



crossroads
international

the newsletter of the international institute of metropolitan st. louis

December, 1983
Vol. II, No. 2

INSTITUTE BOARD LAUNCHES BUILDING RENOVATION CAMPAIGN

A Capital Campaign to raise \$275,000 for building renovation and ongoing general operations needs was officially launched on December 1.

Anne Moller, President of the Board of Directors, announced that nearly \$95,000 had already been received in advance gifts and pledges. Major contributors from the corporate and foundation sectors have included Monsanto Fund \$15,000, McDonnell Douglas Corporation \$10,000 and an anonymous contribution of \$15,000. Significant individual donors include: Mrs. Leif J. Sverdrup \$10,000, Mr. and Mrs. William S. Knowles \$8,100, Mrs. G. Kenneth Robins \$5,000, and Mrs. Clark P. Fiske \$4,000.

An additional 84 individuals and organizations have given gifts of up to \$1,000. Contributors who make gifts of \$500 or more will have their names placed on a plaque in the new Institute entrance unless the contributor requests otherwise.

The funds for building renovation are urgently needed since building occupancy code requirements have not been completely met. Another staircase to the second floor is mandatory, and it will be combined with a new entrance to the building. Also, weatherizing and continued mechanical and electrical upgrading are necessary. The \$50,000 balance of the building mortgage is due in 1985, and retirement of that loan is included in the campaign goal.

It is expected that the \$180,000 balance in the Institute's current Capital Campaign will be raised by August, 1984.

INSTITUTE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are pleased to announce that the following individuals have agreed to serve on the International Institute's Board of Directors beginning in 1984. They will be installed at the annual meeting on January 19.

Bruce B. Adaire - Vice President/Director of Operations, Anheuser-Busch International, Inc.

Joseph S. Balcer - Director of Marketing, Love Real Estate Company

Raymond Gallardo - Area Vice President (International Group), Mallinckrodt, Inc.

James L. Haack - Vice President, Sverdrup & Parcel and Associates, Inc.

Paul H. Hatfield - President, Diversified Businesses, Ralston Purina Company

Dr. Seung Kim - Director, International Business Programs, St. Louis University

Chalmers A. MacIlvaine - Executive Director, Japan America Society of St. Louis, Inc.

Mrs. Margie W. May

Dr. Robert S. Reitzes - Director Governmental Affairs/Public Relations, Monsanto Corporation

The following four individuals are present Board members who are being re-elected to second terms:

John R. Bradbury - Vice President (Internat'l) The Boatman's National Bank of St. Louis

Joseph DeRotaeché - Manager, World Trade, Regional Commerce and Growth Association

Dr. Peter P. Etzkorn - Associate Dean, Graduate School and Director, Office of Research Administration, U.M.S.L.

Mrs. Paul (Nancy) Painter

Board members whose terms will continue for at least one more year are:

Mrs. Alan S. (Kikue) Atkins - Owner, Traveller's Choice

Virgil N. Bouras - Bouras Mop Company

The Honorable Marion G. Cairns - Missouri State Representative (District 96)

Larry Carp - Carp and Morris (attorneys)

Miss Rose Gadesi

Mrs. William S. (Nancy) Knowles

Mrs. Glenn L. (Anne) Moller

Dr. Julia King Muller - President, United Missouri Bank of Kirkwood

Dr. Robert L. Pierce - Assistant Professor, George Warren Brown School of Social Work, Washington University

Mrs. G. Kenneth (Marjorie) Robins

Dr. Marcel Saghir - psychiatrist (private practice)

Austin P. Tao - President, Austin Tao and Associates

Edward H. Tenney, Jr. - Tenney, Dahman and Katcher (attorneys)

James L. Tullmann - Manager, Tourism, International Business, McDonnell Douglas Corporation

 INSTITUTE GETS 9.2% UNITED WAY INCREASE

The International Institute's 1984 annual allocation from the United Way of Greater St. Louis has been increased to \$69,313. This increase reflects a 9.2 percent increase over the agency's 1983 allocation.

