

## International Institute in Brief

International Institute St. Louis prepares immigrants and other St. Louisans for a shared future by offering integration services, including language and cultural support, economic development, and public policy advocacy.

LEARN MORE AT [WWW.IISTL.ORG](http://WWW.IISTL.ORG)

## Catalyst for...

### Economic Development

#### Small Business Center

- Business loans to \$35,000
- Technical assistance
- Peer Lending Circle
- II Community Development Corporation

#### Financial Literacy & Asset-Building

- Home buyer seminars
- Matched savings program
- Credit counseling

### Social Services

#### English Classes for Adults

#### Counseling & Social Work

- Elderly
- Mental health
- Victims of human trafficking
- Domestic violence

#### Job Training & Placement

#### Refugee Resettlement

#### Photos & Immigration Forms

### Culture & Community

#### Festival of Nations

#### Fee-based Services

- Translation & Interpretation
- Speakers & Consulting
- II Business Solutions Center

#### Resources & Links

- Community Calendar
- Culture Links: St. Louis Directory
- National Network

#### Ethnic Mediation Council

## International Institute Business Solutions Center

### Translation & Interpretation

500 non-profit & for-profit businesses contract with II Language Services to fill more than 5,000 appointments in 50 languages.

### Research & Analysis

### Direct Marketing

### Consulting & Training

Dozens of training sessions & consulting contracts are conducted. Ethnic focus groups can be organized as well.

## International Institute Community Development Corporation

Formally established in 2007, the IICDC is an affiliated corporation of the International Institute.

Its Board and staff focus on expanding micro-lending and other opportunities for immigrants in low income neighborhoods.

In 2007, the IICDC was granted CDFI & CDE status by the US Dept. of Treasury.

## Economic Impact

### Since 1999...

511 matched savings accounts opened by immigrant families with a collective savings of \$1.4 million & an economic impact of \$14 million.

### Since 2000...

250+ businesses created or expanded by immigrant entrepreneurs with a total economic impact of more than \$100 million.

## 2009 Achievements

### Economic Development:

Through various business start-ups and expansions, 86 total jobs were created in the economy and the total economic impact was \$6.16 million.

Total positive economic impact (total of assets purchased in IDA Program and additional sales) was \$2.44 million.

### Social Services

637 refugees were sponsored from Somalia, Iraq, Nepal, Ethiopia, Congo, Burma and elsewhere.

2,077 immigrant students received English instructional services.

108 adult immigrants attended US Citizenship preparation classes.

892 clients were provided job services, including 404 placed at 95 companies. More than 65% of jobs included medical insurance. Average wage for all placements was \$8.15.

333 immigrants were seen by therapists and social workers. Of clients in therapy, 68% increased their GAF scores within 6 months; 95% of social work clients accomplished some or all of their service plan goals.

### Culture and Community

Festival of Nations drew 125,000 visitors to Tower Grove Park in August.

More than 5,000 fee-based interpreter appointments were provided.

Don't miss Festival of Nations, August 28-29, 2010 in Tower Grove Park! Now bigger *and* better!

*Experience the world in your own backyard!*

*Celebrate St. Louis!*

*Learn about our rich cultural history!*

## Key Historical Dates

- 1919 - International Institute St. Louis opens on November 19
- 1920 - International Folkfest debuts
- 1924 - Interpreter services established
- 1934 - Festival of Nations sponsored at Municipal Auditorium (Kiel)
- 1942 - Women's Defense Group of foreign-born women organized to assist in the war effort
- 1945 - Young Women's Group organized for foreign-born wives of American servicemen
- 1950 - Citizenship classes debut -- the first in St. Louis
- 1975 - Vietnamese refugees begin arriving
- 1978 - Anna Crosslin is hired as Executive Director. Staff totals 9 & the agency budget is \$175,000
- 1998 - Agency resettles 1,537 refugees -- its largest year ever
- 1999 - Institute completes its capital campaign and moves to 3654 S. Grand in the heart of St. Louis' growing new American community
- 2003 - *Wish You Were Here!* the II's first gala/auction debuts in the World's Fair Pavilion in Forest Park
- 2005 - II Business Solutions Center is launched
- 2007 - II Community Development Corporation is formed
- 2008 - Anna Crosslin, 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Institute President
- 2009 - 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Institute is celebrated



## Staff and Volunteers

Anna Crosslin - *President & CEO*  
Kathleen Delpha - *Sr. VP*  
Suzanne LeLaurin, LCSW - *Sr. VP*  
Anita Barker - *VP Education*  
P. Ariel Burgess - *VP Client Services*  
Paul Costigan - *VP Program Development & Quality Assurance*  
Cesar Figari - *VP Operations*  
Kate Howell - *Community Relations Manager*  
Christina Juelfs - *Administrative Services Manager*  
Andrea Wren - *Language Services Supervisor*

Along with 80 more fulltime and part-time staff, they provided services to 7,946 clients in 2009.

1,000+ volunteers provided nearly 25,000 hours of volunteer service in 2009 valued at \$527,400.

## Board of Directors

Edgar L. Smart, Sr., *Chair*  
Richard Tao, *Vice Chair*  
Robert J. Teak, *Secretary*  
Phillip M. Klevorn, *Treasurer*  
Ashok Chawla, *Immediate Past Chair*  
Samuel B. Charrington  
Janice A. Cerny  
Gene V. DeFelice  
Mary P. Heger  
Debra A. Hollingsworth  
Jane Allen Jones  
Karen Jordan  
Gregg M. Lemley  
Grace Yin Lo  
Amal Mansuri  
Randal T. Narike  
Jane Robert  
Richard Sems  
Amit B. Shah  
Stacey R. Sifton  
Hunter Torres  
Sandy Tsai  
Michael A. Zambrana

## Immigration - Fact or Fiction?

**In the past, most of America's immigrants were white.**

**Fact!** *However, these newcomers, while European, were not necessarily considered "white" by those already here. Racial slurs were lodged against Irish, Italians & others based on the "color" of their skin & facial features.*

**It's easy for someone to immigrate to America.**

**Fiction!** *A lengthy & expensive application process must be completed to bring immigrant relatives to the US. The process could take 5-25 years!*

**Immigrants must pay taxes.**

**Fact!** *Immigrants pay income, property, sales & taxes at the federal, state & local level. Undocumented persons pay taxes as well, as evidenced by the Social Security Administration's "suspense file" (taxes that cannot be matched to workers' names & social security numbers) which grew by \$20 bil. from 1990-1998.*

**Refugees receive thousands of dollars to resettle in St. Louis.**

**Fiction!** *Each refugee gets \$900 for basic needs (housing, food, etc); some "work-ready" refugees are also eligible for modest early employment incentives.*

**Immigrants take jobs away from Americans.**

**Fact - and fiction!** *In the first years after immigrants arrive, some may compete with Americans & even with other immigrants, especially for low-paying jobs.*

*However, high levels of entrepreneurship among immigrants also help grow the American economy, eventually creating more jobs & economic opportunity for all.*

*A significant number of immigrants come with professional degrees & technical skills which further contribute to building our economy.*