Community Fabric and Drake University Leadership

Drake University LEAD 100 students and EMBARC’s Community Fabric (CF) Sewing Project teamed up to create a Leadership curriculum that is tailored to younger refugee students from Burma. One of the first CF students to be trained, Tu Meh, exemplifies the potential of the refugee youth. With the support of Youth and Community Fabric Program Manager, Dianne Siasoco, she applied for and was accepted into the National Honor Society. In Community Fabric, she is not only gaining sewing skills, but also becoming empowered to be a leader in her community. Thank you Dr. Thomas Westbrook and the Drake students for your leadership!

First Unitarian Church Builds an EMBARC Library
Fold, cut, staple, tape, repeat. Nineteen volunteers from First Unitarian Church made this their refrain during their two "Faith in Action" volunteer events. They have made over 300 books and 100 folders! EMBARC’s Youth Programs strive to teach to different reading and skill levels, and our volunteers help our youth, giving them greater access to the tools they need.

Partners in Education: SPARK and Meredith Middle School

The academic school year is coming to an end, but fun and educational activities continue with EMBARC’s SPARK Middle School Program. Partnership with Meredith Middle School's principal, David Johns, and ESL teachers, Jilea Bueso, Michelle LeBlanc, Marlou Soyer, Kaitlin Ogden, and Kathryn Winger, has built a strong foundation for the SPARK after-school literacy program. All are working together to engage students in reading and organizing field trips. Recent adventures include a Des Moines Menace Soccer Game and the Blank Park Zoo.

Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, Chealsee Klindt graciously opened up her classroom and shared her sewing machines with the Community Fabric Sewing Project so they were able to complete service learning projects. EMBARC’s Youth Programs can’t thank the Meredith Middle School team enough!
Rohingya Refugees

Thousands of Rohingya refugees from Burma fleeing poverty and persecution have been stranded at sea after having been denied entry into neighboring countries.

The Rohingya are a Muslim minority in the predominantly Buddhist country of Burma. The Burmese government does not recognize the Rohingya as citizens, referring to them as “Bengali” and classifying them as illegal immigrants. The Burmese government often confines the Rohingya to internment camps and restricts their freedom to marry, travel, or make repairs to buildings without official permission. Many Rohingya have attempted to leave the persecution they face in Myanmar on smugglers’ boats, heading for Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. Many of those seeking asylum in other countries become victims of human trafficking or are forced to pay an exorbitant amount of money before they are allowed to exit the boats. Some are even kidnapped then held for ransom as a way for smugglers to maximize profits by filling their boats with as
The influx of ‘boat people’ started in early May when the Thai government’s discovered several mass graves near the Thai-Burmese border. Believed to have been camps linked to human trafficking, the Thai government crackdown has led smugglers to abandon their human cargo at sea. Rohingya and Bangladeshi refugees have been left on cramped boats without food or water since early May.

For more information:


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**Spotlight**

**Dalia Kyi**

Dalia was born in Burma in the midst of a war waged by Burma’s military government on the ethnic minorities; persecuting, torturing, and killing the Karen people. At age 3, her family fled to the Mae La Refugee Camp on the Thai/Burma border. They lived behind wire fences for 12 years until they were resettled in Rockford, Illinois in 2008. She remembers struggling to adapt to life in America, and she longed for a career in which she could help her community.

Dalia began working with EMBARC last year as a Family Advocate. She also coordinates Community Based ESL and literacy classes through a partnership with Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI). They start with basics, such as filling out checks, paying bills, or learning how to write their own names, and then work through advanced topics, such as grammar. Dalia coordinates five classes at three sites: Zion, Vineyard, and Creekside; and supports over 75 students. She is so impressed with the progress the students have made!

“Back in their country, because they are fleeing, they don’t get to learn. Now I am glad that they have a chance to learn in this country.”

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What Are They up to Now?
Medicaid Workshop in Marshalltown

Refugee community members in Marshalltown are on their way to healthier, happier lives after a training coordinated by EMBARC, Marshalltown, and Marshall County’s local DHS Iowa Medicaid Enterprise communications team. Understanding the American insurance system remains a huge barrier for refugees to access healthcare services. This training taught refugees how to access Medicaid to improve the health and well-being of themselves and their families.

Meet Sewing East Village Style at Stitch

The Community Fabric (CF) Sewing Project is learning how to make beautiful sewn goods at Stitch, an urban craft room in the East Village of Des Moines. Jessica Lynds, co-founder of Stitch, has opened up her store after hours, taught classes, and donated materials to CF’s budding seamstresses and entrepreneurs. The young women are taking their first steps to designing and launching a product that will be available later this year. The support and expertise of Stitch has ignited the critical thinking and sewing skills of these refugee women.

Community Resources
Refugee Health Coverage Fair

Friday, June 12th
5:30 pm—8:30 pm
at Polk County River Place
2509 E. Euclid Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50311

Are you a refugee?
Get connected to health resources in Des Moines!

- Help with Medicaid and Medicaid Expansion forms
- Trained professionals and interpreters to answer questions about your family's medical coverage
- Help with Health Risk Assessments (HRA)
- Free Refreshments!
- Refugee Health Resource Fair
- For more information, email christopherkbeachy@gmail.com

World Refugee Day 2015
June 13th

The Cup

16 Soccer Teams from 10 Countries!
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Valley Community Center
4444 Fuller Rd.,
West Des Moines, IA 50265

June 20th

The Celebration

Cultural Fair and Farmer’s Market
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Lutheran Services in Iowa
3200 University Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50311

For more information:
www.facebook.com/WRDDSM

Health and Well Kids in Iowa
Healthy kids are happy kids!

hawk-i offers free or low-cost healthcare coverage for kids and teens ages 1-19. Beginning in 2014, even more children will be eligible for health care coverage! Thousands of kids qualify for coverage — do yours?

### DENTAL COVERAGE TOOL!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Size</th>
<th>Medicaid</th>
<th>hawk-i</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Up to $10,488</td>
<td>$10,488 to $17,008</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Up to $21,288</td>
<td>$21,288 to $33,314</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Up to $33,048</td>
<td>$33,048 to $50,822</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Up to $43,829</td>
<td>$43,829 to $62,930</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Up to $52,289</td>
<td>$52,289 to $75,538</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Up to $58,380</td>
<td>$58,380 to $85,540</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Questions?** Contact hawk-i customer service at 1-800-257-8563 or go to www.hawk-i.org

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**Time to check healthcare off your list!**

- Finish Taxes
- File Return
- Get HEALTHCARE!

Your kids could be eligible for Medicaid or hawk-i today!

For more information or to apply call:

- 515-558-6241 or 855-889-7985

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Lutheran Services in Iowa Bilingual Child Care
LSI is excited to tell you about our Child Care Bilingual Community Associates!

Need help finding child care for yourself or a client? Need assistance with a Child Care Assistance application? Call a Child Care BCA! This bilingual team can assist parents in navigating child care in the United States. Current languages listed below:

- Saho, Tigrynia, Amharic, Arabic: 515-414-0917 or 515-343-4688
- Kunama: 515-865-5178
- Arabic: 515-414-0915
- Kirundi, Swahili, French: 515-414-0912 or 515-414-0911
- Karen and Burmese: 515-421-3526 or 515-554-4067
- Karenni: 515-512-3865
- Nepali: 515-313-3241
- Dinka: 515-306-6213
- Somali: 515-943-5476

For other languages or questions, contact: Hilary Burbank at 515.271.7315 or Hilary.burbank@LSIowa.org

You can also check out our updated list of child care providers from many different languages!