



▶ GIVING HEARTS DAY



▶ COMMUNITY MEETING



▶ Family Engagement

Culturally Speaking

Cultural Diversity Resources

112 N University Dr Suite 306

www.culturaldiversityresources.org (701) 526-3000

Feb 2015

CDR Staff

Yoke-Sim Gunaratne
Executive Director

Kon Majok
Community Liason

Ezzat Al Haidar
Metro Interpreters Coordinator

Crystal Jamerson
Community Relations Manager

Sheri Mohamed
Americorp Promise Fellow

Nur Issak
Americorp Promise Fellow

Kandice Torres
Administrative Assistant

Alexandre Cyusa
Intern

Next Community Meeting:

Date: March 7th, 2015

Time: 10 :00 am

Location: Moorhead Public ,
Library, lower level

Contact: Community Liai-
son, Kon Majok



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CULTURAL DIVERSITY RESOURCES



Save the Date Giving Hearts Day

Giving Hearts Day
impactgiveback.org
February 12, 2015

Give to your local charity on Giving Hearts Day

Your gift supporting **Cultural Diversity Resources** can be multiplied on Giving Hearts Day – **Thursday, February 12**. Your online contributions made to **Cultural Diversity Resources** will be matched **up to \$22,000**. The event is a 24-hour online fundraising event created by the Dakota Medical Foundation and Impact Foundation that will be held on **February 12th, 2015**.

To make your contribution, simply go to **impactgiveback.org** on **February 12** and give to “Cultural Diversity Resources”. Match funding from our donors multiplies the impact of your giving on Giving Hearts Day. All donations are tax deductible.

Community Liaison, Kon Majok

Kon, in his current position, strives to foster multi ethnic leadership and capacity building in collaboration with diverse ethnic nonprofits/groups and community stakeholders. The goal is to increase cross cultural communication with joint problem-solving and decision making resulting in partnerships to meet commu-

nity needs for collective impact. Kon has been actively involved in youth development programs for several years. He enjoys tutoring, actively involved in sport activities, mentoring and inspiring youth to reach for higher academic and personal achievements.



"Being part of this community teaches you that a whole community can't survive without the diversity that makes us all unique."

Community Innovation Project : Updates on community meetings

MULTI-ETHNIC LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Updates on Community Innovation Project

The Community Innovation project titled: "Leadership and capacity building of multi-ethnic communities in collaboration with community partners" started monthly community meetings in November 2014. **Project goals:**

1. Foster and build communication and connections among ethnic nonprofits/groups, community key stakeholders, and local funders to develop partnerships for inclusive, equitable and sustainable collective impact to meet community needs.
2. Establish the necessary committees & action teams to develop & implement work-plans to accomplish mission and goals.
3. Develop communication strategies that develop multicultural approaches to provide consistent & open communication across participants and funders to build trust, skills and support.

Report on Community Meetings

Monthly community meetings were held in November, December 2014 and January 2015. There were about 14-25 participants who represent African Americans, Hispanic and New Americans from Bhutan, Haiti, Liberia, Somalia, South Sudan and Iraq. Attendees shared information about their programs and discussed issues and challenges with ongoing dialogue on what, when, why, and how to start collaboration among a coalition of multi-ethnic nonprofits and groups.

November 15 meeting: Everyone introduced themselves. The goal of community meetings was to foster partnerships and collaboration among ethnic nonprofits or groups, community agencies and funders to meet the needs of the increased ethnically diverse communities. A video on mindset shifts was shown to foster and motivate participants for collaboration and partnership to achieve collective community impact as a united team. Mindset shifts include asking participants some questions to empower themselves for strategy and development e.g. sharing and leveraging limited resources while working as team on similar goals thus increasing productivity and effectiveness. Community Relations Manager, Crystal Jamerson, received feedback on the types of social media that could be used to increase awareness and communication strategies among all groups e.g. Facebook, twitter, website etc.

December 13 meeting: Hassan Lamba, President from South Sudan community, gave presentation on the culture, issues and challenges of their community. A group activity divided attendees into four groups to discuss and prioritize key important issues and challenges encountered by their ethnic communities. Some issues included: legal problems and representation, cultural awareness in the community, after school programs, youth programs, communication and connection for greater community involvement.

January 31, 2015: Abi Adhikari, a representative from Bhutanese community, gave a presentation on the culture, issues and challenges of the Bhutanese community. CDR's Executive Director gave a presentation on the challenges and benefits of collaboration. Attendees wanted to include at the next meeting agenda : (i) discussion on the common goals for all participating community groups and (ii) usage, funding and management costs of a central venue for all groups.

Family Engagement Program

(Integration of parents, schools and community)



The Family Engagement Program will prepare the children and parents – whole family- to move towards academic, social and economic success and independence.

With effective community outreach to families to help them understand, navigate the school system, assist with students' success and utilize community resources and support, we will move towards family engagement and self-sufficiency.

The goal is to eliminate or reduce barriers, social and economic disparities that prevent parents and families from being actively involved through connections with collaborative community partners and stakeholders along with education and training focused on family and community needs.

In late 2014, CDR started monthly meetings to discuss various community issues and needs with ethnic community leaders. Regular meetings are also held individually with the different ethnic nonprofits and groups to explore collaboration on common programs and activities. The community meetings also include training on a variety of topics (e.g. leadership, social media, PTA benefits etc.) to increase knowledge, skills, connections and accessibility to community information and resources for ethnically diverse leaders and families.

Measureable outcomes are for parents, schools and communities working together with successful accomplishments in students' achievement and families' progress towards academic, social and economic independence.

“Give youth/families the fish and you feed them a day, teach youth/families to fish and you feed them for a lifetime.”



JOB OPPORTUNITY

Americorp Promise Fellow Position



(Full time - September 1st 2015 to July 31st 2016)

Promise Fellow works with grade 6-10 students at Moorhead Public Schools. Provide support needed to help student graduate and ensure success in school work and life. For more information about job requirements and responsibilities, please go to: www.mnyouth.net

To apply: Send cover letter, resume and references to : yseg@culturaldiversityresources.org

Kids Korner

“Treat students like adults. If the student's feel like they're worth it they'll act more like adults.”

-Katrina Schwartz

For more information visit our Facebook Page.

What keeps kids motivated to learn?

Educators have lots of ideas about how to improve education, to better reach learners and to give students the skills they'll need in college and beyond the classroom. But often those conversations remain between adults. The real test of any idea is in the classroom, though students are rarely asked about what they think about their education.

A panel of seven students attending schools that are part of the “deeper learning” movement gave their perspective on what it means for them to learn and how educators can work to create a school culture that fosters creativity, collaboration, trust, the ability to fail, and perhaps most importantly, one in which students want to participate.

What they found is that these seven items can make a huge difference.

- Integrated projects Make it hands on
- Interest– Based and Relevant Knowing the teachers care
- Learning from failure Evaluating work

10 Things Students Want Educators to Know

by Justin Tarte @justintarte

