



# MIGRANT ACTION TRUST

*growing confident communities together*

T: 09 629 3500 F: 09 629 3504 info@migrantactiontrust.org.nz www.migrantactiontrust.co.nz

March 2012

## Newsletter

ISSUE 16

*The community groups in this issue are members of the Common Office & Resource Service of the Migrant Action Trust*

## Somali Language for Kids

ONKOD Somali Youth Development Inc was formed in June 2010. One of the aims is to fill the needs of the young Somali in different aspects of their life. In August 2010, the "Somali Language for Kids programme" for children aged 4 to 8 was started.

Despite having no budget, the programme managed to start with 8 children, thanks to the kindness of a Somali teacher named Hussein Fahaar. The programme is now run at Wesley Community Centre where an average of 20 children comes every Sunday afternoon for a 3-hour class in the Somali language.

When the children were asked why they think there is a need for a Somali language class they provided some very mature answers such as:

- So we can translate for our parents and grandparents who don't speak English
- So we can speak to our friends and relatives when we go to Somalia
- Before we learn another lan-



*The children and their families are happy attending the Somali language classes even during weekends*

guage, we should first learn our own language.

The children were also asked how they would feel if these classes stopped, and they said they would be sad, upset, disappointed, unhappy and angry. One child said that she loves coming to the class because she gets to eat snacks, and all the others laughed.

The children's parents appreciate the class because it gives the children better things to do than watching television.

For children of refugee families, learning their own language provides a sense of self-worth and identity. The well-being of an individual starts from knowing the self, where you belong and being accepted into the community you believe you belong.

For more information about the language programme, please email Abdikarim Hassan Mohamed, President of ONKOD Somali Youth Development Inc., at [dhago5@hotmail.com](mailto:dhago5@hotmail.com)



*The children are learning the Somali language so they can communicate with their parents and grandparents*

## Korean culture not just for Koreans



*The Korean Culture Society shares to New Zealand their rich and colorful dances in various regional cultural events (Above - Auckland International Cultural Festival) (Upper right - Korean Day) (Lower right - Massey community library)*



A performance of traditional Korean music and dance brightens any multi-cultural event.

The Korean Culture Society, headed by HS Suzy Baik, performs all over New Zealand, showcasing their traditional culture and costume

through drums and dance.

From December 2011 to January 2012, the Korean Culture Society exhibited samples of their art, musical instruments and costumes at Massey Library, as well as running

educational and informational seminars about all things Korean.

For more information about the Society, please email Suzy at [ktmcnz@gmail.com](mailto:ktmcnz@gmail.com) or ring her on 021 576 247.

## Computer class in Korean



*The computer class hopes to equip the students the skills to find work or simply to communicate with their families and friends*

Through the strong leadership of President Eun Hee Kim, the Korean Women's Association of New Zealand (KWANZ) has grown from strength to strength, running various

activities to help Koreans settle in New Zealand, such as informational forums on legal issues, business start-up and settlement. It also provides programmes for mature groups,

one of which is computer classes in Korean.

In 2011 KWANZ ran a 2-week computer class during the school holidays. Due to popular demand the class was run again in January 2012.

It has now become so popular that KWANZ will run it all year at MAT's premises at 161 Stoddard Road, Mt Roskill, every Tuesday from 10 to 12am starting February 2012.

For more information about the computer class please email [koreanwomen.nz@gmail.com](mailto:koreanwomen.nz@gmail.com)

## Sukhmani Charitable Trust



*Sample artworks of the children enrolled in the art classes offered by Sukhmani Charitable Trust*

In 2008 the Sukhmani Charitable Trust started a Punjabi language programme for children which was run from the garage of a community minded and committed Indian couple living in Blockhouse Bay.

The main objective was to keep children's minds active and creative. Over time the programme has grown and it now offers three levels.

The programme now includes art and music lessons to help enhance the children's artistic inclinations. For more information about this programme please email Malvinder Pal Singh at [malvinder51@hotmail.com](mailto:malvinder51@hotmail.com)

Sukhmani Charitable Trust has now moved to Gurudwara in New

Lynn. This has allowed the Trust to expand its services, such as assisting young Indian migrants arriving in the country as international students then moving on to graduate job search permit.

In partnership with Migrant Action Trust, a job search workshop is held in Gurudwara, 4/3034 Great North Road, New Lynn, Auckland every third Friday of the month from 3 to 6pm.

For more information about the job search workshop please email Narinder Grawal at [narindergrawal86@yahoo.com](mailto:narindergrawal86@yahoo.com) or email [migrantaction@xtra.co.nz](mailto:migrantaction@xtra.co.nz)

## Start Right in New Zealand

Start Right is a seminar that looks at the process of looking for a job from the perspectives of a potential New Zealand employer and a migrant looking for work.

The seminars were first held in 2008 when many skilled migrants, who had work-to-residence visas, either found jobs but were declined their permanent residence application, or could not find jobs despite their high skills and qualifications.

It was very important that the right information was provided, particularly the definition of 'skilled job' as required in the work-to-residence category. Thanks in large part to these seminars, cases of applications for permanent residence being declined are now few and far between.

Nevertheless, many are still struggling to find meaningful jobs and so MAT is still running the seminar. Migrants need to understand the work environment in New Zealand and these seminars can help them



*Many young migrants attend the jobsearch workshops held at New Lynn as the job market becomes more competitive*

change the way they look for work.

To find out the time and location of the next seminar is, please email [migrantaction@xtra.co.nz](mailto:migrantaction@xtra.co.nz)



# ONKOD Somali Youth Sports Team

ONKOD is a Somali initiative for Somali youth. One of its aims is to meet their educational, employment, sports and recreation, and cultural needs.

After months of meeting and lots of encouragement from Auckland Council staff member Roger Earp, the soccer team was finally formed in January 2012.

The team is coached by Mahdi Ainab and trains every Wednesday and Friday late afternoon, either in War Memorial Park, 13 May Road, Mt Roskill or at Mt Roskill Grammar School.

The team will play in a number of events over the next few months, such as the Muslim Tournament, Seven Sides and a football tournament run as part of the Auckland Cultural Festival. It will also participate in the Connect 2 Sport programme which aims to connect diverse communities through sport.



For information about the team please email Abdikarim Hassan Mohamed, President of ONKOD Somali Youth Development Inc., at [dhago5@hotmail.com](mailto:dhago5@hotmail.com)

## Thank you too for the generous support of

## “If not the community, who else?”

*“Only those who give more than they receive create a surplus which is the foundation of sustainable design”*

**Let’s create a surplus!**

Contribute now to  
Migrant Action Trust

ASB 12 -3077-0509589-00

or email [info@migrantactiontrust.org.nz](mailto:info@migrantactiontrust.org.nz) for other ways to contribute.

*Growing confident communities together*