



# January Newsletter 2014

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello and Happy New Year!

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season. I am delighted to announce that CIP received a grant of \$5,000 from the Ohio Children's Foundation! This award will go towards the Youth Advocacy Program. It has energized us since we have been working diligently on program development and submitting grants for various initiatives for 2014.



As the new year begins we are focusing our efforts on several new projects. We are working to host a delegation of judges from Libya in February. Their training will focus on the development of the Rule of Law. This program will be held in partnership with the Ohio Supreme Court. Our Russian speaking partners and interns are developing several programs for professionals from Russia and Eastern Europe. These programs may take place in Spring or Summer of 2014 and will focus on Social Work, Education, and Small Business Development.

Our CIP intern, Niny Rosso-Reyes, spent the holidays in Colombia, where she is hoping to establish connections for a Colombian Social Work delegation later in the upcoming year. I hope that you will continue to partner with us to make these projects develop by renewing your membership for 2014. Your membership allows us to develop programs to provide great training opportunities for professionals from around the world and promote diversity in Columbus. You may renew your membership online by following [this link](#).

We are also happy to welcome four new interns, who will be part of CIP for winter and spring of 2014. Our interns bring an array of skills and interests to the organization. Our current interns are studying International Relations, Social Work, Public Administration, Professional Writing, Business, Political Science, Psychology, and Anthropology. They also speak Russian, Spanish, Korean, Amharic, and Georgian. Together with your support, we are looking forward to a successful year!

Our organization is celebrating over 40 years of service! You are invited to join us as we plan activities to honor our legacy and our new international friends! Stay tuned for events for January, February, and March. We will keep you updated through emails, social media, and the [News and Events](#) section of our website.

Sincerely,

Mark Poeppelman, Executive Director

## THE HOLIDAY SEASON AROUND THE WORLD

While we're still in the holiday spirit, let's look at the way the winter holidays are celebrated in the countries of some of our past participants.

### **Uzbekistan**

Christmas symbols and decorations, like those found in Europe or the US adorn the streets of Uzbekistan's main cities, including the capital, Tashkent. But for most people Christmas, which the Orthodox celebrate on January 7th, is just part of New Year celebrations. Uzbek's Santa or Father Frost, whose name is "Korbobo", rides on a donkey to delight the children. He wears a beautiful striped dressing gown and a patterned skullcap. His little assistant granddaughter is always there to help him. Her name is "Korgiz". If you ride on Korbobo's magic donkey, tradition says that you will have a lot of success in the New Year!

### **Tajikistan**

There is a Christmas story that tells the tradition of Christmas trees in Tajikistan. It starts with children preparing the Christmas tree for New Year's Eve. A visitor who was Lord of Misrule spoiled the tree and gave bad gifts to the children whom he and his cruel wife then kidnapped. The children were able to escape with the help of their tutor. Then, it was a race against time to reach Grandfather Frost in the North Pole and tell him about the ruined New Year's Eve activities. The children reached him and explained their plight. Grandfather Frost, his snow daughter, and the children reached Dushanbe with only minutes to spare, but Grandfather Frost still managed to make everything right. He pointed his magic staff at the Christmas Tree lit the tree. Thus, all were able to celebrate the New Year.

### **Ukraine**

Christmas is the most popular holiday in the Ukraine. During the Christmas season, which extends through New Year's Day, people decorate fir trees inside and outside of their homes with lights and ornaments. Ukrainians also prepare a huge traditional evening meal. By custom, the family's youngest child watches through the window for the evening star to appear, and then the feast can begin.

In most parts of Ukraine, on Christmas Eve people make 'Vertep' (which means "cave" in ancient Greek), similar to Western nativity scenes. At night candles are installed inside verteps so people who come to church for the night service can observe them. Christmas Eve is called in Ukraine 'Sviaty Vechir' (Holy Evening) sometimes also called 'Sviata Vecheeria' (Holy Supper). There should be at least twelve different foods on the table, including the mandatory 'Kutia'- the ritual food which is prepared from cooked wheat, and a special syrup containing diluted honey, grated poppy seeds, raisins and sometimes walnuts.

Another tradition exists in some regions of Western Ukraine to decorate the table with 'Didukh'- a sheaf of oats or wheat of special shape: with four legs and numerous little bundles. It symbolizes prosperity for the next year. St. Nicolas (Santa Claus) also called here 'Did Moroz' is an ubiquitous Christmas character and is supposed to bring gifts under the Christmas tree on this night. Also in some regions people make decorated Christmas eggs very similar to Easter eggs called 'Pysanky'.

## FAREWELL TO SOCIAL WORKERS FROM GERMANY

We recently said goodbye to Anne Lehman, Angela Mattner, and Oliver Lock. They have returned to Germany for the holidays after training in Columbus for close to two months. Their work in Germany focuses on various programs that help the youth. While in Columbus, Anne, Angela, and Oliver trained at youth centers and learned about the work of nonprofit organizations in the US. Anne and Angela trained at The National Youth Advocacy Program, learning about assisting youth and their families, and our foster care system. Oliver trained at the Huckleberry House, learning about youth programs that provide emergency shelter, counseling, and communication skills building.

In early November, Kathy Moser, Sonya Afanasyeva, Tim Skinner and Mikalene Guiser had the opportunity to get to know Anne, Angela, and Oliver as they spent a fun-filled weekend together in Hocking Hills hiking by day and eating delicious German meals in the evenings. Our guests attended our December event, a Stammtisch, held in partnership with Dresden Sister Cities. On December 18th we exchanged farewells after we went to HarmonyProject's Hope + Harmony event.



