

MCRC NOTICIAS



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MCRC in 2014: A Leading Service Provider and Strategic Asset in the Erie Community

In 2014 the world of sports will draw global audiences with Russia hosting the Olympics in February before attention shifts to soccer's World Cup in Brazil this summer. Inevitably, talk of how the world has changed and how life, business, and education has changed alongside it will accompany the events.

You can find evidence of globalization not just in cities such as New York and London, but right here in Erie as well. Our neighborhoods are populated by new ethnic groups from around the world, our universities have more international students than ever, and local businesses of all sizes compete in a global marketplace.

The Multicultural Community Resource Center plays a key role in how Erie interfaces with the rest of the world. Reading through this newsletter this year provides ample evidence. Our September edition spoke of Pinky Barczynski, a restaurateur who moved to Erie to start the city's first Thai eatery. Like many other businesspeople, Pinky attends English classes at MCRC to enhance her ability to run a successful restaurant.

In July, Noticias told the story of GED recipient Zaynab Kargar, an Uzbek immigrant who attended night classes at MCRC before getting her diploma and enrolling in college. Zaynab is one of many to utilize MCRC's resources to achieve her goals and advance her family and community.

Stories also abound more broadly from the various ethnic communities – the continued contributions of Erie's Latino community, the growing numbers of Erieites from the Middle East and Africa, the ongoing presence of those from Eastern Europe, the large population of Bhutanese, and some small yet significant populations that recently arrived. One such group was highlighted in the November newsletter in which Erie's relatively new Burmese population was detailed. Readers learned how most of the population is engaged in educational or workplace pursuits with positions as diverse as pharmacist to social service provider to factory worker. Readers also learned (and perhaps some heard in person) of the Burmese tradition of Christmas caroling each holiday season in Erie.

The above are just a few stories of many of how MCRC plays an integral role in continuing Erie's tradition of receiving immigrants and the many talents and contributions they bring. From the Irish, Italian, German, and Russian immigrants of years ago to the new arrivals of today, we invite you to continue to read about the contributions of New Americans in Erie through the pages of Noticias in 2014.

Coming Events

January 1st—New Years Day—
MCRC Closed

January 13th—Nepali Men's Health
Clinic (2 Sessions)

January 17th—African Women's
Health & Iraqi Women's Health
Clinic

January 20th—MLK Day—MCRC
Closed

January 31st—Chinese New Year

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MCRC Holiday Video Featured on WSEE TV

Viewers of WSEE Channel 35 received a holiday greeting unlike any other in Erie December 19.

On that day the station, which covers the tri-state area, broadcast MCRC's holiday video, a compilation of agency clients saying "Happy Holidays, Erie" in their respective languages. In all, the video included greetings in English, Spanish, Russian, Amharic, Arabic, Kurdish, Bosnian, Syrian, and Albanian.

The video is available to be viewed on YouTube or the MCRC Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mcrcerie.



Students at MCRC's John E. Horan Garden Apartments Learning Center inquired about decorating and learning about why Americans celebrate Christmas. Staff brought in a Christmas tree and decorations and on December 2 students decorated the classroom and tree. Students also created orange paper chain garland to add color to the tree. During the month of December, students have discussed how people celebrate the Christmas and New Year in The United States. On December 18, students celebrated the holiday season with a luncheon with the staff at the JEHGA Learning Center. Students brought foods representing their cultures.



MCRC partnered with Center City Arts December 13 for their Annual Holiday Show and Sale. Among the participating artists were Indira Suarez (seated) of Colombia and Nada Msouty of Syria. MCRC artists in participation also represented Sierra Leone, Congo, Iraq, Bhutan, and Cuba.



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**Our World @ the Corner of
10th & Ash**



**Your Donation
is Appreciated**

To make a financial gift to MCRC, send it to **Joanna Cherpak, Executive Director**, 554 East 10th St., Erie, PA 16503 or donate online at www.multiculturalcrc.org.

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

Please visit the Volunteer tab at our Website at www.multiculturalcrc.org or look for us on the Erie Chamber of Commerce site at www.eriepaconnect.com

To inquire, send an email to MCRC@multiculturalcrc.org. Be sure to include your name and phone number in your message.

Dear Friends,

We really like this time of year at the Multicultural Resource Center because it gives us a chance to look back and reflect on service goals achieved, programs conducted, and all the cultural and community events we led or joined as participants. While this year brought challenges in reduced funding, new role changes for our leadership and staff, and the expense of some major capital improvement projects, we are thankful that we have been able to remain strong in providing core services for Hispanic, refugee, and other immigrant families in Erie County.

At MCRC, the holiday season marks a special time for us to celebrate not only the diversity of our community in full color, but also the oneness that lies in the promise of a nation that values life, liberty, and happiness for all. Guiding people to seek fulfillment in that promise is our purpose and our passion.

And you, dear friends, are a vital part of that oneness we celebrate. Your loyal participation in what we do, whether it be financial support, or as a volunteer, or as a consultant, or otherwise as an encourager — all of that is creative and inspiring. All of that gives us renewing energy and thereby blesses the lives of those we serve. All of that strengthens the promise.

So, with gratitude, we wish for you a New Year packed with good fortune and good health, days filled with joy, and friendships that are sure.



Genuinely yours,

Joanna R. Cherpak, Executive Director & the staff of MCRC