In its letter to Anne Moller, Board President, the United Way praised the agency's effective use of volunteers in the delivery of the agency services.

In addition, they commended the agency on effective management which is exemplified by the agency's decrease in the unit cost of service.



Sr. Marie Therese Townsend, a five-day a week volunteer teacher, works with newly arrived refugees in the Education Department's intake program.

ENGLISH PROGRAM ACCREDITED

The English as a Second Language Program in the Institute's Education Department now has the distinction of being the only resettlement agency language program in the St. Louis area to have received such accreditation.

In November, 1983, the Council for Noncollegiate Continuing Education, an accrediting commission listed by the U.S. Department of Education as a nationally recognized accrediting agency, granted accreditation to the agency's ESL Program. This followed a rigorous examination of every facet of the program including management, funding, curriculum, methods, materials, and staffing. It culminated in a site visit by a team of experts in the fields of ESL, continuing education, and program design and management.

Congratulations to the Education Department staff and teachers, who spent countless hours preparing the fine application and oral presentations for the accreditation proceedings.

W.I.N. PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTS INSTITUTE STAFF

The International Institute has been particularly lucky to have participated in a W.I.N. Program that has provided fully subsidized case aides and day care workers to the agency since July 1. The present program, which funds 4 positions, is due to expire on December 31. However, the Institute plans to submit an application for new positions which will become available on February 1.

Under the program, bilingual case aides (primarily Ethiopian and Polish) have been hired by the agency to assist in the resettlement of newly arriving refugees. In addition, two day care positions in the agency's nursery program have been provided.

The W.I.N. Program is designed for local welfare recipients who have children. Under this work incentive program, administered locally by the United Way, individuals normally eligible for welfare benefits can accept fulltime employment in lieu of cash assistance payments. The program's intention is to provide work training experiences that may then enable individuals to become employable after their 3-month training period.

We have found this program to be extremely beneficial to the agency. The W.I.N. employees are eager to work and fill many of the gaps in staffing brought about by federal funding cutbacks.

CHILDRENS' CHRISTMAS PARTY HOSTED

A Christmas Party for newly arrived refugee children was held at the International Institute on Saturday, December 17.

For the second year, Cadet Troup #3309 from the Girl Scout Program in Florissant, MO brought cheer and merriment into the hearts of refugee children through song and games.

The 15 troup members brought cookies and punch for the children and arranged a program including Christmas carols.

Our thanks to troup leaders Rhonda Haynes, Joyce Bathke, and Barb Schikore for their efforts to organize a delightful and entertaining party for the refugee children.

The activity was coordinated by Laurie Holland, Institute community liaison specialist, with assistance from Julie Hoffsten.

Santa made his traditional appearance and passed out mementos.

CLOTHING A PRIORITY NEED

Refugees arriving in their new country have three basic needs: food, shelter, and clothing. Minimal government grants enable us to meet the first two needs, but for clothing, we depend on the generous donations of used clothing from friends of the agency.

To meet the diverse clothing needs of our clients, we have discovered that we need both personnel and an inventory control system. We must sort, categorize the usable clothing as it comes in, dispose of items (like bowling balls and very large sized clothing) that our refugees do not need and display the usable clothing so that it is easily located.

In October, it was realized that our storage area was so full that it was unusable, and we could no longer reach what we needed. So, on one bitterly cold Saturday in November, about 30 brave volunteers hauled all the unusable clothing and other items into the Institute's parking lot for a sale. The sale proceeds were intended to be used to purchase cooking utensils, dishes, tables and chairs, and most of all, hats and gloves for the winter months.

We did not sell much, although we learned a great deal about parking lot sales.

The main result was that we reduced the storage area inventory to a manageable and useful proportion.

PLEASE KEEP THE DONATIONS COMING.

Warm coats, sweaters, gloves, hats and shoes in sizes from infants to medium-sized adults are particularly needed.

Also, we need household furnishings, especially tables and chairs.

