

Multicultural Family Center Update

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

WINTER 2010

Building unity out of diversity.

Get with the program!

Current programs:

- Fashion show preparation for youth
- NICC English classes
- Art classes for young adults
- Project HOPE
- Foreign language classes
- Family reading night
- All-Stars (grades 6-8)
- Typing classes
- Family movie and art nights
- Computer and job skills training

Upcoming Events and Programs:

Family Art Night	1/19
Sewing class begins	1/22
Bald Eagle Watch field trip	1/23
Drama Club for ages 4-7 kick-off	1/25
Family Reading Night	1/25
Drama Club for ages 8-14 kick-off	1/29
Clothes give-away	2/6
Valentine's activity	2/13
Chinese New Year	2/15
Mardi Gras	2/20
Black History Month Panel	2/27

Since moving to our new location in September 2009, the Multicultural Family Center (MFC) has utilized all the new space by expanding programming. Families, children and adults can all find programs to fit their needs and interests. This month, we are going to highlight four specific programs: Drama Club, Dance Club, Family Art Night, and Project HOPE Outreach.

Drama Club The MFC received a grant from Mediacom to create a Drama Club for youth. Under the leadership and expertise of Amy Ressler of The Great Midwestern Educational Theatre Company, we completed our first six-week session in December. Drama Club is held on Mondays from 3:45-5:00pm for children ages 4-7, and on Fridays from 3:45-5:00pm for youth ages 8-14. Each class is hands-on, interactive, lively and fun stretch

of the imagination! The Drama Club allows children to "play" in a safe environment that will not only let them enjoy themselves but also help them gain skills that will be great for the community in the future. Our next session will begin the last week of January.

Dance Club is funded by the same Mediacom grant as our Drama Club. Led by Nina Burnett, youth ages 10-18 learn a variety of dancing styles including step, hip-hop, Latin and African. Dance Club meets every Saturday from 10:00am-1:00pm (ages 10-13 from 10am-noon, ages 14-18 from 12-1pm). The Dance Club will have its first public performance at our fundraiser on March 6, 2010.

Family Art Night The MFC and the Dubuque Art Center encourage families to express

themselves with Family Art Night on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-7:30pm! With the help of AmeriCorps volunteers from the Dubuque Art Center, families create a new art project each week while spending quality time together. Please call or stop by the Center for upcoming dates.

Project HOPE Outreach is available at the MFC every day of the working week. Outreach includes assistance with job applications, cover letters, resumes, and any other form of computer or technical assistance. Operation: Employment will begin in February, and applications are presently being accepted at Iowa Workforce Development on the second floor of the NICC Town Clock Building. For more information, call Ron Axtell or Michael Murray at (563) 556-5800.

Taste of the World

The Multicultural Family Center will hold its first annual fundraiser on March 6, 2010 at Prescott Elementary School from 10:00am-4:00pm. "Taste of the World" will be the theme of the day and families will be able to sample food from over 20 countries, participate in fun activities, watch performances from our dance club, live cultural music bands,

and more. Everyone is welcome to attend and it's sure to be a day filled with entertainment, food and fun for the entire family! This event is free, with a suggested donation of \$10 per family. If you are interested in volunteering or hosting a cultural food booth at this event, please contact the Multicultural Family Center by Friday, February 12. For

more information, stop by the MFC or give us a call!



Multicultural Family Center

1157 Central Avenue
Dubuque, IA 52001
Phone: 563-582-3681
E-mail: mfc.volunteer@gmail.com
Hours: M-F 9am-8pm & Sat 9am-1pm



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Thank you to...

The American Advertising Federation (AAF) of Dubuque: Do you notice anything different about us lately? I mean, besides the new building, staff and programs, of course. We have a new logo! The MFC was selected as the recipient of the AAF Dubuque Public Service Campaign. Along with the new logo, they will be assisting the MFC with designing print publications as well as reaching other marketing goals.

IBM: The MFC & NICC received a grant for 10 laptop computers and Reading Companion software. Reading Companion classes will be held in our conference room every Saturday beginning in February.

Our volunteers: Since opening in September, the MFC has had 25 volunteers complete over 800 hours of service. We truly appreciate all of your hard work—without you, the MFC could not exist!

What's going on in the Neighborhood

The Washington Neighborhood Development Corporation (WNDC) has opened an office at 1690 Elm Street, Suite 110 (lower level of the Lamar building). Stop by or call to meet the new Executive Director, Angela Petsche.
Phone 563-582-1111 Email apetsche@qwestoffice.net

Dubuque Marshallese Community

This year Dubuque's Marshallese Community is celebrating the 31st anniversary of its Constitutional Day on Saturday, May 22, 2010. The location is to be announced. The Marshallese community would like to extend an invitation to the entire Dubuque community to join this celebration! This will be a great way to learn and experience the Marshallese culture.

A group of Marshallese youth will be performing an island style Hula Dance called JOBWA or JOBO to help raise funds for church activities.

On March 13-15, the Dubuque Marshallese Fullgospel Church is planning a trip to join in fellowship with other Marshallese Fullgospel Churches throughout the United States, in Springdale, Arkansas.

For more information on all Dubuque

Marshallese Community activities, please contact Maitha Jolet at (563) 564-6571 or m.jolet@hotmail.com. Maitha is an AmeriCorps volunteer at the Multicultural Family Center.

Here is some information about the Marshall Islands and their relations with the U.S.A.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) is a group of 29 atolls and 5 beautiful islands in the Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and Australia, near Micronesia. Commonly referred to as the Marshall Islands, this country was formerly a U.S. Territory, before entering into the Compact of Free Association on October 21, 1986. Under the auspices of this Compact, the United States is responsible for the security and military protection of the Marshall Islands. Additionally, under Article IV, section 141(a), the Compact

states that citizens and naturalized citizens of the Marshall Islands may "enter into, lawfully engage in occupations, and establish residence as a non-immigrant in the United States and its territories".

During WWI, Japan took control of the Marshall Islands, and the United States seized control in 1944. The U.S. proceeded to conduct nuclear tests on the Marshallese atolls of Bikini and Enewetak from the years 1946-1958. The United States Army Kwajalein Atoll (USAKA) is the largest atoll in the RMI and is used for military missile testing to this day. (info borrowed from CIA World FactBook)

