



## ***Centreville Labor Resource Center***

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December 11, 2011

Friends:

I am happy to report a very positive opening week for the Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC)! The first week of operation was filled with anticipation, inquiries, press coverage and a good number of workers who decided to come inside, learn, participate, and contribute to the operations and well-being of the CLRC.

Press coverage included NBC 4 News, WAMU Public Radio, and the Spanish language channel Telemundo. We are also grateful to have been included in the Centreville Patch, the Fairfax Times and the CentreView, as well as the Spanish language periodical Washington Hispanic. The media coverage has provided us a wonderful way to spread word to the community about our mission here at the CLRC to resolve local tension issues by providing a space out of the local thoroughfare for work negotiations to take place.

We have 51 workers registered as of closing on Saturday, December 10. This includes several non-immigrant workers, looking for temporary employment. When conducting counts for the late fall season, we usually are counting around 100 workers congregating on the streets, coming and going, throughout the morning hours. In consideration of these numbers, an initial registration rate of approximately 40-50% is a great success. The Herndon Center, by way of comparison, began its operations at the same time of year and it took four months to attract close to 100% of the day laborer population to their center. We will post volunteers on the street every day next week to communicate the need to use the CLRC directly to the employers, with flyers in Spanish, English and Korean.

From the worker community, we have identified certain challenges. Even with an approximate 40-50% registration rate among the laborers, we need to attract more to the Center. Many are resistant, fearful of change, scared of the unknown, wary of a different way of doing something they are accustomed to doing, and terrified of possibly being corralled into a single location so that ICE would come by and take everybody away.

Another challenge we face is the attraction of employers to the CLRC. It has been a very slow week for employment. Although a slow turnout for employers was expected due to the time of year we are opening, the reality is definitely a bit disappointing. However, we have had several potential employers, mainly residential homeowners, contact the CLRC to inquire about our services, to see the Center, find out about our operations, and to thank us for what we are doing in the community. The response has been positive. The community reports that they have heard about us through the media, that they have seen the signs we put out, or that they have followed our progress and wanted to see the CLRC in operation for themselves. There has been only one negative visit to the CLRC in the first six days of operation, although five of our seven black and white directional signs have been stolen from the street during the

hours we have had them posted, between 6 a.m. and noon each day. We need extra hands to assist with giving directions to employers, to show them that the location of the CLRC is actually quite convenient!

We would like to ask your help, to encourage friends, neighbors and families to take advantage of our services. We need to continue to build a strong reputation of good workers among the general community as well as a reputation for advocating fair wages and good jobs among the day laborer community.

Please consider the gutters that need to be cleaned, the housework that needs to be completed before holiday guests arrive, furniture that needs to be sanded or finished, and snow removal when Winter decides to show his face. Spread word to your neighbors and friends that we have the hands to help you! We also have need for volunteers to assist with operations and traffic direction in the morning; any time you can give is a gift and is greatly appreciated.

Thank you all for the kindness, generosity and support you have shown us in donating your time, energy and attention to the opening of the Centreville Labor Resource Center. I always welcome your comments, ideas, questions and wisdom, so please do not hesitate to contact me. Together, we will make a huge difference in the community!

Sincerely yours,

Shāni Moser, CLRC Director

***Centreville Labor Resource Center Statistics***  
***Week 1, December 5-10, 2011***

<i>number of workers registered</i>	<i>number of employers registered</i>	<i>number of workers hired</i>	<i>average number of workers in center per day</i>
51	11	13	13