



## Multicultural Helping House Society

### Vancouver Office:

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### Website

www.helpinghouse.org

## Upcoming Events:

### Nov 22 - 4th MHHS Raffle Draw

6:00 - 8:00 pm  
MHHS Hall  
4802 Fraser St., Vancouver

### Nov 26 - Understanding Youth Violence: A Filipino Community Consultation

### Dec 22 - X'mas Community Party

10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
MHHS Hall

## Your home away from home at reasonable rate!

Temporary housing for new immigrants, live-in caregivers (weekenders), and people in transit

### Ask for our family package!!!

Tel: 604-879-3277

Email: info@helpinghouse.org

## UNDERSTANDING YOUTH VIOLENCE

### *A Filipino Community Consultation*

**DATE:** November 26 Saturday  
**TIME:** 2:00 - 3:00 Resource Speakers  
3:00 - 5:00 Open Forum  
**LOCATION:** To Be Announced  
Refreshments To Be Provided

youth ♦ parents ♦ elders ♦ community workers ♦ church groups ♦ students

What is happening between Filipino and Vietnamese youth? **Bakit sila nag-kakagulo?** Is there escalating conflict among them? Why is this happening? **Anong mga dahilan ng mga pangyayaring ito?** What strategies might work to prevent further incidents of violence? What are our duties as youth, friends, parents, neighbours etc. in keeping the peace? **Ano ang magagawa natin upang mapigilan ang mga pangyayaring ito?** How do we as a community cultivate an environment that is safe and that fosters cultural harmony between the many ethnic groups in Vancouver? **Paano tayo maaring mamuhay ng mapayapa at ng walang panganib sa paligid ng ibang mga lahi ng tao?**

Para sa karagdagang impormasyon / For further details, contact:  
Multicultural Helping House Society  
P - 604.879.3277 or e-mail: info@helpinghouse.org

Sponsored by: Multicultural Helping House Society  
and Vancouver Police Department

# MHHS monthly newsletter

November 2005

## Eight grader asks people to support MHHS

By Myra Pablo



Kyle holding an MHHS lottery

Eight grader Kyle Malong has a birthday wish: that people who attend his party buy \$25 worth of lottery tickets to help fund the Multicultural Helping House Society (MHHS), rather than presents for him.

On his birthday last September 24 held in the Malong Surrey home, friends and family made his wish come true: they bought 15 ticket booklets worth \$750.

How does a normal 13 year old teenager become so altruistic that he would forego the usual presents of toys and games on his birthday? Maybe because of the example of his parents. Parents De and Jet Malong are leading Board members and volunteers of the MHHS whose goal is to help newcomers to Canada succeed.

Every year, the Malongs celebrate Kyle's birthday with a party. Last September 24 was no exception but the family made it more special. The mother talked to her son about the possibility of giving up his birthday presents and instead, asked guests to buy the MHHS lottery tickets.

Jet said, "All my friends and relatives were told not to buy any gifts and just buy tickets. We explained it in the invitation."

The family residence in Surrey was made up for the celebration with an assortment of Oriental and Western food and delicacies and party balloons sans the traditional birthday gifts.

Jet said, "Since Kyle is the youngest and he likes to have a party, we indulge him." The family also prepared a special giveaway of canned homemade salmon for each ticket purchaser.

Kyle said he is happy to be part of the MHHS fundraising activity. The eight grader said, "I don't need much anyway. All I need probably are clothes but my parents can always buy me that."

Lottery tickets are now on sale at the Multicultural Helping House Society. This year, the first prize is \$5,000 cash. Interested parties can contact: (604) 879-3277.

## MHHS Panelist in BC-wide Hate Crime Symposium

THE Multicultural Helping House Society (MHHS) participated as a panelist in a recent province-wide symposium addressing hate crimes in British Columbia, bringing to the table its experience in working with youth immigrants.

