



What's Happening @ the Helping House

October 18 **Parenting Series: Supporting Parents and Children through Separation and Divorce 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm**

October 23 **Youth Car Wash**
time to be announced
Let's help the youth raise funds for their activities such as tutoring, guitar lessons, buddy-pairing program, youth drop-in and more.

October 25 **Working in the Public Service**
Exploring the job opportunities in working for the government
5:30pm to 8:30pm

November 1 **A Memorial Service** in partnership with Valley View Funeral Homes and Memorial Gardens

Everyone is invited to join in the memorial service for our beloved ones at the Valley View Chapel from 6pm to 8pm. Mass will be officiated by Father Mario Villarosa, Pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel. Those who would like to light a candle and pray at the graveside may pick up candles from Valley View Funeral Home after 3:00pm

For more information call,
Viring Avendano – 604-584-5408
Edith Froment – 604-596-8866
Marissa Asistio – 604-596-7196



**The Helping House, your home away from home:
only \$20 a day**

Multipurpose Hall: \$15-\$20/hr

Workstations: \$250 / month

Movies @ Helping House by donation: \$3



Multicultural Helping House Society

helping newcomers succeed in canada

4802 Fraser Street, Vancouver, BC V5V 4H4

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MHHS NEWS

October 15-30, 2004

GIVE TO THE CRISIS FUND

Death. Murder. Bullying. Abuse. The Filipino community has not been spared from crisis events. The most prominent were the stories of Jomar Lanot victim of youth violence, Brenda Domingo and her infant murdered in her apartment, and Penelope Estacio caregiver ill with cancer.

Multicultural Helping House Society did what it could to help. On Jomar, MHHS led a 50 member coalition to identify what could be done to prevent the tragedy in future. For Brenda, MHHS raised funds to assist the family. For Penelope, MHHS in partnership with Philippine Journal campaigned for funds in the community; in addition, MHHS is currently housing Penelope free of charge.

Other appeals for financial help include: newcomers who have not yet earned the right to MSP and have fallen seriously ill; caregivers who have had to leave abusive employers and have no place to stay or no income to rent housing; suicide victims whose families have not enough savings for funeral expenses. Given limited resources of Helping House, not all of these individuals are helped, helped adequately or helped on time.

To respond to these situations, the Multicultural Helping House Society has initiated a Crisis Fund, established at the VanCity Credit Union. The fund will be used to assist in emergency crisis situations as described above. By having a ready crisis fund, people can be helped when they need the help. At this time, Board members of MHHS have put in seed money into the Crisis Fund totaling approximately \$1,500.

We are appealing to the community for support to the Crisis Fund. Donations will be tax-deductible and the Multicultural Helping House Society will issue a tax receipt. The amount raised will be kept in a secured fund and will only be used for emergency situations such as the ones described above. Decisions on whether a request is worthy, and amount of the award will be made by a 3 member crisis fund committee. Reporting on the Fund will be done annually along with the audited financial statements of the MHHS.

Please give to the Crisis Fund, by calling MHHS at Ph 604-879-3277 or mail your cheques to MHHS Crisis Fund, 4802 Fraser Street Vancouver BC V5V 4H4

Vancouver Police Chief listens to the Filipino Community

The Multicultural Helping House Society hosted the Chief Constable's Diversity Advisory Committee (DAC) last October 5, 2004 Tuesday. The committee chaired by Chief Constable Jamie Graham focuses on safety issues involving the diverse cultures of our city. Representatives of the Filipino community identified bullying and other safety concerns of youth, break-ins and suspicious activities around neighbourhoods and the need for language translators when accessing police assistance in a crisis situation. Chief Constable Jamie Graham recognized the shortage of resources available and encouraged the community to be pro-active in addressing these issues, such as:

- ❖ Join or start a foot patrol in your neighbourhood.
- ❖ Be familiar and create a partner-relationship with the police assigned in your district
- ❖ Do not be afraid to contact the police to inform them of suspicious activities around your neighbourhood. You can always request for anonymity when reporting. Or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Multicultural Helping House will soon be offering community forums on crime prevention with assistance from the Vancouver Police.

Join the Bamboo Network Host Mentoring Program as a mentor!

The BNHMP is an initiative of the Multicultural Helping House Society (MHHS) and is funded by the provincial government. This program helps immigrant professionals and trades persons by providing them an information resource and link with the Canadian workplace, through volunteer host mentors who may have been immigrant themselves and have managed to receive Canadian designation in their professions. They would now be able to assist new immigrants adjust to life in Canada and guide them in their future careers and professions.

Since September 2003, 196 professionals and trades persons have registered as participants in the program, 120 of whom are in the field of Engineering. We have 52 mentors, 13 of whom are engineers. We need more host mentors, especially in Engineering and related fields.

If you are interested to volunteer as a Host Mentor, contact Carmen at MHHS @ 604.879.3277 or e-mail carmenh@helpinghouse.org.

New Immigrant Youth Explore Social Awareness through Creativity

Displacement, language barriers and lack of a trusted social network are key factors that lead to isolation and marginalization of new immigrant youth. In the school yard, misunderstandings about cultural differences result in racism, bullying and ostracism, factors that have resulted in deadly violence in some cases. How can new immigrant youth learn skills in dealing with these issues? How can they adjust and integrate into Canadian society? How can they learn to respect and understand Canada's cultural diversity?

The Multicultural Helping House Society, in partnership with Kathara Canada, Working Arts Society and Riley Park Community Centre, is pleased to announce **Strengthening Identity through Creativity: an Integrated Arts and Social Awareness Workshop for New Immigrant Youth**, to be held in November 1, 2004 until February 25, 2005. This 13-week workshop series is an innovative project aimed at breaking the cycle of isolation and marginalization experienced by ethno-cultural new immigrant youth. What sets this project apart is its focus on the participants' cultural identity in relation to Canada's diverse social make-up.

The workshops focus on the exploration of artistic expression that depicts common struggles and issues affecting different ethnic groups. The youth will learn techniques in the various fields of production in music, theatre, visual, and martial arts, culminating in a production created and performed by the participants in March 2005. Peer-led dialogue addressing violence, racism and marginalization will be integral in exploring strategies that empower new immigrant youth. It is through respect and understanding of one another's differences that builds a strong community and society.

For additional information, contact: JR Guerrero, Youth Coordinator, 604-879-3277

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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