

Celebrating the Past, Building the Future

ECAC has been providing programs and services for Ethiopian and other immigrant and refugee families for over 24 years. These include, but are not limited to: resettlement and placement; cultural adjustment services; English language instruction; job training and development, including Chicago's first electromechanical assembly-training program; health education and outreach; computer and civic education; and youth and family development. Additionally, ECAC works with local coalitions to advocate for long-term issues affecting immigrants and refugees, including immigrant rights, affordable housing and equal opportunity.

Due to the steady growth of the Ethiopian Community in Chicago, as well as the demands of an aging population, ECAC's need for a Childcare and Cultural Center has become acute. Moreover, a Cultural Center that Ethiopian families can call their own is integral to our mission: to serve the educational, cultural, psychological and socio-economic needs of Ethiopian and other immigrants and refugees in order to facilitate their stability, growth and development within the larger community. We hope to secure an 11,000 square foot facility on the north side of Chicago that will allow us to:

- ✓ Maintain, develop and showcase Ethiopian culture via a museum and art gallery contained within the Center. These will house rare and unique Ethiopian artifacts, as well as traditional clothing, books, art, and music;
- ✓ House celebrations and gatherings in a community hall, including weddings, graduations, New Year events, and Ethiopian Day and other cultural celebrations;
- ✓ Enhance programs and services for our constituents including:
 - Educational advancement via a childcare program and additional space for an improved after-school program. The childcare facility will initially serve 36 households and will be a source of fee-generated income for ECAC;
 - Social and emotional support for seniors via a new seniors program;
 - Skill development training services to assist with job readiness and the overall transition to life in the United States;
- ✓ Expand current programs and services offered by ECAC including resettlement and placement, health outreach and education, and job training and development;
- ✓ Honor the Ethiopian community's presence in Chicago and promote and share its culture;
- ✓ Unify Ethiopians around a common cause – ensuring a culturally rich and secure future for children and families.

In order to facilitate the adjustment of our immigrant and refugee clients to the American workforce and better meet their needs, an expanded Workforce Development Center within our new facility will:

- ✓ Offer workforce skills and job readiness training, as well as job counseling and placement, to approximately 600 individuals annually;
- ✓ Train over 100 individuals in electromechanical assembly. The 10-week training sessions offered by ECAC in partnership with S&C Electric Co. aim to meet the needs of unemployed or underemployed individuals within the broader African community,

strengthen the workplace-related English proficiency of our clients, and meet the needs of the electromechanical device manufacturing industry;

- ✓ Provide Vocational English as a Second Language classes for new employees so as to help them transition to their new work environments.

We hope that you will join us in our efforts to build the Cultural Center of our dreams in our adoptive home of America. To make an online donation, please visit the 'Donation' section of our website (www.ecachicago.org). As the only Ethiopian-based refugee resettlement agency in the Midwest, your generous contribution will help secure and support our culture and community in Chicago.