

# MCRC NOTICIAS



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## INAUGURAL GOLF TOURNAMENT HUGE SUCCESS FOR MCRC

It was a warm, sunny late summer day on Thursday, September 6, 2012 for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual MCRC **Hitting The Cultural Links Golf Tournament** that was held at Lake Shore Country Club. This major fundraising event for the Multicultural Community Resource Center was a huge success. There were 70 golfers participating. Most of the golfers were local, but we were fortunate to have some travel in from Tennessee and Texas to join in this, our inaugural golf tournament. From sponsorships and golf registrations, MCRC was able to secure over \$12,000 to go towards renovations for the Cultural Enrichment Center located next to our main building on the MCRC campus. We had several major sponsors. Our sole sponsor at the Platinum level was **Mosaico Employment Services**; three sponsors at the Gold level were **Brush County Claims Service, Symbility Solutions and UPMC for Life**; one sponsor at the Silver level was **ServPro Industries** and three sponsors at the Bronze level were **Highmark, United Healthcare Community Plan and United Storm Adjusters**. We are very grateful to these organizations for their huge financial support of the tournament. We would also like to recognize our tee sponsors which were Decision Associates, Erie Bank, Klein & Co., Lee Builders, Loesel Schaaf Insurance Agency, MacDonald Illig Jones & Britton Law Firm, Mathew's Carpet Express, McDonald & McCabe Law Firm and McLennon & Associates; and our hole sponsors which were Brown & James Law Firm, Gemcor, International Referral Network, Nicklaus Insurance Group,

Northwest Savings Bank and UPMC Hamot. Last but certainly not least, we congratulate the **UPMC for Life Team** on their victory as tournament champions. In addition we would like to congratulate **Jason Porreco** for winning the putting competition with his stellar *hole-in-one* shot on the putting green. Planning for next year's tournament is already under way. It is set for **Thursday, September 5, 2013** once again at Lake Shore Country Club. So save this date and we will see you next September!



Tournament Winners—UPMC For Life Team



Jason Porreco,  
Putting  
Competition  
Winner

### Coming Events

- Oct. 23, 24, 25– ESL Orientation
- Day Care Halloween
- Nov. 13– Social Work CEU event
- Nov. 15– MCRC Thanksgiving Celebration
- Nov. 15– Islamic New Year
- Nov. 22,23– MCRC Closed

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Thanks for your Support!

## CEC OPEN HOUSE FEATURED AGENCY SERVICES, CHILDREN'S MUSIC, COMMUNITY ARTISANS

Open House at MCRC's new Cultural Enrichment Center (CEC) on Tuesday, October 2 marked a historic achievement for our organization and for cultural integration with and among the diverse communities we serve. The official opening of this new facility at 538 East 10<sup>th</sup> St. emphasizes MCRC's commitment to meet the growing social, economic, and environmental basics of Erie's diverse national groups and the essential generational needs among them.

Following a welcome and messages from MCRC leadership **James Globa**, Board President; **Joel Tuzynski**, Exec. Director; **Dr. Alan Turner**, Assoc. Director, Programs; and **Trish Lawrence**, Section Manager—CEC, visitors toured our offices, classrooms, and other community rooms and had an opportunity to meet and visit with staff in the service display area. In the CEC social hall, guests also viewed the arts and crafts of several Erie artisans who come from many different parts of the world. Charming and colorful jewelry and weavings designed and crafted by women of the Bhutanese community; wonderful clothing designed and tailored by **Ansumana Komba Gbembo**; magnificent carvings and wood sculptures by **Fredy Huaman**; and the beautiful and inspiring paintings by **Ali Al-Delfi** provided a pleasurable exhibit of the creativity, vision, and talent of some of Erie's newest Americans. We can eagerly look forward to more that will follow.

An especially delightful moment during Open House came when **Caitlin Henning**, Asst. Director of Young People's Chorus of Erie, led the MCRC Children's Choir in a performance of a traditional African song. Through collaboration with PSU/Behrend and Young People's Chorus, Caitlin has been working



weekly for two years with children in MCRC's Day Care and After School Program.

MCRC and the Cultural Enrichment Center express sincere thanks to all who participated in and visited the CEC Open House. We look forward to working with you as our programs develop and expand.

Currently we offer a community Karate program, Arabic culture class, U.S. Civics class, and a Senior Program for refugee seniors. Space at the CEC is also available for rental for events. To inquire about programs or rentals, please contact Trish Lawrence at 814-455-0212.

## SARAH REED INTERNS TEAM UP WITH MCRC CASE MANAGERS; OFFER CLINICAL SUPPORT

Centuries ago, Jon Donne suggested that "...no man is an island unto himself...". The same is true for the Multicultural Community Resource Center. We need the many collaborations with other organizations in the community to be effective in fulfilling our mission of service to immigrants and refugees. Our recent collaboration with the **Sarah A. Reed Children's Center** is an example of one of these invaluable community collaborations. Starting a new life in a different culture can be extremely challenging for many of our clients. Amongst their greatest challenges is managing the changes in the parenting role that occur in this new culture. School expectations, new relationships, and new opportunities, both healthy and unhealthy, confront our refugee parents each day. Case managers in our Refugee Services, Latino Services and Truancy Programs are often faced with assisting parents involved in their programs with meeting these new family challenges. As support to our case managers, pre-doctoral psychology interns, under the supervision of **Dr. Eric Schwartz**, meet monthly with our case managers to review difficult cases and receive the consultation needed to make sound clinical decisions. In turn, the pre-doctoral students develop an understanding of the families and the many cultures from which our clients come. In addition to the consultation, pre-doctoral students will participate in staff trainings related to our child care program. This year's pre-doctoral students come from a variety of universities to Sarah Reed as part of the American Psychological Association's, Pre-Doctoral Internship Program in Professional Psychology. This year's interns include **Eching Ho** from the University of Texas – Austin, **Tamika LaSalle** from Georgia University in Atlanta and **Sarah Shervey** from Penn State University, State College. **John Etling**, who is conducting a practicum in doctoral studies at Sarah Reed, will also join in collaborative service this year. MCRC is very appreciative of the assistance provided by the Sarah Reed Children's' Center and their pre-doctoral students.

