

KUKATONNOH WE ARE ONE

Reflections on 2014 - A Note From Our Executive Director

Special points of interest:

- 2014 Reflections
- POYS..A Success Story
- Help Wanted
- Community Events
- Invest in MCFS

Greetings to each of you. I am often in awe of the providence of GOD and how he wields his will, despite man's frailty.

Almost 12 years ago, my strong desire to start an organization dedicated to supporting West African Immigrant youths and their families who were victims of civil wars in their home countries became a reality. Equipped with a passion to serve and a desire assist others, I reached out for help and appreciated any form of donation to my cause. The funds and items received were used to begin our work of supporting others in need. I am grateful that MCFS continues its mission today.

It gives me much joy to share with you some of MCFS' 2014 activities and accomplishments in this edition of our newsletter. MCFS provided direct support services to more than 1300 culturally diverse individuals, youth, families and seniors in 2014. Services provided included GED preparation, customer service credentialing, job readiness, citizenship, literacy, English as a Second Language (ESL), home care, family support, advocacy, case management, recreation, employment, information and referral services.

We want to say thank you to our friends and donors who have supported MCFS from its

beginnings and have continued to stand with us over the years. A special thank you to Susana Lachs, Steve C. Graham, Keith Morgan, Peter Bittenwieser, Donna Mackinley, Drs. Abraham and Susan Munabi, Tom and Ellen Gilbert, Kevin Weinstein, Esq., Joan Chicklo, Pastor David Shaheen, Ann Bradley and Kim Weldon.

We know that such trust can never be taken lightly or for granted. As we enter into the New Year, we remain mindful of our responsibility to ensure that every dollar donated to MCFS will be utilized to bring about empowering successes in the lives of those who seek our support.

As you start your new year, filled with new aspirations and goals, I ask that you consider supporting MCFS in 2015. You may choose to support MCFS as a Visionary Sustainer Giver (5k and above), a Community Builder Giver (1k to \$4,999), a Cornerstone Circle Giver (\$500 to \$999) or a MCFS Friends Giver (\$25 to \$499). MCFS is a 501C3 tax exempt organization (Tax ID # is 051902041). All donations are tax deductible.

Donations are accepted on our secure website www.mcfsorg.com or can be mailed to 7016 Terminal Square, Suite 1 A, Upper Darby, PA 19082.

Calling All Older Youths!!!

MCFS is seeking older youths between the ages of 18 to 21 for its Preparing Older Youths For Success Program (POYS).

Youths will receive individualized instruction in preparation for the GED exam.

Participants can also receive assistance with pursuing higher education, career development and job readiness skills.

TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED

Please contact Laraamand Nyonton at 484-461-8660 for more information.

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."
-Eleanor Roosevelt

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A Pathway to Endless Opportunities through MCFS' POYS Program

"I wanted to go back to college", this desire led Ms. Natalia Guillen to MCFS' ARRA (American Recovery & Reinvestment Act) program, a subsidiary of the POYS program (Preparing Older Youths for Success) funded by the Delaware County Office of Employment & Training (currently known as the Delaware County Workforce Investment Board).

In 2010, Natalia came to the US with several goals. Her primary goals were to become fluent in English and to further her education.

Natalia had already earned her undergraduate degree in Accounting and Business Administration from the University of Costa Rica. Unfortunately, her degree was not widely accepted in the States. Natalia's sister had information about MCFS' Preparing Older Youths for Success program (POYS) and suggested that she enroll.

As a POYS participant, Natalia was provided with assistance enrolling in Delaware County Community College (DCCC) where she took ESL classes. Through POYS' ARRA program, she was placed at a paid internship at Marshalls (formerly located in the 69th Street business district). She also attended weekly group sessions at MCFS with her peers where topics such as customer service ethics, professional behavioral and personal growth were discussed.

Natalia participated in the POYS Program for 8 months. After the program ended, she obtained her tax preparation certificate from H&R Block and worked for the company during

tax seasons. Enrolling in the MBA Program at Philadelphia University was the next step for Natalia.

Natalia kept in contact with MCFS, updating us on her accomplishments. She provided in-kind accounting services to MCFS for 6 months until being offered an 8 month paid internship at Graham Partners in Newtown, Square, PA, an opportunity funded by MCFS supporter Steve Graham.

After obtaining her MBA from Philadelphia University in 2013, she was offered a full time accounting position at D. Thomas Manieri in Clifton Heights, PA. Natalia returned to MCFS in 2014 as our full time accountant.

