



Community Relief Efforts for El Salvador

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Thousands of Salvadoreans who lost their homes in the devastating January 13th earthquake benefited from a recent local relief drive. International House along with other organizations, including the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department, collected donations at Eastland Mall on Sunday, January 20, 2001. About 100 volunteers filled 476 boxes with lights, tents, sleeping bags, medicine, diapers, food, and other items. More than 300 people donated \$2,183 in addition to the food and other wares. "We were very satisfied with the response of close to 500 boxes which were donated on that Saturday and the following week," said International House's Marcos de Paula. For information on donating *money* for the victims in El Salvador, please call Ricardo Alvarenga at 650-0458.

International House volunteers brighten the world

On the evening of February 1st, International House celebrated its *outstanding* volunteers at a reception that included food, drinks, games and door-prizes! We extend great appreciation to Dick Norman, International House's 2001 Board President and his wife Jill, for hosting the reception in their lovely home. Over one hundred of our volunteers attended, representing our board of directors, English tutors, international visitor hosts, language conversation hour coordinators, gala volunteers and Latin council members, to name only a few! To those of you who could not attend, we missed you and we hope you know how much we appreciate you.

At the reception, guests played "Identify the Staff Member," "Who Wants to Win a Door Prize-International House Program Trivia," and "True or False Information & Referral calls" – all games created by the staff. Congratulations to our game winners: Philipp Reich, gala and CIV volunteer for "Identify the Staff Member" – Cheryl Johnson, English conversation hour coordinator for "Who Wants to Win a Door Prize-International House Program Trivia" – Michael Sosnowy, gala volunteer and CIV visitor host for "True or False Information & Referral calls."

We cannot thank our volunteers enough for their tireless efforts in supporting the mission of International House. Special thanks to the generous restaurants & businesses who contributed to the reception's success: Adam's 7th Street Market, Authur's Atlanta Bread Co., Bao Ding, The Charlotte Film Society, Charlotte Plastic Surgery, Chick-Fil-A, Ethan's, Nova's Bakery, Pastis, Sir Edmond Haley's, The Palm, and Village Tavern.

Gracias, Merci, Danke, Grazie, Arigato, Obrigado, Shukran, Thank you., to all our wonderful volunteers! You make the world go 'round!



Celebrating 20 Years

English Tutor Program Successfully Completes Another Training

In January, twenty-four new volunteers joined the ranks of the English Tutor Program after successfully completing ten hours of training at International House. Thanks to the commitment of these new volunteers, more than twenty-five internationals from countries including Korea, Colombia, Mexico, Togo, Peru and Ecuador will now have the opportunity to improve their English language skills and become more self-sufficient members of our community. Tutors provide an invaluable service by offering individual instruction in students' homes at times convenient to both. Tutors often serve not only as instructors, but also as advocates, helping internationals become more active and involved in the Charlotte community. A small commitment of a tutor's time can make a tremendous impact in the life of an international in need. The next ETP tutor training session will be held in April and May. For more information or to register for this session, please contact program coordinator Amy Shea at 333-8099 Ext. 19.

Children's Spring Soccer League

In October 2000, International House, in partnership with Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Dept. and Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation, implemented a children's soccer league for children ages 8-10. Thanks to the success and overwhelming response to the fall season program, the soccer league will begin its spring season in the first week of April.

The spring season has been expanded to allow children ages 7-12 to participate. Games will be held on Saturday evenings at Beverly Woods Elementary School.

The soccer program offers at-risk children an opportunity to participate in a safe and fun activity, while learning good sportsmanship and meeting other children from international and local cultures. Parents are invited to cheer from the sidelines and encourage their children's efforts.

The league is offered at no charge to participants, who are provided with uniforms, equipment and transportation.

For information about sponsoring a team, volunteer opportunities or enrolling children, please call International House at 333-8099.

Kirk Whalum

Grammy nominated saxophonist Kirk Whalum performed "*The Gospel According to Jazz*" on Saturday, February 17, 2001. Mr. Whalum performed with pianist John Stoddart at University Park Baptist church. His performance drew a diverse audience of more than 200 people.

After the show, Mr. Whalum stayed to speak with members of the audience and sign autographs. His performance was scheduled during [Black History Month](#) to celebrate the contributions of African Americans.

The performance was the third in a series being presented by International House to bring diverse music to a wide array of audiences in the Charlotte area. This project is made possible in part by a Community Cultural Connections grant from the Arts & Science Council-Charlotte Mecklenburg, Inc. and the Grassroots Arts Program North Carolina Art Council, a state agency.

