

News

What's New at ECAC?

- **New Electromechanical Assembly Training Program**

ECAC has obtained a grant from the [Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity](#) to begin an electromechanical assembly training program – the first training program of this kind. The trainees will be enrolled in the program, which will include theoretical training at ECAC and practical training at potential employer companies. Once the ten week course is completed, graduates will be placed in internship positions at potential employer companies. Suitable candidates for this program should be able to communicate in English, committed to a career in assembly, hard-working and dedicated to the training. If you, or anybody you know, would like to get involved, please contact Adane Kassa, Program Director, at 773.728.0303. The training will officially begin in July 2008.



- **Environmental Justice and Eco-Restoration Project for Youth**

On Friday, June 27, youth from ECAC's after-school program will travel to the community of Fuller Park on Chicago's South Side to engage in an environmental justice and eco-restoration project at Eden Place, a land-fill-turned-community-garden. Youth will volunteer their time cleaning, building and planting while learning about environmental issues and how they affect communities differently. The afternoon will end with a cookout, games and a hay ride. If you would like to join ECAC's youth on this adventure, please contact Jessica Schaffer or Ayalnesh Dowling-Brown, Youth and Family Educators, at 773.728.0303.



- **Cultural Education Classes**

Cultural education classes continue for youth every Saturday morning from 10:00 – 12:00 at ECAC. These classes are FREE and include Amharic language education, cultural games, music, dance and art. Youth of any age and of any language skill are welcome. If you would like to enroll your child, please contact Adane Kassa or Jessica Schaffer at 773.728.0303.

Cultural Center News!



We are now embarking on Phase III of our Cultural Center Fundraising Campaign, beginning with a letter writing campaign. Letters will be mailed to Ethiopian community members and friends, American supporters, corporations and foundations, and elected officials. If you would like to donate to the Cultural Center Fundraising Campaign, please visit the donation section on our website.

Community News!

WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2008 June 20 CHICAGO

- **World Refugee Day**

Every year on June 20th, refugees, refugee advocates, and community partners around the world gather to commemorate World Refugee Day. Please join the World Refugee Day Committee for two special events:

1. **Rally for Refugee Rights: “8.8 Million Stories of Those Left Behind”**
Federal Plaza
50 W. Adams (corner of Dearborn and Adams)
12:00-2:00pm

Join the WRD Committee for a rally advocating the assurance of basic human rights for the refugee community worldwide. The theme for this year’s rally, “Protection for Those Left Behind”, addresses the 8.8 million refugees who have been ‘warehoused’. This long-term ‘holding’ of refugees in camps has become a tragic and unfortunate, but established pattern. Hear speakers from the refugee community and from the state and local governments – in support of guaranteeing rights for refugees.

2. **A Musical Extravaganza**
The Wild Hare
3530 N Clark Street Chicago, IL 60657
7:00-9:00pm

The Wild Hare is the first reggae club in the United States founded by former refugees from Ethiopia. Come network with other community partners, refugees, and refugee advocate, celebrate refugee contributions to the United States and hear music played by Chicago refugees themselves.

Please visit www.wrdchicago.org for more information. We hope to see you there!

More Community News!

- **African Summit**

On May 31, 2008, a Summit on African Immigrants and Refugees was held at the DuSable Museum of African American History. The Summit served as an educational forum to foster a deeper understanding of Africa, the immigrant and refugee experience in the United States, as well as African American history and culture. Presenters included Dr. Carol L. Adams and Dr. Edwin Silverman of the Illinois Department of Human Services, Gaye D. Sleh, Jr. of the United African Association, and our very own Dr. Erku Yimer, Executive Director of ECAC

Save the Date!

July 26, 2008: Community Picnic

August 23, 2008: Annual Meeting

September 12, 2008: Ethiopian Day Celebration at Daley Plaza – “Under the Picasso”

September 13, 2008: Ethiopian New Year Party at the Croatian Center, 2845 W. Devon

December 19, 2008: Community Christmas Party for ECAC youth

