



# MARCH 2015 NEWSLETTER

## Dear Friends:

March marks the beginning of many exciting new endeavors for CIP. The China Youth Initiative Project has entered its second stage and we hope to mobilize the program this summer. We are also excited to welcome Henry Maduka, a new International Professional in Residence, to the CIP family. Henry will be with us for the next 6 months.

CIP is happy to partner with the Kiwanis Club of Columbus for the Columbus International 5k. CIP is an endorser of the race, and I would like to encourage everyone to participate. It's great exercise for a great cause. More information can be found on page 4.

Last month was the Estonian evening presentation given by Kadi Alaküla. The event was a success and I was pleased to see many of you there. CIP needs your photos for the website. If you have taken pictures at a CIP event, like the Estonian event, or you are a host family, please send your pictures to Kathy at [cipcols@aol.com](mailto:cipcols@aol.com). You can view the existing photo archive [here](#).

Your support is appreciated and valuable to us. If you haven't already, please consider renewing your membership; it only takes a minute! If you have not received your Valentine's Day renewal form in the mail, you can renew by clicking [here](#). Renewing your membership is a great way to support the efforts we make to promote international understanding through intercultural exchange.

Sincerely,

Mark Poepelman, Executive Director

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## FAREWELL FRANCES!

Very soon, Frances Khamayo will be heading back to Kenya. While she was here, she worked with Nationwide Children's Hospital in the Family AIDS Clinic and Education Services (FACES) program. Bianca Guynn, became a very close friend during her time here:

*“Frances and I spent time together shopping, cooking and exploring Columbus by going to various restaurants and shopping centers. We also spent time through going to church and going to Bible studies and gatherings through my church. Sometimes we would spend evenings with other coworkers from the FACES program. Frances became a helpful part of the FACES outreach team during her time with us. She assisted us on various outreach activities including after school fairs, community health fairs, and events at shelters and schools.”*

We will miss Frances and wish her well in her future endeavors.



*Bianca and Frances*

## WELCOME HENRY!



*Henry Maduka*

CIP would like to welcome Henry Maduka from Nigeria. Henry attended Imo State University in Owerri, Nigeria and obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in business management. He has a background in pharmaceutical sales, and he will be utilizing his skills at Phillip's Pharmacy. Henry will be able to identify the differences between Nigerian and American pharmacies and apply his knowledge to develop an improvement plan to help his workplaces both in the United States and Nigeria.

## TRASH OR TREASURE?

Every single day, hospitals in the United States toss out perfectly usable medical equipment because it is slightly outdated, lightly dented, or just the wrong brand. Normally, this equipment would go to landfills, an incredible waste of life-saving technology. Several charities exist to step in and retrieve this equipment, sending it to impoverished and conflicted areas around the world. CIP board member Bahram Hashemi has used his knowledge about medical equipment to facilitate this transfer. Last year, he assisted charities such as Mediwish and Armenian Relief Funds, just to name a couple. His goal is to make this medical equipment more accessible to others. “My interest is in education. I want to create 15 minute videos on how to use the equipment and do a rudimentary test.” CIP has specifically been involved in sending a shipment of medical equipment to Ghana, as well as having several visiting participants hand carry items back to their home countries. Bahram would like to see this program grow, adding that he would like to recruit students in medical engineering or electronics to help create YouTube videos that educate the public.

## US TOGETHER, INC.

US Together is a not-for-profit agency in Columbus that helps newly arrived refugees navigate the many facets of American life. Although these refugees have found safe haven in Columbus, the reality is that many do not know how to open a bank account, find and keep jobs, enroll children in school, and get basic healthcare. US Together is looking for volunteers to help these refugees acclimate to American life. By participating in the Financial Literacy program, you will be helping to provide culturally competent life skills. There is no need to be a financial expert, only the ability to function in American society. Please contact Sophie Shiloh at [sshiloh@ustogether.us](mailto:sshiloh@ustogether.us) for more information about how to get involved.



*US Together participants*

**MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup>: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY CELEBRATION**

**Time** 11:30 AM—2:30 PM  
**Location** The Ohio Statehouse Atrium  
 1 Capitol Square Columbus, OH 43215

International Women’s Day is fast approaching! The Center for Somali Women’s Advancement is hosting a free luncheon at the Ohio Statehouse on March 9<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 am – 2:30 pm. Women’s rights have made huge leaps forward, but women are still unequal in societies around the world. This event will celebrate these advances while also focusing on areas that require further attention. The event is free but requires registration. You can register [here](#).

MARCH 2015						
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**MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup> : GREAT DECISIONS CONVERSATION, HOSTED BY THE COLUMBUS COUNCIL ON WORLD AFFAIRS “SYRIA’S REFUGEE CRISIS”**

**Time** 7:00 PM  
**Location** Giant Eagle Market District Grandview Yard  
 Upstairs Dining Area  
 840 W. 3rd Avenue  
 Columbus, OH 43212

Great Decisions is America’s largest discussion program on foreign policy. Syria, once a welcomer of refugees from surrounding states, is soon to become the largest refugee population in the world. Due to the civil war raging in Syria, there is a risk of creating a “lost generation” of Syrians who are dependent on foreign aid. However, the welfare of displaced Syrians depends on the international community.

APRIL 2015						
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**APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup> : RACE TO ELIMINATE, HOSTED BY THE KIWANIS CLUB OF COLUMBUS**

**Time** 9:00 AM  
**Location** Scioto Audubon Metro Park  
 400 W. Whittier Street

April 25<sup>th</sup> marks the fourth annual Columbus International 5k Race. The race will take place at 9:00 am at Scioto Audubon Metro Park and it will have an international theme. As well as being a fun, casual race, the 5k serves as a fundraiser for the ELIMINATE Project. In conjunction with the Kiwanis Club of Columbus, we hope to raise money to help eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus around the world. Register online by

