

# MCRC NOTICIAS



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## VALUING DIVERSITY EDUCATION OFFERED TO ERIE AREA ORGANIZATIONS

MCRC is proud to announce the creation of a new Diversity Training Program this year. As part of our mission to inform, educate, and encourage the Erie Community to value diversity, we are delighted to offer this training to all organizations in the Greater Erie area who are interested in promoting a diverse workplace. Our programs are designed for those who want to increase their knowledge base in the areas of cultural sensitivity, awareness and competence, as well as those who may simply want to learn more about the different new populations that are starting to call Erie their home.

As customers, co-workers, and neighbors continue to be-

come more diverse, the more we learn about ways to appreciate our differences, the more successful we can be in building an environment in which everyone can succeed.



*Sahana Rajiyah*

*Diversity Training Coordinator*

Since 1998, MCRC has had the privilege of working with people from all over the world; and in providing services to some very diverse populations, we

have acquired considerable knowledge and skills that have enabled us to create a meaningful curriculum in diversity education. Our Diversity Training Catalog provides detailed descriptions of the various course options in this program, and we offer the unique ability to create a customized training to suit the particular needs of an organization.

To arrange a meeting to discuss your specific diversity training needs, please contact **Sahana Rajiyah**, at [srajiyah@multiculturalcrc.org](mailto:srajiyah@multiculturalcrc.org) or Dr. Allan Turner, Director of Client Services, at [aturner@multiculturalcrc.org](mailto:aturner@multiculturalcrc.org), or the Multicultural Community Resource Center at (814) 455 0212.

### Coming Events

- April is Celebrate Diversity Month
- April 16-21 is National Volunteer Recognition Week
- April 19—Holocaust Day
- **April 20—MCRC Bowling Tournament team registration ends**
- April 22—Earth day
- April 24—PA Primary Elections
- **April 28—MCRC Roll With Diversity Bowling Tournament**
- May 5—Cinco De Mayo
- May 13—Mothers Day

### Multicultural Community Resource Center of Erie

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## MOSAICO OFFERS WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES FOR EMPLOYERS AND JOB SEEKERS

MOSAICO Employment Services, Inc was started in 2005 as a totally-owned, for-profit subsidiary of the Hispanic American Council, now called the Multicultural Community Resource Center.

MOSAICO is a good example of a typical model that is being used by many non-profit organizations currently. With grant source funds becoming smaller for nonprofits, finding a way to sustain the agency financially has become crucial. So development of a for-profit business within the non-profit in which all the revenues infuse back into the non-profit is fast becoming commonplace.



*Mosaico staff members Srdan Ninkovic, Operations Manager and Kim Rowley, Employment Counselor work with Eddie Ocasio, MCRC Job Developer*

MOSAICO has positioned itself to be **the** minority recruitment agency in Erie. However the services it provides extend to anyone in the community who is seeking employment.

MOSAICO was incorporated as an employment agency focusing on providing temporary-to-permanent job placement services to limited English proficient clients who speak English as their second language. MOSAICO is designed to foster long-term relationships with local employers by supplying qualified, motivated employees while providing language and cultural diversity support services to our Associates. Its services are targeted to promote client self-sufficiency and to improve economic position and social well-being. The agency provides job placement, on-the-job language assistance, workplace support, and employment counseling. *Its goal is to meet the needs of both employers and employees* while advancing the mission of the MCRC— to help the Hispanic and other ethnic minorities we serve to experience acceptance, respect, independence, and self-sufficiency in our community.

MOSAICO has positioned itself to be **the** minority recruitment agency in Erie. However the

services it provides extend to anyone in the community who is seeking employment. Agency staff have recently acquired contracts with some local employers that will allow them to recruit qualified workers to help boost Erie's economy. MOSAICO is steadily growing and expanding. In the almost seven years it has been in existence, it has achieved noticeable successes. It is a company to watch in the months and years to come..

