

NEWSLETTER ... September 2008

Oklahoma City International Visitors Council

Editor – Kay Bickham
Website: www.ivcokc.org



An optimist is a person who takes the cold water thrown upon his ideas, heats it with enthusiasm, and uses the steam to push ahead.

It seems like the younger we are, the more we want to change the world, but the older we are, the more we want to

NEXT IVC MEETING THURSDAY, Sept. 4, 2008

11:00 – 12:30

Ann Lacy Bldg.

Oklahoma City University

Corner of N.W. 24 & Blackwelder

2501 N. Blackwelder

Call 341-3169

for information

The next meeting will be
on September 4.

SPEAKER:

Becky O'Dell

Executive Director

Community Literacy Centers, Inc (CLC)

Oklahoma City, OK 73146-0687

Phone 405.524.7323

E-Mail okcread@aol.com

www.communityliteracy.com

The CLC is located in the heavily hispanic area on S. Broadway and serves Hispanic, black, and white adults who never learned to read. There are currently about 400 students in its various programs.

"If a man be gracious and courteous to strangers, it shows he is a citizen of the world, and that his heart is no island cut off from other lands, but a continent that joins to them."

---Francis Bacon Philosopher, Essayist

FYI.....

August 29, 2008 -- Noon to 1 p.m.

Oklahoma History Center, Chesapeake Room

2401 N. Laird Avenue – Oklahoma City

You are cordially invited to attend the

OU-OKDHS Practice and Policy Lecture Series

Values, Beliefs and Norms of the Mexican Family:

Where We Came from and Where We are Going

Featuring: Rolando Diaz-Loving, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychology and

Head of the Psychosocial Research Unit,

National Autonomous University of Mexico

There is no registration or fee required.

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Oklahoma Health Equity Campaign Town

Hall Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 18th

"Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?"

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Langston University, OKC Campus –

4205 N. Lincoln Blvd.

Call 405-271-9444, ext. 56535 for reservations (no fee)

Global Oklahoma – a festival of cultures. Saturday, October 4

10:00 AM to 5:00 PM at Rose State College.

Featuring Vietnam

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WorldFest – a project of World Neighbors An International Market and Learning Experience

Coca Cola Bricktown Events Center

425 E. California

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Friday, October 3, 2008 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, October 4, 2008 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Sunday, October 5, 2008 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission - \$5 per ticket (No cost for children under 12)

Now in its fifth year, WorldFest's three-day authentic market experience will make you forget you are in Oklahoma and will take you to the villages in Asia, Africa and Latin America - all places where World Neighbors works to transform the lives of people living on incomes of less than \$1 a day. As our premier fund-raising event, the proceeds of WorldFest help fund the

programs that, since 1951, have changed more than 25 million lives in 45 countries.

WorldFest offers beautiful handcrafted fair-trade products for sale, created by artisans from remote villages around the globe. Enjoy cultural performances by international dancers and singers. Sample scumptious international food daily from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m, provided by Kam's Kookery.

The World Neighbors **Learning Village** is a hands-on educational exhibit that will engage adults and children through health, water conservation and agriculture activities, while providing steps visitors can take to improve their local and **global communities.**

Other items of interest from the World Neighbors newsletter

Join World Neighbors Journeys

These are trips you will never forget – for many they are life-changing. contact Gregg Biggs at 415.648.9577 or gbiggs@wn.org.

Our next Journey is to Guatemala, September 8 to 15, 2008. Upcoming Journeys include Ecuador in February 2009 or Kenya in the summer of 2009. And For the first time in more than a decade, World Neighbors is offering a Journey **to Nepal, April 4 – 14, 2009.**

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- **Shop Macy's one-day event and support World Neighbors**

Macy's celebrates a national day of support for local non-profit organizations in our community.

For just \$5, you can purchase a discount pass to use during **Macy's Shop for a Cause** day. **Saturday, September 20 at your local Macy's, you will have the opportunity to participate in a unique shopping experience** and enjoy 10-20 percent off discounts, entertainment, special events and the chance to win thousands of dollars worth of prizes. You must have a discount pass to be entitled to these special savings and it must be presented at time of purchase. **Your \$5 donation is a lifetime investment, as proceeds directly benefit World Neighbors work.**

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Friendship Force Oklahoma

Friendship Force hosted two inbound groups this summer – from Mt. Gambier, South Australia and from Orlando, Florida. Two more trips are planned for the fall: Outbound to Hay River Canada September 4 – 14 and Inbound from Olympia, WA in October.

The Friendship Force Peace Project is a park bench for the new River Walk in downtown OKC. It is located at 1001 S. Byers Avenue close to the Boat House. There are 2 plaques: "Donated by Friendship

Force of Oklahoma" and "A World of Friends is a World of Peace."

Share with someone...

Caring Pen Pals Sought For Unique Online Program Encouraging Students to Love Reading and Think Critically

In2Books is a research-based online mentoring program that builds literacy skills. It is offered without charge to students in low income neighborhoods through generous sponsors.

In2Books is a positive experience for everyone. Pen pals appreciate making a difference in the lives of children, as well as the "from anywhere, at anytime" flexibility of our all-digital program. Teachers appreciate the resources they receive and the excitement their students develop for reading and writing. Students become better readers, writers and thinkers and gain a new love of learning. Moreover, a recent independent study found that 6,000 In2Books students outscored their peers on standardized tests.

Hundreds of classrooms across the United States have signed up to participate in In2Books this fall and we expect many more as the school year begins. For more information please visit the website at <http://in2books.epals.com/login.aspx>.

IVLP Programming - Measuring the Success of the IVLP

The Southern Regional Meeting in Atlanta earlier this month featured a closing plenary on Measuring the Success of the IVLP in which Rick Ruth, Director of the Office of Policy and Evaluation, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State talked about the work of his office and ongoing efforts to evaluate the impact of the International Visitor Leadership Program and other exchanges. The Office of Policy and Evaluation posts its findings and evaluation reports on the website of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs <http://exchanges.state.gov/education/evaluations/completed.htm> If you are looking for information about the impact of exchange programs, this is a great place to start.

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Sister Cities

Sister Cities International Oklahoma City reports the 1st Annual Global Vision Award Ceremony on August 6 was a well attended success. Planning is in progress for a trip to Ulyanovsk, Russia to sign the official "Sister Cities Agreement" between OKC and Ulyanovsk.

The City of Edmond is joining with UCO to pursue a Sister City. This has been approved by the City Council of Edmond.