JR Guerrero, MHHS shared the organization's newcomer youth in deal- they face in Canada in- and violence. He pre- COLOURBLIND, which, with Vancouver ethnic years old in identifying and how they overcome



youth coordinator, efforts to empower ing with the challenges cluding bullying, racism sented the project in 2004-2005, worked youth aged 15-18 challenges they face problems.

With the help of facilitators and artists, the youth wrote their own script and performed it using modern and indigenous art forms like rap, hiphop, martial arts, tribal dance, drumming, and chanting. The program culminated in an innovative interdisciplinary theatrical performance which was received enthusiastically by youth and adults alike at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre.

Mr. Guerrero said COLOURBLIND expressed the experiences of these young immigrants and their struggles to blend with the Canadian community.

Service providers from all over BC including Chilliwack, Penticton and Victoria expressed interest in the COLOURBLIND experience as youth in these places experience similar challenges. Guerrero stated that DVD copies of COLOURBLIND will soon be made available to agencies and schools.

The symposium was organized by the BC government, Justice Institute, RCMP E Division, BC Hate Crime Team, and the BC Crime Prevention Association. It was held at the Hilton Vancouver last Sept. 22. Colourblind was funded by the United Way of the Lower Mainland and VanCity. For copies of the DVD, please contact [kuyajr@helpinghouse.org](mailto:kuyajr@helpinghouse.org).

*MYX Guitar Lessons  
in November  
Every Wednesday 8-9 pm  
With Kuya Butch*

## CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

*SPREAD A LITTLE CHRISTMAS CHEER IN YOUR COMMUNITY*

Christmas is a time of sharing. It is also a time of giving gifts, a time of remembering our loved ones and friends. But for some this practice is simply impossible for now.

This is our chance to participate in Multicultural Helping House Society's tradition of extending help and assistance to the community.

According to Tom Avendano, President of the Multicultural Helping House Society, the Christmas Food Drive was started five years ago. He says that time for open generosity help in any small way to portune state. It is also a reaching out to your



"Christmas is the perfect for everyone, we can give those who are in an inop- time for socializing and neighbors in need".

Participants of the Annual that it's the best way to your community. Help will Baskets to be distributed who are not yet receiving

Christmas Food Drive say give something back to come in the form of Food among senior citizens any pension, single moth- ers who are unemployed and the disabled. New immigrants who have arrived in Canada who have not settled in during their six-month stay can also be can- didates in the food drive.

Christmas Food Drive celebrations will be on December 22, starting at noon- time.

Everyone is invited to attend. Expect a fun afternoon of caroling, dancing and partying. Snacks and refreshments will be served.

Put a smile on your neighbors face, a little gift of love can mean a lot to them. Non-perishable donations like canned goods, toys and Christmas items can be dropped off at the Multicultural Helping House Society located at 4802 Fraser Street (corner 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave), Vancouver. Telephone number 604.879.3277.

## **Success Story: Newcomer Engineer hired as Engineer with help of Bamboo Network**

By Maya Remigio

What's the fuss if an immigrant engineer lands a job moping floors? Immigrant doctors and accountants work in assembly lines, too. Isn't that usual when immigrants leave jobs from their home country or overseas and come to Canada?

Dondi Elvambuena, a Filipino electrical engineer with more than 10 years experience in power technology in the Middle East, arrived in Canada two years ago together with his family. Knowing that he has the education and years of technical experience, he eagerly applied for jobs in his profession. However, for one and a half year, Dondi took odd jobs one after another.

Last March 2005, Dondi signed up with the Bamboo Network Host Mentoring Program of the Multicultural Helping House Society and made a strategic change in his job search. The MHHS connected him with a group of immigrant and professional engineers who were graduates of MAPUA, one of the best engineering schools in the Philippines, and officers of the school's alumni association based in BC. The networking opportunity connected Dondi with his mentor, Dexter Tarampi who is also a MHHS Board of Director and a Maintenance Program Engineer at BC Hydro.