# HISPANIC HERITAGE FESTIVAL CELEBRATES HISTORY, CULTURE, AND FAMILY

**“Estamos Unidos” (We Are One!)** The theme for the 1<sup>st</sup> Erie County Hispanic Heritage Celebration. The Multicultural Community Resource Center was a partner in this event along with Gannon University and other organizations. Assisted by advisors, **Isla Abreu-Arce, MCRC Section Manager-Latino Services and Eddie Ocasio-Employment Specialist**, were deeply involved in the planning and preparation for the festival. The celebration took place on September 22, 2012. The National Hispanic Heritage Month is observed annually from September 15 to October 15. The Hispanic populations across the United States celebrate history, cultures, and their ancestors from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

In Erie County, Latinos make up approximately 2.5% of the population and comprise one of the few ethnic groups which continue to grow across the region. Latinos are a group of colorful and vibrant people with many different talents. The Latinos have differences among them which include language dialects, cooking styles, and music preferences. The seasonings for cooking are rich in flavor, and each group has a distinct way of making our foods. There are many types of music and rhythm such as Bachata, Salsa, Merengue, Reggaeton, Trova, Balada, Pasillo, Cumiba, etc.

The Erie celebration featured a parade, which started at 10<sup>th</sup> and State Street and traveled north to Perry Square Park West, where the fiesta began in and around the park’s gazebo. The festival and parade were a great event. The music was vibrant; there were local performers from the Erie area who participated in this event. Despite some wet weather, the music sounds from the Caribbean Island (salsa, rock, bachata, merengue, and reggaeton), and South and Central America (cumbia and banda) brought energy, joy, and a festive spirit to the downtown community.

**MCRC and Mosiaco** had tables with bilingual Spanish/English informational brochures describing our many programs and services. We had t-shirts for sale and items to raffle at the festival. Other vendors from the community sold food, merchandise, and provided free activities for the children. The food was “delicioso,” and the food vendors sold out before the event was over. Some of the popular Hispanic dishes were rice, beans, pasteles, pastelillos, frijoles, fajitas, arepas, tortillas, sorullitos, and tacos.



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**MCRC Child Care**  
Ages 6 weeks-12 years  
**OPENINGS!**  
6am-6pm | CCIS Accepted

**Your Donation  
is Appreciated**

To make a financial gift to MCRC, send it to **Joanna Cherpak, Assoc. Director**, 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.

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## Charter School of Excellence Skills Center Earns High Grades from Multicultural Students

The Charter School of Excellence Skills Center is more than just a school—it is a second home for students. Skills Center is one of the safest and most peaceful learning environments in the Erie area. It offers a variety of educational opportunities to prepare students for college and the professional world. It offers many programs such as an ESL program, after school programs, college preparatory, and dual enrollment classes, along with multimedia, culinary arts, and a workforce program. These make the Skills Center stand out above other schools.

The Skills Center's ESL program is designed for students whose primary language is something other than English. The program keeps students from having a hard time understanding English in their regular classes. The ESL students at Skills Center feel comfortable because the teachers really care about and treat all students equally.

College preparatory classes at the Skills Center help students get ready for higher learning. These classes are more rigorous than regular classes. College prep teachers guide their students to be more like college students. They want classwork done on time and late work is not accepted. Additionally, dual enrollment classes for the juniors and seniors who have good grades and attendance enable students to enroll in college courses while in high school. Students earn both high school and college credits while still in high school. With tuition costs always rising, it is beneficial to students to have college credits before even getting there. There is no cost to students for the completion of these courses. Currently, students are taking a Holistic Leadership class at Gannon University. After this semester, two or three more classes will be available from local universities.

The Skills Center also offers the Y.E.S. program, a before and after school program, which offers activities such as bowling, soccer, dance, yoga, volleyball, karate, fiction writing, multimedia, and more. Also, students can complete homework with a teacher available to help with difficult material.

The Skills Center offers other interesting programs such as the culinary program, graphic design program, and animation program. In the culinary classes, the students learn how to cook different types of food. In the multimedia classes, students design cartoons, logos, and t-shirts, among other projects, as well as taking field trips to photograph the sights around Erie.

The Skills Center is an excellent place for students to prepare for college. However, the school also prepares students for the workforce. Students can work at school and get paid. For example, students work in the kitchen and cafeteria completing the Culinary Arts duties. Students also can learn important maintenance skills, while taking care of the buildings and classrooms.

No matter where students see themselves in the future, the Skills Center is a great place for them to be today. The Skills Center has a safe and fair environment, great quality instruction, and a wide variety of programs. All of the unique opportunities at the Skills Center make it the best.



*Contributing student writers, Chandra Khadka and Anita Subba*

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