got his remodeling business off the ground. He had achieved the American dream. He had promised to make Pablo a partner since he had been with him since the start; that they were like brothers. Then the boss bought a very large, expensive house. Pablo saw his hourly pay drop. "It's ok Pablo, I'll pay you more once I make a little more money to pay off the house" he said. Then he bought a home theatre, Pablo saw his wage drop again. "But I'll invite you over for the game! I'm still the same as I always was!"

Eventually, Pablo decided to quit. After all, he had all the same talent and drive as his boss, just not the startup capital. I asked Pablo and a few of his friends what they would do differently if they were ever able to start their own businesses. "Oh, I would pay my workers well, and give lunch!" said one. "And I would pay a good painter at least \$16 an hour, because I know what it's like to be paid less than what you're worth!" Pablo exclaimed with a gleeful smile. I really hope he remembers years from now.

This is the story of America, where all of us descended from immigrants who faced struggles in the early years. We easily lose our understanding of others, and this goes along with forgetting our own stories. Volunteering at the Center, getting to know the hopes and dreams of folks who are struggling today, helps us to remember our own stories as well as the values and needs that we all share with others.

CIF Annual Meeting

The CIF held its annual meeting on Tuesday October 22 at Mt. Olive Baptist Church. Thank you to Mt. Olive for hosting. Roberto Fernandez presented on Center progress this year, highlighting our successes in job growth and worker education. The 2014 budget and treasury report was also shared with attendees.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of volunteer awards to CLRC's top volunteers. Both workers and community members were honored by Supervisor Michael Frey and received a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the CLRC. The awards were followed by a quick activity led by Yasha Arant to help generate marketing ideas to help more CLRC workers get jobs. The meeting concluded with refreshments and a social hour.



Congratulations to all of the recipients of our Volunteer Awards. And a special thank you to Supervisor Michael Fry for his attendance.

TESTIMONIAL FROM A VERY HAPPY EMPLOYER

“I did not know about your Center until a worker referred me and actually showed me where your office space is located. I hired 3 workers to help me put up a metal fence on my property. I wanted to let you know that all three workers did great, but especially Antonio. I want to commend his energy and work ethic. He is a great young man with great leadership skills.” 10/29/2013

HOW TO HIRE A WORKER FROM THE CLRC

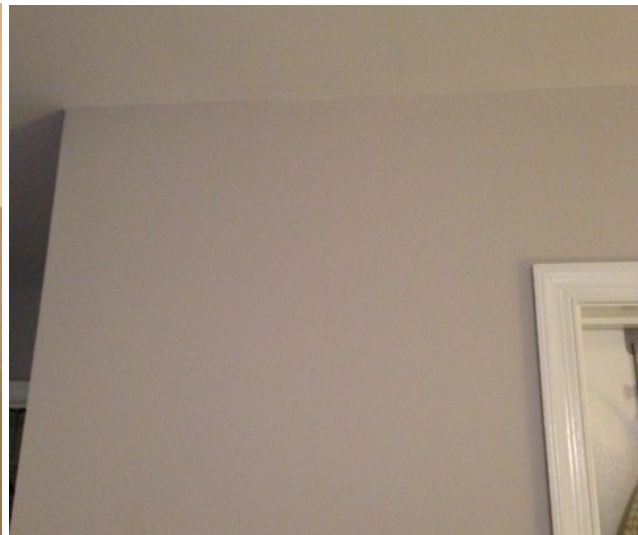
If you have work you'd like some help on and would like to hire a worker, follow these simple steps:

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.



Drywall patch work (Before)



Drywall patch work (After)

Featured Jobs workers have done

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>