If it weren’t for junk mail and pleas from various charities, my snail mail box would be empty most of the time. My junk mail ranges from offers to buy my house to the local coupon mailer. Then there are pleas from huge non-profits. It seems like one meager contribution generates a plethora of mailings. My spouse sometimes jokingly asks me whether they just spent all of our donation on solicitations mailed back to us. I doubt it, but sometimes it seems like they might have.

CIF, however, cannot afford the numerous and monthly mailings. We
**Our Foundation**

*Continued from, pg. 1*

CIF began organizing in 2007 as a public forum to get to know the immigrant communities in our area, and get data on the impacts of demographic change affecting our region. Many participants realized that establishing a Labor Center would bring stability and help to provide better services and education for new residents. We were grateful for the support provided by developer A. J. Dwoskin and Supervisor Michael Frey, who—along with hundreds of volunteers—helped us move ahead.

While the total community served in these 11 years numbers in the thousands, we now have a new member-ID system, and there are 206 members who have joined in the past 10 months. This year, we have served 383 employers. Half of our Board seats are set aside for people who have used our services to find work, and the other eight members are local residents committed to our mission. Our excellent staff are prepared to serve the community every day, and we hope you will check our website or call the Center, to make a positive difference in the lives of families in Centerville!

— Alice Foltz, President and Founder of Centreville Immigration Forum

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**Snail Mail**

*Continued from, pg. 1*

are local and small. We are heavily dependent upon volunteers. We could inundate you with emails, but we don’t. CIF has two main fundraisers – the International Showcase in April and the Annual Dinner in September.

Although these fundraisers help, CIF’s doors would not remain open without foundation grants and ongoing support from individual donors and faith communities. We are tremendously grateful and dependent upon their generosity. Together we work toward actualizing the shared vision of a community that provides acceptance and opportunity for all immigrants.

One of the CIF Executive Director’s goals this year is to increase the number of individual donors who contribute monthly. This will even out the peaks and valleys in our income created by inconsistent donations. So, the next time you get your snail mail, and you see a solicitation from one of those big non-profits, please think of CIF and how we need your support, too.

— John Kennedy, Volunteer & Finance Committee Chair

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**Centreville Commission for Labor Justice (CCLJ)**

The Centreville Commission for Labor Justice’s mission is to fight, prevent, and ultimately end wage theft in the greater Centreville area. The CCLJ is a division of the Centreville Immigration Forum and is led by workers, volunteers, small business owners and CIF Staff. CCLJ pursues individual cases of wage theft brought by workers, with the goal of recovering lost wages. The Commission complements the work of CIF’s other division, the Centreville Labor Resource Center, by assisting community members in negotiating with employers who have refused to pay their wages owed.

So far this year, the CCLJ team has recovered $3,860.16 through direct negotiation, avoiding litigation. The Commission is also conducting labor-related Know Your Rights sessions for the worker community. Our sessions will explain minimum wage, overtime, the Fair Labor Standards Act, work compensation, and wage theft.
Skills Training

In February and March, the Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC) presented a four-part skills training class. Daniel Guzman, Interim Labor Center Director, built a wall frame to prepare for the class. Then contractor and CIF member Dwayne Gore led sessions on hanging, patching, sanding and finishing drywall. The instruction was given in both English and Spanish. After the walls were built, members who are skilled painters collaborated with painters still developing their skills to finish up the walls. This provided the opportunity to perfect painting skills and polish up the project. The walls are now being used by the CLRC to better divide the lounge and classroom areas, as well as the office area. Thanks to all of our great collaborators who made this skills training possible! If you need some drywall repair, you know you can come to the CLRC to hire a contractor or employee who can get the job done!

Working English

Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC) partnered with Literacy Council of Northern Virginia (LCNV) on a workforce based English class. This class was offered to English language learners focusing on client service. It ended with a board-certified exam. Maya Higuee, a Destination Workforce ESL teacher, and Joanna White, area Director of Food and Beverage at the Crowne Plaza & Courtyard Marriott in Tysons Corner, co-taught the course. We are pleased to say that a third of the course participants are now Guest Certified Gold Customer Service Providers! We look forward to working with LCNV again in the fall!
**Tips for Hiring**

If you’re a new employer or want some help making the hiring process through the Center easier for your specific jobs, check out these tips:

1. **The early bird gets the worm!**
   Sometimes when the Center experiences a high amount of jobs going out and not enough employees to fill them, employers are turned away. We are open at 6 a.m.; try to get here early—before 8:30 is usually a safe time to guarantee a skilled individual for your job.

2. **Call for skilled labor in advance!**
   If you have a more skilled job like painting, drywall, or carpentry, try calling in advance to ensure we find you an employee with the skills required for the job.

3. **Spring/Summer 5-hour minimum!**
   We have a minimum, or flat rate, during the spring and summer where the minimum payment should be equivalent to five hours of work even if the job takes less than five hours.

