

Culturally Speaking

Cultural Diversity Resources

November 2006

Volume 1, Issue 2



Pangea ~ Cultivate Our Cultures sponsored by Cultural Diversity Resources, Mujeres Unidas / Women United, Lake Region Arts Council, Lumina, Moorhead Parks and Recreation, and the Heritage Hjemkomst Center was held on Saturday, November 4, 2006 at the Heritage Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead.

Pangea ~ Cultivate Our Cultures is an annual event in Fargo—Moorhead celebrating the cultural richness of our community.

The day is filled with food, fun and entertainment from around

the world

The main attractions of the event are an ethnic food extravaganza, the international bazaar, and the performances from many cultural organizations throughout Fargo- Moorhead.

This year's event attracted over 1000 visitors from the surrounding area. It would not be possible without the sponsorship of area businesses such as: Hornbacher's Foods, Wells Fargo Bank, Bobcat, Wal-Mart, Cole Papers, Dacotah Paper, Co, State Bank of

Hawley, Marguerite's Music and Pepsi.

Performers included Vietnamese Dragon Dancers, Gasper School of Dance, McDonald School of Irish and International Dance, Roots of Mexico, Daughters of the Earth, Roma Performers, Japanese Classical Dance, The Shimmy Sisters (Belly Dance), Indian Dancers and Sri Lankan Dancers.

Everyone had a great time learning more about the people who live in our community. For a preview see the inside pages of this issue.

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Mohamud Ibrahim ~ From Somalia to the USA

Mohamud Ibrahim came to the United States in June of 2006. His journey to the United States started several years prior to that in Mogadishu, Somalia, his native home and country.

Oftentimes there is the assumption refugees come from rural

areas of Africa with no formal education. Mohamud is the living evidence that that is not true. Although the education system in Africa is different than the United States, there is no indication that it is not effective. When Mohamud arrived in



Fargo through Lutheran Social Services he could speak, read and write English. When his background is considered you would not be surprised by this.

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Farewell and Best Wishes to
Bob Swanson
CDR Technology
Coordinator

Pangea—Cultivate Our Cultures 2006





Labels for Learning: Save Your Labels in Support of the CDR Education and Development Center

Do you shop at Sunmart Foods? Do you buy the "Our Family" brand foods?

Did you know that you can help support continuing programs at Cultural Diversity Resources such as:

- Keyboarding Classes
- Microsoft Word Classes
- Free Income Tax Preparation
- Small Business Development

All you have to do is bring us the labels from the "Our Family" brand products you already buy.

Sunmart Foods / Nash Finch will donate \$25 to Cultural Diversity Resources for every 500 labels we collect. We need the bar code on the product.

With your labels we can purchase paper, printer ink and the other necessary supplies

required to continue these valuable programs. Currently we have 1 individual about to complete the keyboarding class with a new employable skill.

Did you know that you can make \$8.00 an hour or more simply by being able to type? If you are interested in signing up for classes contact:

Donna Wood
701-526-3000
office@culturaldiversityresources.org

February 1, 2007 Will Change Someone's Life; ~Forever~ Read How Here.

On February 1, 2007, the Cultural Diversity Resources Office will be overtaken by the financial business community of Fargo-Moorhead.

Park Company Real Estate will be on-site to talk to prospective first time home buyers.

Alerus Financial will be on-site to talk to individuals about personal banking and home loans.

Wells Fargo Bank's Spanish Banking Coordinator will be on-site to answer your personal banking questions.

The SBA: SCORE will be on-site to talk about how to start your own business.

The Village Family Services will be on-site to talk about credit counseling options to achieve your dream of home or business ownership.

New York Life will be on-site to talk about long-term and retirement planning.

Are you tired of renting? Worried about retirement? Dream of your own business? No money? Talk to the professionals who know how to help you get what you want.



UND Provides Free Legal Services to the Low-Income, Minority and Refugee Communities at Cultural Diversity Resources!

The University of North Dakota First Americans / New Americans Law Clinic meets with clients every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the lower level of Cultural Diversity Resources at 303 Roberts St N, Fargo.

According to Doug Smith, the Law Clinic Manager and UND School of Law Professor, the student attorneys will hear any

case.

After speaking with Doug he told us the majority of his cases seemed to be tenant / landlord related. Even so they also handle immigration issues, employment issues, municipal and district court, debt collection and many others. The services of the UND Law Clinic are free of charge to low-income, immigrant and minority people.

Doug Smith approached the Fargo Human Relations Commission with the idea of the UND



Professor Doug Smith,
UND Law Clinic Manager

UND Law Clinic Con't

Law Clinic providing free legal services and representation to clients as they do in Bismarck, Minot and Grand Forks.