When asked to name the most valuable ideal she learned through the POYS program, she could not answer. Natalia stated she learned so many valuable things, she could not narrow it down to just one. She stated she learned professional and personal skills she currently utilizes. She also learned a great deal about American culture which was instrumental in helping her navigate her way through school and in her community.

When asked for words of wisdom to pass along to current POYS participants, Natalia stated, "continue your studies, finish your GED, it is hard but it is worth it. It is an effort that pays off in the future".



Natalia Guillen, MBA
MCFS Accountant

MCFS is proud to have Natalia with us as an employee. We have watched her grow and reach all of the goals she set for herself. We are honored to have supported her in the early stages of her professional career. We would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to Natalia. Thank you for choosing POYS; for trusting MCFS to support you; for sharing your talents with MCFS and thank you for allowing us to proudly share your story. We also want to extend a Congratulations to Natalia on her recent nuptials to Mr. Carl Kissa. The couple wed on January 18th in Costa Rica. Congrats and best wishes to you both.

"Continue your studies, finish your GED, it is hard but it is worth it. It is an effort that pays off in the future.

-Natalia Guillen, MBA

(former POYS Participant)

If you would like information on enrolling in POYS, or are interested in donating to the program, please contact our office at 484-461-8660.

Donations can be made through our website www.mcfsorg.com

WE'RE HIRING
Check out what positions
are open

Attentive Home Care, is seeking qualified individuals for the
following positions:

Certified Nurses Aide (CNA)

Certified Home Care Aide

Personal Companion

****Applications accepted online only at
[www.mcf.org.applicantpro.com](http://www.mcf.org/applicantpro.com)**

**Personal Vehicle a Plus

Benefits Offered



Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Thursday, February 5, 2015

N.O.P.E. - Narcotics Overdose Prevention Education 7pm to 8:30pm

NOPE'S mission: To diminish the frequency and impact of overdose death through community education, family support and purposeful advocacy. Presentations include real stories of local students who have lost their lives to drugs and alcohol, showing students the reality of the consequences that drug and alcohol abuse can cause.

Location: Kennett High School 100 East South Street, Kennett Square, PA 19348

Thursday, February 19, 2015

Immigration Conference — 2pm to 5pm

Location:

Presented by State Representative Margo L. Davidson and Congressman Robert "Bob" Brady to provide information to individuals desiring international travel, citizenship, green cards and/or employment as an Immigrant.

Do you need assistance applying for Insurance through the Health Insurance Marketplace?

Please contact Crozer Keystone Health Systems us at one of the numbers below for an initial phone consultation and/or to set-up an in-person appointment.

Crozer-Chester Medical Center/Community Hospital—610-447-2336 (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

Delaware County Memorial Hospital 610-394-1720 (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

Springfield Hospital 610-328-8758 (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)



MCFS would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincerest thanks to our Supporters

Visionary Sustainer - \$5000.00-and UP

Steve and Christina Graham of Graham Partners
 Delaware County Investment Board
 United Way of Greater Philadelphia & Southeastern New Jersey
 - Doreen Storey-Executive Director-Delaware County
 Center for Family Safety-Upper Darby/Weed & Seed of Upper Darby
 -Joan Scanlon—Executive Director

Cornerstone Circle - \$500.00-\$999.00

Villari, Brandes & Giannone, P.C.
 Peter M. Villari, Esquire

MCFS Friends 25.00 to \$499.00

Rennie F Volpe
 Carey Davis

Team Treasures

In-Kind Support: Program Volunteers

Joan Chicklo, Scott Bryant, Philip Udo-Inyang, Placide Lavache, Steve Lengkeek, Elizabeth Krispin, Sean Windstein, Mano Sellaiaha, James and Tamwa Wright, Diego Jaigua, Bode Abodunde, Mark Owusu-Ansah, Mano Sellaiaha, Wade Carter, Juan Cambi, Miguel Febres, Timothy Goldner, Johnnie Simon, Melissa Stoffers, Shawn and Jamie Riley, Neville Clarke, Tommy Le, Lloyd Sterrett, Joel Lorah, Joseph James, Mazin Hussein, Frank Ogbemudia Johnson, Greg Martin, Froilan Amigon, David Nigro, , Ludin Ramos, , Edgar Lliguin, Ibrahim Jalloh, John Fantuzzo, Tammy Wang, Paul Park, Takashi Ida, David Mayango, Larramaad Nyonton, Hinur Singh, Amelia Gray, Brigette Lyon