Most of all, we need more storage space. If you have a secure, large empty space that you would like to donate for our use, please call Julia Geerling at 773-9090.

INSTITUTE MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership in the International Institute is on a calendar-year basis. Renewals will be sent in the month of January. Watch your mail for the request and please help us as generously as possible.

BECOMING A REFUGEE ISN'T EASY

I am a Cambodian. I finished high school in 1966. Then, I was admitted as a high school teacher and taught chemistry and biology in a high school at Bthambang Province from 1968 to 1975.

On April 17, 1975, the Communist troops evacuated all the cities. They allowed the people to bring only a few things -- clothes, a little rice, etc. Along the road, they searched the people and confiscated watches, radios, rings, etc. Some people brought money. They thought they could buy anything. About one week later, the Communists proclaimed that money would be of no value any more. Many people committed suicide by drowning all their family in the car in the Mekong River. I noticed many people dead along the road, especially the ill people evacuated from the hospitals. I could not describe all of the disaster.

I stayed three years, eight months and 20 days under the blood regime that killed about 50 percent of the population of Cambodia (8 million before the coming of the Communists). There is a lot of terror about which I cannot write anything. I was caught three times, and I didn't know why I was alive. I could repair the generator. I thought that they had not killed me yet because I was useful to them.

In January, 1979, the Vietnamese troops invaded Cambodia again. The Pol Pot troops withdrew from Phnom P'enh to the west of Cambodia and stayed along the Khoner Thai border. Along their retreat, they continued to kill people. The Vietnam troops also killed Cambodian people and stole our goods.

One thing I noticed: the Vietnamese borrowed Pol Pot soldiers' hands to kill Cambodian people. This is the extermination policy being used in our country right now. They forced the people to learn Vietnamese. A Cambodian who had a wife and children could remarry a Viet-girl. I thought, five or ten years more, the Cambodians will become Vietnamese.

I didn't plan to leave Cambodia. I worked with the free Cambodian troops on the Khmer Thai border to try to make Viet troops withdraw from Cambodia. But, there was no support from any powerful country, and the soldiers were corrupt and undisciplined. I despaired and fled to the Khao I Dang Camp on November 21, 1979.

On May 29, 1981, I left the Thai camps for the U.S. by way of the Philippines Processing Center, where I stayed for seven-and-a-half months. I attended cultural orientation and English classes while my wife received treatment for the tuberculosis she had contracted under the harsh conditions in Cambodia. We arrived in St. Louis on January 16, 1982.

I still have problems here. The life is hard here.

Sithan Hin
March 9, 1982

(Excerpts from a paper prepared for
the Institute's Level 4 English
Program)

OPEN HOUSE HELD

The Institute's annual open house was held on November 2 from 4:30 - 7 p.m.

The reception was a rousing success, with nearly 100 in attendance. Members and friends of the Institute had the opportunity to renew old acquaintances with clients, staff, and others, and, in the meantime, view a delightful and informative variety of exhibits and demonstrations.

Audio-motor demonstrations using Mandarin Chinese and Farsi were conducted so that individuals not familiar with these language acquisition techniques could gain insight into how our clients learn a new language.

A mini-lesson in how to speak Polish was conducted by Boguslaw Zych, an Institute staffworker.

Eggroll-making was demonstrated by another staffworker, Nguyen Thi Le Hoa.

Also, the Lao dancers and musicians performed as part of an educational series funded by the St. Louis Arts and Humanities Commission and the Missouri Arts Council. This group will perform four more times in the next 9 months at local educational and cultural activities in an effort to broaden community members' awareness of this art form.



Miss Nigist Kibrom demonstrates an Amharic hairstyle on Institute staffmember, Glynda Tossing at the recent Open House.

WINTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 19

6 p.m.

Annual Meeting and Dinner; Bar Association Rooms, Mercantile Center. Wells C. Klein, Executive Director, American Council for Nationalities Service, main speaker. For reservations, contact Julie Hoffsten, 773-9090 by January 16.

February 20

8:30 a.m.

