

## Comings and Goings

*In April we said goodbye to Melis Sedef Kahraman, who returned home to Turkey after 6 months in the U.S. Melis stayed with Board Member Marian Harris and trained at Nemeth Counseling and Consultation. She made the very most of her time in Columbus by also visiting agencies all over the city. After reflecting on her experience, Melis wrote about some of the lessons that she learned in the U.S.*

### **“Expectations versus Reality” - by Melis Sedef Kahraman**

CIP facilitates everything but does not handle everything for you. As soon as I arrived I bought a car, learned the way of driving in the US, and also learned how to use the bus system as soon as possible.

My placement site was so kind to me, but your placement site cannot know your capabilities unless you inform them, and the scope of this program is not only for you to learn from them, but also they learn from you.

CIP may arrange a couple of institution visits for you but be confident to write emails to the institutions and inform CIP about your goals. Never pass up opportunities for volunteering; generally they are a good way to get hands-on learning. Also there may be some conferences or other further education opportunities around you. Keep your eyes open for them, ask your colleagues and supervisor.

The most important thing is as time passes to keep track of what you have done. This way it is much easier to plan your time in the U.S. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for you, take advantage of it and use it as much as possible to your advantage. Never skip travel opportunities and social events. Try to plan holidays earlier in advance. Try to be aware of all the local resources like the library, public open events such as talks, conferences etc. Just keep yourself updated about what is going on around you. If your expectation is all these are done by CIP for you, this program is not for you...A long term CIP experience is a way that you can push your limits.



Melis received her certificate for completing her training program from CIP Communications Coordinator Marcus Andrews.

# More Comings and Goings

## Chinese Social Work Delegation

This month we are preparing to host a delegation of eight social workers from the Shenzhen Nanshan Social Work Organization. From May 20 - 31 the delegates will stay with host families in Columbus and get an overview of the American social work system through meetings with state and local officials, with a special focus on elder care, domestic violence, family relations, drug abuse, and volunteer management.

Shenzhen is a major city in China's southern Guangdong Province, situated just north of Hong Kong. Shenzhen is the tenth most populous city in China with 10.35 million people, and one of the fastest growing cities in the world as a center of manufacturing, technology, and finance, while boasting one of the busiest ports in China.

We are looking forward to hosting this delegation, and our members will have a chance to meet the group at our upcoming Memorial Day Picnic. See "Upcoming Events" on Page 4 for more information.



## Lydia Githinj - Kenya

Lydia Githinj is a business professional from Nairobi, Kenya, who arrived in Columbus on April 30th. Lydia will be hosted by Evelyn Cleveland for just under a month until May 28th. Because of their similar interests, Lydia will spend much of her time with Anil Pandey, a business professional from Nepal who arrived earlier in April, and they will visit banking and financial planning organizations all around Columbus.



*Lydia (right) was met at the airport by Nancy Poeppelman.*

## Recapping the 5th Annual Columbus International 5K

On April 16th we had a wonderful time partnering with the Kiwanis Club of Columbus to co-host the 5th installment of this unique event. We were thrilled to see approximately 150 runners and walkers come out on a sunny afternoon at Genoa park to celebrate Columbus' international culture, while fighting infant mortality. Attendees enjoyed cultural performances, food trucks, and had the chance to learn about neonatal healthcare from 13 public health booths. We were excited to see so many of our members, partners, board members, and friends, and we thank everyone who helped make this event a success once again!



Left: Board Member Seema Anand celebrates with her husband, Jay, and their two children after the race.

Center: CIP Intern Xirui Mao (right) and her friends model traditional Chinese dresses.

Above: O - H - I - O!

[To see more photos visit our website.](#)

## In Memory of Esther Ndakalu

Last week we were saddened to learn that recent CIP participant Esther Ndakalu has passed away. Esther was a social worker from Kenya, and in 2013 she trained at the United Way supervised by Cindy Sturni, as well as Action for Children. Esther was hosted in Columbus by Needra Foston. Esther's family has set up a [Go Fund Me page](#) to help pay for funeral expenses. Our thoughts are with all of Esther's family and friends.



