

Multicultural Family Center Update

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

MARCH-APRIL 2010

Building unity out of diversity.

Food for Thought

Current programs:

- Youth/Adult book clubs
- NICC English classes
- Art classes for young adults
- Operation: Employment
- Foreign language classes
- Family reading night
- All-Stars (grades 5-8)
- Family art night
- Computer and job skills training
- Food for Thought
- Drama Club
- Girl Scouts

Upcoming Events and Programs:

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|---------------------------|------|
| Family Art Night | 3/16 |
| March Birthdays | 3/20 |
| First Bluebird Fieldtrip | 3/20 |
| Food for Thought | 3/20 |
| Family Reading Night | 3/23 |
| Y trip for teens | 3/27 |
| Second Bluebird Fieldtrip | 4/3 |
| Family Reading Night | 4/15 |
| 3rd Bluebird Trip | 4/17 |
| Family Art Night | 4/27 |
| CCC Family Programming | 4/29 |

We want to hear what you have to say! On March 20, we will kick off our new program “Food for Thought”. Twice a month we will invite the community to gather at the MFC for a meal and a presentation or discussion on topics chosen by community members.

Here’s how this pilot event works: We give you food, you give us your thoughts! This is your opportunity to tell us what topics are important to you and who you want presenting each month. Do you want to know more about healthy living? Are

there opportunities in Dubuque that you’re missing? Would you like to be more involved in the community? Why do Dubuquers play Euchre? On March 20, lunch will be served at 11:00am and then we will have a discussion to brainstorm and rate potential topics.

This is a chance to socialize with fellow Dubuque residents and build community. It’s also a time for us to challenge ourselves to make a change in our lives that will benefit us in the long run. Take the first step on March 20 by coming to the

MFC and sharing your ideas!

This is a free event and it is open to the public. Bring your friends, family, opinions, and your appetite and join us from 11:00am-12:30pm on Saturday, March 20 at the Multicultural Family Center.

MFC Girl Scouts

The MFC is now hosting Girl Scout troops for elementary (Wednesday) and middle (Tuesday) school girls! Call or stop by for more info!

Taste of the World Update

The Multicultural Family Center would like to thank YOU for helping make our first annual Taste of the World Fundraiser a huge success! Whether you attended, volunteered, hosted a food or activity booth, performed or donated, you helped us get closer to reaching our goal. Our 500 passports were gone by 12:30—only 2.5 hours after the event began!

We would like to thank our funders for making this event possible: Prudential (Platinum Partner), Theisen’s Home Farm Auto (Gold Partner), Dubuque Bank and Trust, Faces and Voices, and Runde

Chevrolet (Bronze Partners), as well as our many Community Partners: Church of the Resurrection, City of Dubuque—Housing & Community Development Department, Doug Henry and Martha Fuerste, Gregory Paulsen and Mary Coan, Jim and Mary Schumacher, Kendall Hunt Publishing Company, Optimist Club of Dubuque, Progressive Processing, Rock of Ages Missionary Baptist Church, Rita Schueller, Sisters of Mount St Francis, Sisters of the Presentation, Stephanie Nelson & Diego & Tara Velez, and The Metrix Company.

The event raised \$26,000, which will be used to fund current programs, as well as create new programs to better serve the community.



Board Member Tracey Gallery (Prudential) lends a hand at the Nepalese food booth.

Multicultural Family Center

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Hours: M-F 9am-8pm & Sat 9am-1pm



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Bluebird Workshop Fieldtrips

It's that time of year again! Join the Multicultural Family Center, Swiss Valley, Leisure Services, and Loras Environmental Action Forum for the 4th annual Bluebird Workshop! This is a 3-part fieldtrip:

March 20: Go to Swiss Valley and build Bluebird houses, get a tour of the Nature Center and end with a walk through the woods to the stream

April 3: Return to Swiss Valley to the nature area and hang the bird houses

April 17: Return to the Bluebird trail to see the mother birds in their nests!

Transportation will be provided by the Multicultural Family Center. We will depart at 12:30 and return around 3:45pm. Call or stop by to register for these trips—**permission slips required!**

What's going on in the Neighborhood

Do you want to learn more about the local Washington Neighborhood Development Corporation (WNDC)? Look for a Public Info meeting in mid-April! ~ Stop by Courtside Bar & Grill on March 27 from 5-9pm for YPD's 4th Annual March Food Drive to donate or receive items ~ Community Days of Caring are coming up and the WNDC is searching for 2 homes that are need of yard clean-up ~ Call or e-mail Executive Director Angela Petsche at 563-582-1111 or apetsche@qwestoffice.net or stop by 1690 Elm St., Suite 110

Teens: Do you need a summer job?

This summer, the Multicultural Family Center will begin its third year of the Future Talk program. This is a summer employment program for 13-17 year-olds that strives to bring youth of our community together to work towards a more sustainable Dubuque through hard work, environmental literacy, and service to the community. This program is lead by Dana Livingston, a long-time volunteer of the Multicultural Family Center and Spanish professor at Loras College. Dana and his team have realistically high expectations for Future Talk youth and provide inspiration and support throughout the program.

The program requires youth to complete various components including: hands-on environmental service-learning, volunteer work, research, reflection, environmental literacy activi-

ties, and group educational activities. Past environmental work projects include neighborhood beautification, clean-up at Swiss Valley, Mines of Spain, and Coleman Prairie. Youth receive a stipend for their work and are encouraged to open a savings account for this stipend to be directly deposited.

To start the application process, youth must complete a job application, then attend a week-long orientation, both of which are required to join the program. Fifteen of the most outstanding youth from orientation will be selected to participate in the program. Applications will be available at the Multicultural Family Center on April 1 and will be accepted through the middle of May. MFC staff will be available to assist with applications.

Teen Book Club

Monday nights 5:30-6:30

Currently reading *Crank* by Ellen Hopkins. For more info, call Maddy or Ben D. at the MFC!