MCFS Gems

In-Kind Support: Other

Beck Davis, Ali Mr. Brayant Dempsey, Rocco, Mary Richie Graham, Dawn Meyer, Sandy Williamson, Bill Romanelli, Doug Honea, Tiffany Davison, Elliott Glickman, , Mayor Thomas Micozzie, Mr. Tom Judge, Mike Chitwood, Cynthia Hill, Latavia Hudson, Agatha Duru, Matilda Ankrah, Dr. Yomi Alimi, Cathy Judge-Cardillo, Joan DiMuro, Dr. Susan Munabi, Steven Barsamian, Esquire, Joan Scalon, Judith Bernstein-Baker, Valentine Brown, Esquire, Violet Gedeo, Joan Chicklo, Louis Guerrera, Anthony Lerario, Debbie Callahan, Kla Wleh, Monica Chrisanthom, Roland Goselin, Patti Wolf, DELCO Soccer League, EPYSA, Mike Barr, Sue Elder, Karen Goldberg, Lissette Ramos, YSC Sports, Food Donation Connection, Harvest Support Center, The Liberian Association of Pennsylvania, AFRICOM, HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society), Liberia Ebola Relief Fund (LERF), The Upper Darby Recreation Department, African Star Newspaper, Graphics, Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA), Delaware County Office of Services for the Aging, Urban Dance and Educational Foundation (UDEF Breakers) Christy Marker, Kenny Thomas, Dominic Dimatteo, Miguel Rosario, Macca Malik, Lem James, Ben Barnes, Pete Rodriguez, Zack Slusser, Duron Barkley, Shafeek Westbrook, Haewook Lee, Jay Jano, Brian Newby, Mark Wong, Husain, Abdul-Zahir, Josh "Super Culbreath, Steve Graham, Tony Chanza, Mark Boston, Mathew Rodriguez, Eddie Shellman, Ivan Manriquez, William Craddock, The Upper Darby Multicultural Commission, The Upper Darby Outreach Community Corporation

Your contributions contribute to our success and sustainability...THANK YOU!



MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY FAMILY SERVICES

Dedicated to Serving Immigrant
Children & Families

7016 TERMINAL SQUARE
SUITE 1-A
UPPER DARBY, PA 19082

Phone: 484-461-8660
Fax: 484-861-8678
E-mail: multicultural@mcsf.org
www.mcsf.org



MISSION Statement: The mission of the Multicultural Community Family Services, Inc. is to empower individuals, children, youth and families to gain a greater capacity to succeed in their communities.

MCFS fulfills its Vision and Mission Statements by providing services to over 1,000 Immigrants, Refugees and U.S. born citizens per year through its programs.

MCFS Programs & Services

Division of Education & Job Readiness

Preparing Older Youths For Success (POYS)
English as Second Language (ESL)
Citizenship Classes

Division of Behavioral Support

Counseling Services
Family Based Services

Community Outreach Division

United Soccer Club
Building Bridges Cultural Ambassadors
The Elder's Circle (In Development)
Music Lessons (In Development)

Home Care Division

Home & Community Based Services
(Attentive Home Care)

Please contact MCFS at 484-461-8660 for information on MCFS programs and services or visit us on the web at www.mcsf.org



Attentive Home Care
Committed to Caring for You

Are you in need of home care services for your loved one?

Attentive Home Care (AHC) provides Certified Nursing Assistance (CNA); Certified Home Health Aides (CHHA) and Trained Companions to provide quality services to seniors and individuals with physical or intellectual limitations. AHC is licensed, bonded & insured

****Call 484-461-4174 today for your FREE home assessment****

Looking for a MCFS Program to Support?

The work at MCFS would not be possible without the financial and in-kind support from our generous donors. As we begin 2015, we ask that you would consider pledging your support to the following programs:

Building Bridges Cultural Ambassadors (BBCA)

A friendship building initiative for children in elementary school aimed at bringing together culturally diverse youths and families for the purpose of promoting cross cultural awareness, increased understanding of different ethnic groups and advocacy for the elimination of bullying, harassment and intimidation.

BBCA was successfully piloted in 2014. The program runs weekly for 6 weeks. There is no charge to families.

Your donation would allow us to continue this program, increase enrollment and cover the cost of instruction materials.

Multicultural United Soccer Club (MUSC)

A culturally diverse recreational and character building outreach that serves youths ages 4 to 17 years residing in Upper Darby and surrounding communities.

MUSC operates year round and provides soccer playing opportunities



for over 200 youths. Participation costs range from \$100 to \$140 child. Your donation would be used to provide subsidies to families who would like to enroll their children but cannot afford the full costs.

Donations are accepted on our website www.mcsf.org or can be mailed to our offices at 7016 Terminal Square, Suite 1-A, Upper Darby, PA 19082.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and continued support.