Cultural Diversity Resources offered space, due to its central location in the city and the likelihood of serving more individuals. The clinic first opened in mid-August. No appointment is necessary.

Individuals can drop in or call:

1-800-752-0312

for more information or to discuss emergency cases that can't wait until Wednesday.

- Tenant / Landlord disputes
- Immigration Issues
- Tribal Issues
- Employment Issues
- Municipal and District Court
- Certified in both North Dakota and Minnesota.



UND Law Students Hard at Work.
Not all students pictured.

Farewell to Bob Swanson ~ AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer, Technology Coordinator for Cultural Diversity Resources

Friday, November 10, 2006 was a sad day at Cultural Diversity Resources as Bob Swanson, AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer fulfilled the last day of the maximum two year contract. Bob was more than just a "Techy Guy". He was a man with a compassionate and generous heart. Bob not only contributed to the technology needs of CDR but to a number of other organizations: Mujeres Unidas / Women United, Daughters of the Earth and Sweet Medicine to name a few. Bob helped with websites, computer crashes, system hold ups and numerous other technological problems. And then he also helped individuals from low-income, minority and refugee communities fix their computers when they could not afford to hire someone.

Although he will be greatly missed in the office, we know that where ever he is, what ever he is doing it will be for someone else out of the goodness of a very large heart. Farewell and Best Wishes Bob. From the staff and board of directors of Cultural Diversity Resources.



Bob Swanson and Pierre Atilio,
Program Coordinator, November
10, 2006

From Somalia to the USA Con't...

Mohamud has worked in the refugee camps of Kenya with the International Rescue Committee (Norway) as a mental health administrator. He didn't start at the top in that job either. He started out running messages into the "field" for his supervisor and making sure that the people living in the camps were aware of health related issues. Today, after being referred by Pierre Atilio, CDR Program Coordinator, Mohamud is

completing Community Health Mentor training through Family Health Care, working a full-time job at J.M. Smuckers, and will begin to pursue his GED at the Leidal Center in West Fargo and



then hopes to continue on to college to become a Mental Health professional in the Fargo Moorhead area.

Mohamud is also taking keyboarding classes at CDR in order to increase his employable skills and to be able to do well in college when he gets there. It's been a long journey for Mohamud, but, one that he does not regret beginning.

Cultural Diversity Resources

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Visit us on the Web
www.culturaldiversityresources.org

● Benefiting Our Community,
You and Your Business!!!

Cultural Diversity Resources: a regional diversity initiative serving the Fargo / Moorhead Metropolitan area in Cass and Clay Counties since 1994.

Mission: To build communities that value diversity.

Vision: To strengthen the bonds in the community and support everyone by eliminating fear, misinformation and barriers that keep individuals apart.

Goals: To increase the understanding and value of diversity in our community.

To eliminate the barriers to community participation experienced by the diverse population.

Calendar of Events

Keyboarding for Beginners -

Level 1 ~ Mondays at 2:00 p.m. and Thursdays at 11:45 a.m. 1 hour sessions.

Level 2 ~ Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. and Fridays at 11:45 a.m. 1 hour sessions.

Level 3 ~ Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. 1 Hour Session.

Moccasins Beading Class: Wednesday Evenings - 6:00 p.m. Cultural Diversity Resources lower level. Open to Native American Women and Young Girls only.

December 10, 2006 - Human Rights Day Expo.

February 1, 2007— “A Financial Affair”: Making the Most of the Earned Income Credit. Cultural Diversity Resources Noon to 4 p.m. Meet tMayor Voxland of Moorhead and the financial community.

If you would like your activities included in

the Culturally Speaking calendar of events please email them to:

office@culturaldiversityresources.org

November and December Public Access Programming:

November 20: 10:30 a.m.: Wintercount: Stories of the Shakopee Mdewakanton

November 22: 6:30 p.m.: Wintercount: Stories of the Shakopee Mdewakanton

November 27: 10:30 a.m.: West Nile and Lyme Disease

November 29: 6:30 p.m.: West Nile and Lyme Disease

December 4: 10:30 a.m.: Positive Parenting

December 6: 6:30 p.m.: Positive Parenting

December 11: 10:30 a.m.: Positive Parenting 2

December 13: 6:30 p.m.: Positive Parenting 2

December 18: 10:30 a.m. : Positive Parenting for Teens

December 20: 6:30 p.m.: Positive Parenting for Teens

December 25: 10:30 a.m.: Child & Teen: Checkups & School Health

December 27: 6:30 p.m.: Child & Teen: Checkups & School Health

If you have feedback, ideas, suggestions or own the rights to tapes you would like to see aired please contact Kristen Benais, Program Assistant at:

kristen@culturaldiversityresources.org

