



Upcoming Events @ the Helping House



September 18

FREE MEDICAL CLINIC

10 AM - 2 PM

Registered nurse available on site.

September 24

Ikaw at ang Batas (You and the Law)

- a two part series on the legal rights of caregivers

September 25 & 26

MHHS FIRST ANNUAL MULTICULTURAL BARGAIN SALE

Tons of goodies in the Helping House Parking Lot!

Bring your friends and family

10 am to 4 pm

For details, please call our office



October 13

Sponsor Beware! Public Service Advice to the Filipino Community regarding sponsorship issues.

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

October TBA

Parenting Series

aims top support Filipino parents to become better parents and increasing their understanding of BC laws relating to child welfare / protection.

November TBA

Communicate Your Way to Success

Understanding phrases, idioms, expressions and how to use them. Practicing diction and pronunciations to help you be clearly understood.



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

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MHHS NEWS

September 2004

Sponsor, Beware!!!

by Maria Lea Callagon

Sponsor be aware that once you sponsor your spouse or any member of your family, you are bound to a sponsorship agreement, under the Citizenship and Immigration Canada Act. The agreement and the undertaking that you signed with CIC are legally binding, meaning, once you are in sponsorship default, you are legally responsible and the government has a legal ground to hold you liable.

According to Christina Davidson, legal advocate at MOSAIC, the Loan Management Branch of the Ministry of Provincial Revenue has been actively seeking repayments from sponsors for the money given out as income assistance (or welfare) to sponsored immigrants. In November 2003, repayment letters were sent to 3,200 sponsors found to be in default of their financial obligations to the immigrants they had sponsored (Martin Collacott, Fraser Institute). Many members of the Philippine community are affected because they are not aware of the implications of the sponsorship agreements they signed. This is one of a few cases we encountered: a sponsored senior immigrant collected social assistance and now their sponsor is liable for paying back to the Loan Management Branch of the Ministry of Provincial Revenue the whole amount of money given as social assistance, collected over the years. The debt accumulated to over \$100,000 and a lien was imposed against their property.

Sponsorship default may result from these circumstances:

1. Your sponsored relatives collected social assistance or welfare because you could not provide for their basic needs. Know that as a Sponsor you agreed to provide your sponsored husband or wife and/or relatives and his or her family members their basic needs (such as food, clothing, shelter, fuel, utilities, household supplies, personal requirements, and other goods and services, including dental care, eye care, and other health needs not provided by public health care). The Ministry of Human Resources is obliged to provide assistance to the public if above needs is not being provided by the sponsor.
2. If for some reason the relationship between the relatives who sponsor and the sponsored immigrant has broken down, the sponsor is still responsible for any activities the sponsored immigrant may have done like collect social assistance.

If the sponsored immigrant collected social assistance, the sponsor has an obligation to repay to the government the amount of monies that the sponsored relatives collected. Failure to do so could elevate your case to the Collection and Loan Management Branch of the Ministry of Provincial Revenue. Furthermore, the government has the legal authority to charge an interest of 3% above prime on the debts.

When does your sponsorship obligation end?

- If the sponsored person is your spouse, common-law partner, or conjugal partner, you are obligated for 3 years. The sponsorship ends on the last day of the 3-year period.
- If the sponsored people are your mother, father, sister or brother, you are obligated for 10 years. The sponsorship ends on the last day of the 10-year period.

For additional information, go to Citizenship & Immigration Canada website: www.cic.gc.ca
If you need assistance about this issue, you may contact the Multicultural Helping House Society @ 604-879-3277 or through email: info@helpinghouse.org



September 2, Vancouver. Filipino teens from various schools in Vancouver came together in solidarity to celebrate a community driven event “Youth Matters.” Held at the Multicultural Helping House Society (MHHS) on Fraser (& 32nd) through the youth program called PROGENY (Project Empowerment for New Immigrant Youth), secondary students from Sir Charles Tupper, Templeton, John Oliver, and St. Patrick’s School launched Multicultural Youth Expression (MYX), a youth club composed of new immigrant & second generation Filipino students. From generating an invitation list, to catering, promo brochures, and documentation, Youth Matters was youth organized.

JR Guerrero, youth program coordinator of MHHS comments on the affair “This is a historic event. Filipino teens are organized. They radiate positive energy. They deserve all the support they can get from the community.” MYX is a result of a continuing dialogue between community workers & Filipino youth on matters around Filipino youth issues. “We want to share our culture with other youth...” explains Tupper teen and MYX organizer Michael Espiritu. “In as much as the youth club is composed of Filipino students, there has been an expressed desire to include youth of other cultures into the membership,” adds JR Guerrero. Club and event organizers include Charms Corrales, Carlos Matias, Macy Olivas, P.A. Peñalosa, Robert Trigo, & Lymuel Palero.

The event also recognized participants to the summer workshops, led by Lee “Boyet” Anonuevo arts instructor and Mayo Landicho guitar teacher. Filipino youth who completed the Guitar Appreciation workshop wowed the audience with their rendition of contemporary Filipino tunes. Young painters exhibited their works completed from the Arts Exploration workshop. The artworks will be held on exhibit at the MHHS for the rest of September.

Evening favourites were performances from R&B singer Jan Cabalu and guitar duo Robert Trigo and JP Manliclic.

Emma Paraiso, VSB Filipino liaison worker was impressed with the other initiatives announced at the event. Among these are the Youth Drop-In Lounge (Wednesdays from 3:30 – 7:30), tutorials by UBC Filipino Student Association, “Ate – Kuya” buddy pairing program, and Kathara workshops. “These (projects) will be very helpful for the youth...” quips Ms. Paraiso.

Other youth in attendance were from Nootka Elementary, Vantech Secondary, Langara College, and SFU. For youth program and MYX details, contact JR @ 604.879.3277



Filipino Youth from Tupper Secondary, Templeton Secondary, Vantech Secondary, Nootka Elementary



JP Manliclic and Robert Trigo (Templeton Secondary)



Jan Cabalu – R & B singer (independent music producer)



Charmaine Corrales and Michael Espiritu (Tupper Secondary)