Children's Foreign Language Camps at International House

International House Summer Camps Promise to be *Spassig, Amusant, and Divertido!*

Children of (almost!) all ages can enjoy a summer of language learning at International House's summer camps. Throughout June and July, International House will offer week-long programs in French, German and Spanish, where children have the opportunity to explore language and culture through arts and crafts, music, storytelling, and food.

Each of the three camps will be taught by native speakers who will immerse campers in the language of choice. While the experience is certainly an educational one, as children will have the opportunity to develop new vocabulary and practice conversational skills, the focus will be on fun! Call Amy at 333-8099 ext. # 19 for more information. *Please see page 4 for a complete schedule of dates and times for language camps.*

Celebrating 20 Years

GLOBAL PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

Community Connections

Community Connections Welcomes Participants from Siberian Russia and the Republic of Moldova

Twelve educators from the Kemerovo Oblast (where it was 50 degrees below zero) joined us in January for winter in Charlotte. The participants spent 21 days learning about education and curriculum development in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system. They also had an opportunity to travel to Charleston, SC and to Washington, DC. *A special thank you our wonderful home hosts!*

North Carolina Secretary of State, Elaine Marshall, to Host Luncheon for Moldovan Visitors.

The Community Connections business program will host nine English-speaking entrepreneurs from Chisinau, the capitol of Moldova, from March 5 until April 6, 2001. Each intern will have a special “job shadowing” assignment which is related to his or her profession.

There is state-wide interest in this program as the Republic of Moldova and the State of North Carolina became official Sister States in 1999. Both Greensboro and Winston-Salem have Sister Cities in Moldova and will be hosting some of our interns as well.

On Thursday, March 8, North Carolina Secretary of State, Elaine Marshall, will be honoring our interns at a luncheon presentation to the City Council and County Commission. Secretary Marshall and Representative Philip Baddour are co-chairs of the NC-Moldova partnership committee and are looking for ways to expand and create new projects.

In addition to the business programs, the group will participate in seminars, cultural events and will travel to the beach. They will depart through Washington DC on April 8th.

Siberian Group to Visit Charlotte in May for a Program on Historic and Cultural Preservation.

Ten Russian administrators from Tomsk will travel to Charlotte for a 21-day overview of the American methodology of cultural revitalization. Tomsk, founded in 1604 on the banks of the Tom River, is known for its “lacework” style of elaborately decorated wooden houses. Although the city is currently a leading center for administration, education and industry, concern for its historic environment has preserved a legacy of architecture and crafts that represent a Russian national treasure.

The program in Charlotte will focus on the importance of business support for cultural and arts-based institutions. Community Connections is currently looking for host families and other individuals will to meet with the group. For further information on any of the Community Connections projects, contact Project

Director Lorne Lassiter or Program Officer Ludmila Van Dreel at (704) 342-2247.

Charlotte’s Council for International Visitors

This month:

Mexico (1) March 18-21 US Immigration & Refugee Policy

Charlotte’s CIV facilitates the exchange of future foreign leaders into the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area to experience local business and community resources first hand. CIV is looking for community volunteers to take the visitors shopping, sightseeing, to a game etc., home hospitality volunteers to host visitors for a meal in their home, and professional resource to meet with visitors to discuss their field. For more information, please call Florence Beretta at 704-342-2248. Thank you for your support!

Celebrating 20 Years

Ages: 2½-10--**Dates:** One-week camps from June 4 through July 27 --**Time:** Morning and afternoon camps available--

Cost: \$125.00 for ages 2½-3½ (2 hour camp), \$135.00 for ages 3-5 (2½ hour camp), \$140.00 for ages 5½-10 (3 hour camp)

Camp Français

Ages: 6-8--**Dates:** June 11-15--**Time:** 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM--**Cost:** \$130.00.

German Camp

Ages: 5-11. --**Dates:** June 18-22 and June 25-29--**Time:** 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.--**Cost:** \$130.00.

Community Bulletin Board

“A Celebration of Provence”--Experience a touch of France without ever getting on a plane. Phillip’s Place will be transformed into a Provencal village. The celebration takes place April 19th- May 6th and is sponsored by the French American Chamber of Commerce of N.C. For more information, call 704-334-6967.

Save the Date! -- This year’s 12th Annual International House Gala will be Saturday, October 27th, 2001. Be sure to mark your calendars!

Simultaneous Translation Equipment is available at International House for rental to businesses, churches, schools or other organizations. The equipment can broadcast translation of up to four languages to as many as forty-five

individual headset receivers.

Your membership welcomes the world to Charlotte

International House depends almost entirely on private donations to fund its programs and services. Your contribution means a great deal. **Your membership expiration date is on the mailing label next to your name.**

Yes, I want to help. Enclosed is my membership fee for \$_____

International House’s annual individual membership begins at \$25. For more information, please call 333-8099

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____ email _____

Creating community with a global vision

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