4. **Use Saturdays for your big jobs!**
   Saturdays are our busiest days. On most Saturdays, all the members go out on jobs by 9 a.m.! To make your Saturday job more attractive, offer a full day of work—8+ hours.

5. **Rain or shine, we’re here!**
   Don’t let a cloudy or rainy day put your project on hold. We have landscapers willing to tackle projects in all types of weather. Call if you’re not sure, but more likely than not, we will have someone ready to get the job done!

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**Hiring Stats**

This quarter, the Centreville Immigration Forum has seen an improvement in employer satisfaction, compared to the first quarter of 2017.

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<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<td><strong>Total Jobs</strong></td>
<td><strong>180 JOBS</strong></td>
<td><strong>179 JOBS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Employer Satisfaction</strong></td>
<td><strong>95%</strong></td>
<td><strong>99%</strong></td>
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The 8th Annual Centreville International Showcase was held April 21, 2018 at the Korean Central Presbyterian Church on Lee Highway in Centreville, Virginia. The Showcase included international cuisine, entertainment, and a silent auction. Entrance was free, but visitors were also able to purchase a wonderful dinner provided by local restaurants. Close to 500 people attended the event, with almost 200 individual dinners served.

The event began with bag piper Eric Rice-Johnson leading a procession of international flags into the auditorium. Eric has been piping since 1959, including several appearances at the White House.

Entertainment included singing, dancing, and music from around the world. Some performers were the Korean Senior Harmonica and Autoharp Players, Tinkuy Music of the Andes, Huellas of Central America, the O’Neill-James School of Irish Dancing, and Kofi Dennis and Friends African Drumming.

The silent auction featured some international items: a Lebanese Bread Basket, Korean Kitchen Delights, and a gift card from Auld Shebeen Irish Pub. Other sought-after items in the auction included golf for four at Laurel Hill, a week at a cabin in the mountains, and tickets to CIF’s Annual Awards Dinner. The silent auction raised over $1,800! Many thanks to all who made the event a success, especially event chair Carol Robinson and her committee of volunteers.

Every year CIF celebrates Mother’s Day by holding a lunch for the community. This year, our Mother’s Day event was celebrated at the Centreville Labor Resource Center with both adults and children enjoying the event. The celebration included a piñata, games for the mothers, certificates, gifts, and a live DJ. Special thanks to community leaders Pedro, Don Pedro and Felix for being our DJ, master of ceremony, and game coordinator. Thanks to our local Giant grocery store for providing food donations, and to Woman Giving Back for providing clothing donations. Coordinating the event was CIF organizer John Cano. All helped make the Mother’s Day celebration a success.
A Member Story

Rena came to the CLRC to get help with her resume. She worked as a teacher in El Salvador and had also studied to be a lawyer. The job market in El Salvador for her and her husband did not offer many opportunities, so Rena knew that they needed to do what was best for both of them: migrate to the US. The couple came hoping for better opportunities for themselves and for their future children. While Rena was hopeful for the professional opportunities that awaited them, she also knew she would miss El Salvador. Rena and her husband moved around the D.C. metro area for three years before settling down in Centreville, where they have lived for almost 20 years. The couple has four children, with the eldest about to graduate from college! Rena is now looking for work as a lactation consultant.
Meet the Crew

OUR STAFF

Samantha Zaboli

Samantha is the Labor Center’s new Manager, in charge of all the day-to-day operations, including education classes. She has worked with immigrant communities locally and in Ecuador, where she lived for five years. She enjoys working with others to create stability and solidarity and hopes to leave the world a better place than she found it. She is an advocate for social justice and equality. We are thrilled to welcome her to the team!

Kelsey Jones

Kelsey was our Spring Marketing Intern. She graduated from George Mason University in May with a degree in Advertising. Kelsey comes from a family that immigrated from Guatemala, and she is an advocate for immigrant rights. She hopes to use her education to make a lasting difference in the world.
Meet the Crew

Three of our volunteers were nominated for the Adult Volunteer of 2017 for Fairfax County’s Volunteer Service Awards!

ANA RIVERA
Nominee for Volunteer Fairfax Award

“It is evident how Ana cares about the mission of Centreville Immigration Forum as well as our financial health. She has a true concern for the low-income workers we serve and is dedicated to improving their well-being through our organization.”

Terry Angelotti
CIF Executive Director

CHRIS HOOVER
Nominee for Volunteer Fairfax Award

“Chris is committed to creating an environment where English learning is achievable, with one-on-one attention. He is dependable and follows through on his commitment to the students, week after week, year after year.”

Kitty Stapleton
CIF ESOL class coordinator

STEPHEN VANDIVERE
Nominee for Volunteer Fairfax Award

“Stephen’s seemingly boundless energy and never-ending passion for causes of human concern is a constant at the Center, at committee meetings, representing our concerns locally and in Richmond and on the Board of Directors. He is unstoppable and unflappable.”

Wynne Tysdal
Volunteer Coordinator

We at CIF appreciate all our volunteers!