Washington's Birthday is observed. However, we will be open for services as usual.

VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED

A reception was held on Thursday, December 15, to honor Institute volunteers during the 1983 year. Anne Moller, Institute Board President, handed out volunteer recognition certificates. She emphasized the importance of volunteers to the agency's programs and applauded their dedication to the agency and its clients. Honored were:

English Program

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Kathryn Berry | Sr. Marie Therese Townsend |
| Edith Boling | Kim Fehrenbach |
| Ray Buchan | Stanley Strauss |
| Kathy Bumb | Michele Stegall |
| Luke Burns | William Murray |
| Katherine Chambers | Carol Schuster |
| Douglas Estella | Suzanne O'Brien |
| Neathery Fuller | Rodney Knight |
| Robert Gardner | Mary Ann Hempen |
| Susan Kottler | Cornelia Vogel |
| Peter Lugo | |
| Martie Miner | |
| Kris Moeller | |
| Judy Moore | |
| Betty Olson | |
| Garie Perry | |
| Stanley Sprague | |
| Carol Stecher | |
| Emily Tait | |

Social Services:

Elzbieta Zmuda
 Dr. Ruthmary Devel
 Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Tuckler
 Edward Nickels
 Fred Lah
 Mary Smith
 Dawn Diebenedetto
 Catherine Hinrichs
 Rev. Don and Judy Gobson
 Rev. Thomas Lakso
 Yousuf Kakar
 Mrs. Eleanor Hoops
 Ruth Midyett
 Sherry Sabat
 Mary Schwartz
 Sharon Gorman

DONATIONS NEEDED

Household items and winter clothing donations are particularly needed for newly arriving refugees. Call 773-9090 for pick-up on larger furnishings. All donations are, of course, tax-deductible.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

NEW FACES AMONG INSTITUTE CLIENTS

The International Institute is truly a meeting ground for many nations as we approach the new year, 1984.

In the past ten years, we have gone from a phase of dealing with the families of visiting professionals and trainees, au pair girls, and overseas wives of American servicemen, to concentrating on a large population of Vietnamese refugees, which expanded to include ethnic Chinese-Vietnamese, Laotians, and Khmer.

The refugee arrivals were further diversified when Afghans, Ethiopians, and Cuban entrants began to arrive. We are now receiving Poles, Czechs, Zulus from South Africa, and, so far, one family from Mozambique.

This December, our first numerous contingent of Iranian refugees has started to arrive, and in our English classes, we welcome not only our own sponsorees but the diverse people resettled by our friends from Catholic Charities, which like our own, include Poles, Afghans, and Ethiopians but also Hungarians, Romanians, and Angolans.

All these people bring their diverse cultures and attitudes to our community. All have been through great personal and national crisis. All need support and understanding.

Our need for many kinds of clothes, kitchen items, and furniture continues to increase. Call 773-9090 if you would like to volunteer to assist in resettlement of these new families or if you have items to donate.

THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

Over 100 newly arrived refugees from a half-dozen countries celebrated their first Thanksgiving at the International Institute on Wednesday, November 23.

A Thanksgiving feast was prepared by the Institute staff. It included 5 20lb turkeys with all the trimmings. A thanks to all the staff who helped prepare and serve the dinner, which was an awesome task indeed.

If you would like to invite a family to a holiday dinner, please contact Glynda Tossing at 773-9090 for further information.

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INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

If you are not presently a member of the International Institute and would like to join and regularly receive this newsletter, please fill out the application below and return it to the International Institute, 3800 Park Ave., St. Louis, MO 63110. Please make checks payable to "International Institute." Memberships are tax-deductible and are due on a calendar-year basis.

| Membership Categories | Individual/Family | Business/Organization |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Regular | \$10 | \$50 |
| Contributor | \$25 | \$250 |
| Patron | \$50 | \$500 |
| Sponsor | \$100 | \$1,000 |

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

ORGANIZATION OR BUSINESS _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____
City State

_____ New Membership _____ Renewal