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January 2012

College Students Pitch In for 77 Neighborhoods

The Institute of Cultural Affairs' (ICA) Accelerating Change in Chicago's 77 Neighborhoods project is moving ahead with six area universities now participating in the research.



DePaul University students at a session with the Service Learning program.

The ICA, with the cooperation of students and professors, is working to catalog the sustainability efforts in each of the city's 77 community areas. So far, Northeastern Illinois University, University of Illinois-Chicago, DePaul University, Chicago State University, Roosevelt University and St. Xavier University all have students participating in the research either for a formal class or simply credit. Nina Winn, program coordinator, said that the students are coming from a variety of disciplines including journalism, geography and sociology. Nina added that as of early January, there were an estimated 155 students who have been active in the research, with 13 of the community areas now cataloged and completed.

The project is part of the ICA's 50th anniversary celebration, culminating in a "Sharing Approaches That Work" (SATW) conference on September 15, 2012. The conference will have selected sustainability projects from each community area sharing resources with each other.

Celebrating the Past and the Future

Dick Alton, a longtime colleague volunteering with International Initiatives for ICA, celebrated his 70th



Attendees to Dick Alton's birthday party add their thoughts on strips of cloth to be included in the 50th anniversary artwork.

birthday in at the ICA Friday, December 16, 2011.

Dick had many highlights for his past year. He shared one through photos taken of his trip to Nepal to work with ICA staff in preparation for the ICA-International Conference there in October 2012. The second highlight was assisting his church in Oak Park to finance and install a new geothermal heating system. The third was his

obtaining 18 commitments from Chicago's sustainability leaders to be a part of the ICA Advisory Committee for the SATW Project, which will highlight 231 sustainable initiatives by selecting three from each community area.

Dick's four decades of work with the ICA allowed for the telling of many stories both by and about him. Mary Laura Jones and Bruce Williams led the conversation that followed.

About 35 people heard an update of ICA programs related to GreenRise 4750 (e.g., six new wind turbines on the eighth floor roof, total light retrofit, green roof, etc.) as well as the status of the SATW conference which will celebrate sustainable initiatives in all 77 Chicago community areas on September 15, 2012.

ICA-USA Contributes to Potali Project

The Potali Project, a family development and literacy agency, entered a new phase of Project Stabilization through its partnership with the ICA-USA and the Kishor Mitra Charitable Trust, Pune, India.



Students in the Potali Project's practitioners' course in Nagpur, India.

The partnership is financially supported by the Spencer Family Foundation of Australia. The project is continuing the established work in the cities of Mumbai, Thane and Khed and starting new work in Nagpur through the Samata Mahila Foundation.

The quarter of April to June 2011 was influenced by the restructuring of international and national partnerships. With the

end of sponsorship by ProLiteracy Worldwide, the project moved toward more locally independent programs. The project expanded its work in the next quarter starting in July with the establishment of its partnerships with the ICA-USA and the Kishor Mitra Trust. The project was also able to add both practitioners and supervisors. The Potali project has served more than 644 families over the six month period.

Future plans for the project include frequent monitoring of local project implementation, creation of a Potali Project website and promotional materials, and organizing training input for practitioners, supervisors and coordinators.

Archives Looks for Help in Giving Credit

There are many ICA speeches made during the 1970s and 1980s which have no author assigned to them. The archives team is organizing archival files of these transcriptions and would like to assign an author. If you remember a particular speech that you gave or heard that you think is worth remembering, please let Marge Philbrook at msphilbrook@gmail.com know about the content and she will send you a list of "unkown" documents so that the team can be sure the correct person is given the credit.

SATW Conference in September!

The "Sharing Approaches That Work" Conference that will cap ICA-USA's 50th Anniversary Celebration has been moved to September 15, 2012. The event will still be held at ICA-USA, located at 4750 N. Sheridan Road in Chicago.

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