Mentors are professionals who volunteer with the MHHS Bamboo Network to provide information, support and guidance to newcomers and immigrants who want to get back on track in their profession. Some of the support that mentors provide include information about job openings, people to contact for jobs, and coaching for job interviews. As mentee, a newcomer or immigrant in professions and trades, plans and acts to achieve his/her career goals.

Today, just like his mentor, Dondi works at BC Hydro having been recently hired as a Consultant in the BC Hydro Edmonds, Burnaby office. Dondi has a lot of insights about his experience; he says that "if you put something in paper (your resume), be sure to deliver". For Dondi, the much-needed opportunity through the Bamboo Network, "not loosing hope, gearing up for the highly competitive Canadian culture, and lots of prayers" worked well in helping him get his job at BC Hydro.

Bamboo Network mentors and mentees come from over 27 occupational groups and diverse cultural backgrounds. For more information about the Bamboo Network Host Mentoring Program of the Multicultural Helping House Society, you may either call 604 879 3277, email [info@helpinghouse.org](mailto:info@helpinghouse.org) or visit <http://www.helpinghouse.org>.

## **Strategic Planning Session in Burnaby**

A slight drizzle failed to dampen the jovial mood during the MHHS strategic planning session in Burnaby Lake Pavilion last October 2.

In attendance were thirty-one MHHS board of directors, staff, volunteers, partner service providers and representatives from the Filipino and South Asian community. Amid potluck lunch, they assessed the Society's performance for the past three years and identified problem areas and opportunities. These served as inputs for the day's other agenda to formulate MHHS medium-term goals and an action plan.

MHHS President Tom Avendano welcomed the participants and thanked them for their time and continuing commitment to MHHS. MHHS Executive Director Eleanor Guerrero-Campbell gave an overview of MHHS and noted that it has improved significantly in the three areas of credible service, financial standing and organizational strength. Ms. Shyla Dutt, diversity consultant, facilitated the day.

Ms. Guerrero-Campbell said MHHS continues to experience increasing number of clients from different cultural backgrounds and age. Participants were colour-coded into seven groups and ranked communications as top priority for the future. Among the recommendations were to improve the website and get volunteer translators. The recommendations will be considered by the MHHS Board in preparing its strategic plan for 2006-2008/10.



MHHS Directors, Staff, Volunteers and community members during the Strategic Planning Session in Burnaby

## NEWCOMERS' TREAT: BACK TO BACK CONNECTION FOR RICHMOND NEWCOMERS

MHHS held a job information and seniors resources session in West Richmond Community Center last October 23. Richmond City Mayor Malcolm Brodie was special guest and shared his vision for the city. Some 80 Richmond residents came. Six employer panelist talked about the latest job trends. Resource persons talked about common issues affecting senior immigrants.



Popular two-term Mayor Brodie explains his plans for Richmond.

Residents gathered at the West Richmond Community Center for MHHS Richmond's first community service event since establishment of the Chapter.



Patricia Whittaker, Senior Coordinator for West Richmond Community Centre talks about recreational facilities available for seniors. Patricia is also a Richmond Councillor candidate.



Kimberly Tate talks about job opportunities at Four Seasons Resort –Whistler. Other panelists were from Great Canadian Casino, Mayfield Consulting Canada Inc., Toys ‘R’ Us and JER Envirotech .

Mayor Brodie and his wife (centre) with MHHS directors and volunteers. From L to R: De Malong, Beth Borroneo, Viring Avendano, Nelson Didulo, Eleanor Guerrero-Campbell, Jessie Mesa and Tom Avendano.



Dependable Richmond volunteers flank Mayor Brodie (centre). From L to R: Tom Avendano, MHHS President, Mennie Acuna, Tina Jaromamay, Benny Mesa, Fred Jaromamay and Jessie Mesa.

From L to R: Volunteer Nanay Viring is all smiles with MHHS Executive Director Eleanor Guerrero-Campbell, Richmond Councillor Aspirant Annie McKittrich and MHHS Secretary De Malong..

