



Multicultural Institute

West Berkeley Program Update



NEIGHBORHOOD BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2013

FY 2013 Program Highlights

Jobs and Wages

This past year, MI helped Berkeley-based workers obtain **more than 300 job placements**. The more jobs workers have, the less need they have to seek work on the street. Jobs ranged from a single day of work to several weeks or months. Many employers offer regular part-time employment. MI also assisted dozens of day laborers in reclaiming wages from employers that underpaid them or sought to take advantage of them in this informal labor market.

Thanksgiving Soccer Tournament

Since 2004, Multicultural Institute staff and a fantastic group of volunteers holds a special Thanksgiving meal at James Kenney Recreation Center. Although harvest festivals are present throughout the world, Thanksgiving is a unique U.S. holiday that is new to many immigrant families. Bringing people together and giving thanks for food and the ability to work every day are values that day laborers relate to in a very profound way. This year, teams from Berkeley, Richmond, Redwood City, and Oakland participated in the annual soccer tournament.

Health

Partnerships with Alameda County programs and LifeLong Medical allowed workers to receive low-cost & culturally competent care. Emergencies are prevented by health education and access to basic health services. Alameda County's Measure A funding helps make this possible. This past year, MI facilitated over **700 health or dental appointments or procedures** and also hosted medical providers at eight health education events for a combined audience of 277 participants. MI hosted two onsite dental clinics in 2013 for day laborers and their families assisting 80 people.

Meals

Thanks to the Alameda County Food Bank, space provided by Church of the Good Shepherd, specific donors like the Import Tile Co. & dedicated volunteers, MI offers a hot nutritious meal every Friday for an average of 60 day laborers and other West Berkeley residents. MI served **3,000 meals** this year. In addition to the day laborers, about **120 households** in West Berkeley and other nearby neighborhoods received grocery bags at MI's weekly grocery distribution.

Featured local businesses

The Multicultural Institute thanks these Berkeley businesses and entities for their ongoing support:

Import Tile Co. • 611 Hearst Avenue

Melissa Joy Manning Rings • 1827 5th Street Suite A

Berkeley Natural Grocery • 1339 Gilman St.

Peet's Coffee • 1776 4th Street

Keter Salon • 1815A 4th Street

Mi Tierra Foods • 2082 San Pablo Avenue

About MI

Founded in 1991 the Institute enjoys successful partnerships with public, non-profit, and business entities as well as various community organizations. The Multicultural Institute is a tax-exempt, charitable, nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-exempt as allowed by law. Federal Tax ID# 91-1823468.

West Berkeley Office: 1920 Seventh Street
Berkeley, CA 94710
(510) 848-4075

Berkeley Day Labor Program: (direct) (510) 847-8714



We accompany immigrants in their transition from poverty and isolation to prosperity and participation.

Support our work!

◆ DONATE

Your donation is fully tax deductible and no donation is too small! Use our mailing address or the secure pay-online service found on our website (www.mionline.org)

VOLUNTEER

Contribute with your time and talents for special events or on an ongoing basis. Assist youth with their writing or immigrant workers with their English.

You will make a difference!

HIRE A WORKER

The Multicultural Institute is a non-profit organization that connects homeowners, contractors and event planners with an extra pair of hands.

We are not involved in actual hiring or payment; neither is it our role to check laborers' work eligibility or provide workers compensation insurance.

Reserve affordable and reliable workers for your construction, moving, hauling, gardening, set-up, clean-up, painting, house cleaning and more.

Day workers are available 7 days/week at rates beginning at \$15/hr.

All wages go directly to workers!

**Contact us at
(510) 847-8714**

or

www.mionline.org