



# Multicultural Family Center Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

FALL 2009

**Building unity out of diversity.**

## New beginning for the MFC

### Current programs:

- After-school homework help
- NICC ESL classes
- Teen night
- Housing first Time Home-buyer classes
- Foreign language classes
- Family literacy backpacks
- All-Stars Program
- Operation: Employment
- Family movie nights
- Computer training
- Job skills training

On July 9, 2005, the MFC officially opened its doors to the public. The MFC was developed to give the changing needs in the Dubuque community.

Due to substantial increases in participation and programmatic offerings over the first three years, it became clear the Center had outgrown its 600 square foot location. In 2008, a partnership was formed between the City of Dubuque, Dubuque Community School District, and the MFC. The partnership resulted in the acquisition and remodeling of the MFC's new location, 1157 Central Ave. The new 6,200 square-foot site includes a

kitchen, family room, multipurpose classroom, computer lab, language-learning lab, conference room, and offices. The Grand Opening was held September 19, 2009.

The Multicultural Family Center empowers all families and community members of Dubuque to reach their potential and build unity out of diversity. We offer a variety of programs (listed on the side of this newsletter) that target families, adults, and middle and high school youth for programming. For more information, please call or visit us! Our hours of operation are Monday-Friday 9am-8pm and Saturdays 9am-1pm.



The new Multicultural Family Center is located at 1157 Central Ave. Photo by Abigail Cahak.

### Special Thanks to our Funders:

- City of Dubuque
- Community Development Advisory Commission
- Young Professionals of Dubuque
- Prudential Foundation
- Alliant Energy
- Bell Tower Theatre
- Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque
- Great Midwestern Educational Theater Company
- ISU Dubuque County Extension
- Loras Education Department
- Mediacom
- NICC
- Mystique Casino
- Theisen Family

### Meet the staff!

In addition to the new facility, mission, vision, strategic plan, and Board of Directors, the MFC also has a new staff! Tara (Nelson) Velez was hired in July of 2009 as Director of the MFC. Her history with the MFC goes back to its beginning and she has been a key player in the redevelopment of the Center. Assistant Director Antonio Mouzon is a student at the University of Dubuque who has a wealth of experience working with kids and will be leading the Dance Club at the MFC. There are several new AmeriCorps on board, includ-

ing: Abi Cahak, VISTA; Maddy Cairney, Volunteer and Program Coordinator; Janice Craddieth, African American and Neighborhood Liaison; Maitha Jolet, Marshallese Liaison; Dora Serna, Hispanic Liaison; Linda Osterkamp, Senior/Intergenerational Liaison; Benjamin Dever, Teen and Pre-teen outreach; Ben Kurt, Project HOPE; and Marrichelle Glover, Family Literacy Liaison. We are all excited to be in our new facility and working with the community. Please stop by!

### Upcoming Events and Programs:

Multicultural Celebration "Dia de la Raza"	<b>10/17</b>
Dance Club	<b>10/22</b>
Family Art Night	<b>10/27</b>
Drama Club for ages 4-7	<b>11/9</b>
Drama Club for ages 8-14	<b>11/13</b>
Welcome Programs	<b>TBD</b>

## Multicultural Family Center

1157 Central Avenue  
Dubuque, IA 52001  
Phone: 563-690-6043  
E-mail: [mfc.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:mfc.volunteer@gmail.com)



**Building unity out of diversity.**

### Got homework? We can help!

The new Multicultural Family Center is now proud to offer after-school homework help for all middle and high school students! Help is available every Monday-Friday from 3:00PM-5:00PM. Homework help is offered by Dubuque Community School District teacher, Tony Liriano, and MFC staff and volunteers. Tony currently teaches ESL at Senior High School. In addition to homework help, the MFC will host special programming 3:30-5:00on Tuesdays for middle and high school students and on Wednesdays for elementary students.

## Annual NAACP banquet set for November 5

This year's Annual Freedom Fund Banquet organized by the Dubuque Branch of the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is scheduled to take place at 6:30pm on November 5 at the Holiday Inn, 450 Main Street in Dubuque. The banquet is now in its 21st year and annually celebrates the goals and achievements of the NAACP as well as community members who embody a commitment to the NAACP's cause.

The first chapter of the NAACP was formed on February 12, 1909 in Springfield, Illinois partly in response to the city's Race Riots of 1908. The majority of these founding members were white community members who became appalled by the events of 1908 and called for racial justice. Their voices were

joined by prominent African American leaders including W.E.B. Du Bois and Ida B. Wells. This year celebrates the 100th anniversary of the NAACP. Dubuque's local chapter was chartered in 1989 and has been active since its founding.

All proceeds from the Freedom Fund Banquet go to support the Martin L. King Jr. K-12 Essay Contest. Last year's banquet was attended by more than 100 community members. Performances included the University of Dubuque Gospel Choir as well as a poetry reading and keynote speech reflecting on civil rights during the last 40 years. During this annual banquet the Ruby Sutton Humanitarian Award will be presented to a local community member who has contributed to diversity and equality in

Dubuque.

For more information on the Dubuque chapter of the NAACP, the Annual Freedom Fund Banquet, or how to get involved with the NAACP, please contact Kathy Sutton at (563) 495-0660.