**MOSAICO Employment Services, Inc.**

**554 East 10th Street**

**Erie, PA 16503**

**Phone: 814.464.0970 Fax: 814.464.0973**

**Cell: 814.397.2710**

**Email: [MosaicoEmployment@multiculturalcrc.org](mailto:MosaicoEmployment@multiculturalcrc.org)**

## COMMUNITY GARDEN GROWS FRESH VEGGIES . . . AND RELATIONSHIPS



Springtime is upon us, and for the Erie Multicultural Community Resource Center, this means the beginning of many new opportunities for staff and client communities. One project currently in the works is the community garden which will be planted and tended in the lot behind our center. The garden consists of two divisions, the children's garden and the community garden, both of which flourish by the shared efforts of staff and MCRC clients.

The idea behind having a garden reflects the sense of community that a visitor gets upon walking through the doors at MCRC. Having a garden available to clients is beneficial for a variety of reasons. Since the plan is to focus on planting mainly fruits and vegetables, it will be a valuable source of food. Also, gardening is a wonderful outlet for those who are interested and invested in the process. We hope that this opportunity will bring our clients' cultural communities together for a common purpose and show them what it means to work together on one common goal.

Many of the clients we serve are from cultures where farming and harvesting are a way of life. By choosing to make this project a client and community friendly development, we hope that in some ways, we might be providing them a glimpse of home while connecting them with the community they live in. It could also serve as a way to strengthen bonds among clients and build relationships with people who might provide mutual support.

One division of the garden is specifically dedicated to our daycare program for a children's garden. Having a children's garden is important to the children of all ages who come to this agency as it encourages their learning process. Having a garden available is also very useful for the staff working in the MCRC daycare center because it is a tool for teaching the children. During the summer, children can plant and organize this garden as well as grow fruits and vegetables they can eat during the day at lunchtime. These are useful skills in learning to work together and realizing achievement that children may not learn anywhere else. The children's garden is very beneficial to the daycare program.

Although our garden plot, after the winter months, might not look like much at the moment, the portion of the lot we dedicate to the community garden each spring and summer season is full of promise. The soil is excellent in quality, and there are client hands ready to begin the work. The only things missing are Erie community volunteers and things to plant. Since this is a client-run, agency-supported garden, we are currently seeking people who are interested in working on this project with us, and we are also looking for donated seeds and plants. Planting, weeding, daily watering, and other appropriate maintenance will require the hands of many. With that said, any volunteers willing to guide and work side-by-side with others in our community garden are guaranteed a "growing" experience to cherish. To join us, call 814-455-0212.



Breaking through to a new beginning, with hope and expectation, patience, and a will to thrive and yield a harvest.

And so it is for many who come to our city from far away places, for here there is nurturing and promise.



**MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER**

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## Mathew's Carpet Express

MCRC wishes to thank Mathew's Carpet Express for its generous donation of \$500 to purchase staff t-shirts for all the major MCRC events in 2012. We are grateful for this extreme gesture of kindness and support for our agency!

*MCRC volunteer opportunities exist for one-time or continuing activities.*

*Please visit the*

*Volunteer tab at our Website at*

*[www.multiculturalcrc.org](http://www.multiculturalcrc.org).*

*To inquire, send an email to*

*[MCRC@multiculturalcrc.org](mailto:MCRC@multiculturalcrc.org). Be sure to include your name and phone number in your message.*

### Your Donation is Appreciated

To make a financial gift to MCRC, send it to **Joanna Cherpak, Director of Human Resources & Fund Development**, 554 East 10th St., Erie, PA 16503 or donate online at [www.multiculturalcrc.org](http://www.multiculturalcrc.org).

MCRC is a 501 (c)(3) charity and all donations are tax deductible.

### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

MCRC extends two thumbs up and earnest thanks to **Colin Hurley and the Mercyhurst University team of students, staff and alumni** who joined MCRC employees and volunteer clients on March 24 to paint, pitch, move, and make a remarkable beginning of a major project. No clean up task was too challenging for this amazing crew of volunteers as they went into action to help us prepare a neighboring building for what will soon become an expanded facility for refugee services and social enrichment for MCRC clients. Their labors were given with great energy and a winsome spirit — an honorable characterization of the institution they represent. Sincere thanks to each one.



Proudly serving the needs of the Hispanic and refugee communities since 1975.