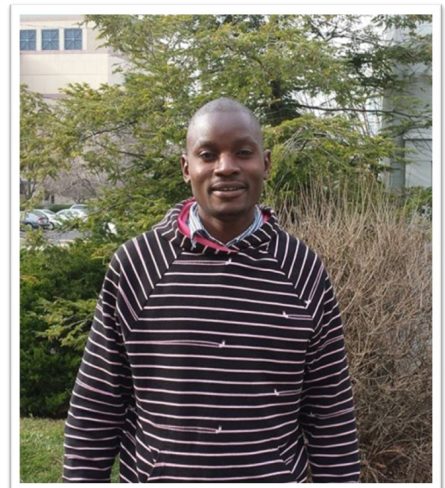
*From left to right: Oliver Lock, Kathy Moser, Anne Lehman, Ken Wafula (from Kenya), Angela Mattner, Mark and Nancy Poepelman at HarmonyProject's event.*

## WELCOME KEN WAFULA

We are happy to welcome Ken Wafula to Columbus. Ken arrived early in December from Busia, Kenya. He learned about CIP from former participant, Esther Ndakalu, and is planning to stay in Columbus for eighteen months. In Kenya, Ken works on several projects that aim to improve living conditions and help children with disabilities. He works with International Child Support, a research organization, and partners with Innovations for Poverty Actions.

While in Columbus, Ken is training at West Central School. During his training, he hopes to gain more skills in social work and hospitality, and to gain new perspectives on how to improve social services in Kenya. Ken holds a bachelors degree in Adult and Community Education, for which he studied in Uganda.

Ken comes from a large family, consisting of his mother, six brothers, and one sister. He enjoys reading short stories, travel, and watching movies. He has just returned from a trip to New York City. Ken is eager to see more sites in Columbus and hopes to visit Washington DC.



*Ken Wafula upon arrival in Columbus.*

## PARTICIPATE IN OUR 5K RUN

Mark your calendar and begin planning for our Annual 5K Run! The Kiwanis Club and Columbus International Program 5K will take place on **Saturday, April 26th beginning at 9:00 a.m.** For the more competitive runners, it will serve as a training event, and for the casual runners, it will be an enjoyable run in a great setting. The race will have an international theme and will feature exhibits from different countries along the race course. Runners will receive an international 'tech' T-shirt as part of their entry.

In partnership with the Kiwanis Club of Columbus, the event will serve to build awareness of the international community and to raise funds for the worldwide elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus. The race will begin and end at Scioto Audubon Metro Park (400 W. Whittier Street, just south of downtown Columbus along the river) and traverse in part, along the scenic Scioto-mile bike path.

Cost: Runners and walkers can register on-line through Premier Races to participate. Early registration (prior to April 4th) is \$30.00 per person. A \$10.00 per person discount is available for groups of three or more participants, and for CIP members. Late registrations and day of registrations are \$35.00 with a \$10.00 discount for students.

**If you would like to participate, you may sign up online by following this [link](#).**

## OUR ORGANIZATION IS CELEBRATING OVER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE!

A former participant recently sent us a picture of CIP participants from 1970. What a blast from the past! We are very excited to be in touch with someone who trained in Columbus over 40 years ago!



*From left to right: Nora Yao, Masamichi Sakamoto, X, Gerhard Schmidt, and Bassam Haddad.*

## WELCOME NEW INTERNS

*We are excited to welcome two new CIP interns for Winter and Spring quarters!*

“Hello! My name is Melissa Barrett. I am studying anthropology and international relations at The Ohio State University. I plan to attend law school, after I graduate in May. I love to complete puzzles, ski, and travel.”

***Melissa Barrett***

“Hi, I am Robby Southers and I am a fourth year Spanish and political science double major with a minor in professional writing. I am originally from Tipp City, Ohio, which is near Dayton. Next year, I will be studying at the Moritz College of Law at The Ohio State University.”

***Robby Southers***

“I am enjoying my third year at the Ohio State University, as a Psychology and International Studies Double Major. My coursework focuses on community and country development and the people living in such areas. I love my classes and I am even learning some basic Swahili! Outside of school, I work at Thompson Library and teach group fitness classes at the RPAC. I am also heavily involved in Young Life, a Christian outreach group on campus. I love the outdoors, singing and dancing, exploring and going on adventurous road trips with friends!”

***Emily Brown***

“I was born in Korea and went to high school in Canada. My high school was called Lakefield College School in Lakefield, Ontario. I enrolled in OSU in 2008 and am majoring in International Relations and Diplomacy with a minor in Korean Studies. I have recently been to the UK, France, Switzerland, and Korea. I have also traveled to Vietnam, Singapore, and Cambodia. I love taking photos and playing winter sports including ice hockey and skiing. In the future, I would like to work at UN, especially the UNESCO related field to culture and sports.”

***Brian Lim***

## CURRENT INTERNS

Bethlehem Aderajew

*OSU Student, Bachelors in International Studies with minors in General Business and Studio Art*

Sonya Afanasyeva

*OSU Student, Masters in Public Administration*

Melissa Barrett

*OSU Student, Bachelors in Anthropology and International Relations*

Emily Brown

*OSU Student, Bachelors in Psychology and International Studies*

Brian Lim

*OSU Student, Bachelors in International Relations and Diplomacy, Minor in Korean Studies*

Melanie Moore

*OSU Student, Bachelors in Social Work*

Niny Rosso-Reyes

*OSU Student, Masters in Social Work*

Robby Southers

*OSU Student, Bachelors in Political Science and Spanish with a minor in Professional Writing*

## STAY IN TOUCH WITH US



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