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## Building Welcoming Communities for Refugees and Immigrants

On April 22nd, CIP Executive Director Mark Poeppelman joined Columbus community leaders to welcome a delegation of German refugee and immigrant integration practitioners who visited Columbus as a part of the [Welcoming Communities Transatlantic Exchange \(WCTE\) Program](#). Columbus is one of four cities in the U.S. that hosted WCTE delegations in 2016, and this is an especially important year considering the challenges that Germany faces as it welcomes even more refugees than normal as a result of the ongoing crisis in the Mediterranean. Mark was excited to join many of Columbus' government and nonprofit leaders for a day of dialogue, and exchanging ideas and best practices.



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## CIP Archives Donated to the Ohio History Connection

This month we were proud to donate archives from more than four decades of work to the [Ohio History Connection](#). Records of the over 1,100 International Professionals in Residence (IPRs) from 115 different countries were accepted by curators at the [Ohio History Center](#) in Columbus, the Ohio History Connection's headquarters and one of the largest of its 50 historic sites and museums around the state. In a few months, once the archives have been catalogued by curators, they will be available to the public for research, and may one day be used for museum exhibits.



We are proud to be a part of Ohio's vibrant international culture, and we are looking forward to many more years and many more IPRs!

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## Wine Tastings with Solo Vino Imports

This month, join Jon Offredo of [Solo Vino Imports](#) for food and wine tastings around Columbus. Solo Vino Imports provided the wine at last year's International Taste of Columbus, and will be doing so again this year at our [42nd Annual International Taste of Columbus](#) on August 14, 2016. Jon will be hosting a Spring Wine Dinner on Wednesday, May 11th at 6:30 pm at Alana's Food and Wine. Enjoy 4 courses paired with wines. Please call 714-294-6783 or email [jonoffredo@yahoo.com](mailto:jonoffredo@yahoo.com) to make reservations.

We are currently preparing for the 2016 International Taste of Columbus, where you can enjoy Jon's wine with food by local restaurants, representing cultures from all over the world. See "Upcoming Events" on Page 4 or visit our [website](#) for more information and to get your ticket!





## Upcoming Events

### Asian Festival and Dragon Boat Race

**Date:** Sunday, May 22nd (Race)  
May 28, 10am - 8pm (Festival)  
May 29, 10am - 6pm (Festival)  
**Location:** Scioto Audubon Park (Race);  
Franklin Park (Festival)

We are looking for volunteers to help staff the CIP information booth at the Asian Festival. This is a great way to participate in the excitement of the festival while helping spread the word about CIP. Contact our office at [cipcols@aol.com](mailto:cipcols@aol.com) or 614-221-0034 to sign up to volunteer, and don't forget to cheer team CIP on in the Dragon Boat Race the weekend before. Visit [asian-festival.org](http://asian-festival.org) for more information.

### Memorial Day Picnic

**Date:** Monday, May 30th, 2016  
11:30 am  
**Location:** Scioto Mile - Downtown Columbus  
Exact location TBA

Join CIP for a picnic on the Scioto Riverfront. You will have the chance to meet all of our current IPR's including Henry, from Nigeria; Gonul, from Turkey; Anil, from Nepal; Lydia, from Kenya; and our Chinese Social Work Delegation. Anil and the Chinese delegation will finish their programs in May and will be presented their certificates of completion. The cost to attend is \$15 and you can RSVP by [clicking here](#).

### Community Computer Alliance Recycling

**Time:** Saturday, June 25th, 2016  
10:00am—2:00pm  
**Location:** CIP Office

We will be hosting a community recycling event in partnership with Community Computer Alliance. They help you recycle your old electronic equipment - cell phones, computers, and just about anything else with a power cord - in a safe, and environmentally responsible way. CCA is a nonprofit that helps people recovering from drug addiction gain job skills, and donates refurbished electronics to people in need. To learn more about what can and can't be recycled, visit [www.ccompa.org](http://www.ccompa.org).

### 2016 International Taste of Columbus

**Time:** Sunday, August 14th, 2016  
5:30-8:30pm  
**Location:** [Mozart's Bakery and Piano Café](#)  
4784 N. High Street  
Columbus, OH 43214

Join us for the 42nd installment of this great annual tradition! We will feature international food from restaurants all over the city and hold a live auction of beautiful artwork donated by local artists. Visit our website for more information and to learn how to get your tickets at [www.cipcolumbus.org/international-taste-of-columbus](http://www.cipcolumbus.org/international-taste-of-columbus).



2016 memberships and sponsorships are still available. Through these partnerships we are able to provide meaningful and memorable experiences.

