



CIP - Council of International Programs Chicago



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CIP Finishes Another Successful Year!

Happy New Year from CIP! 2012 ended on a high note for CIP! In this issue of the newsletter, you will learn about the **Open World** delegation of municipal deputies from **Russia**, which CIP hosted in November and December. We also proudly co-sponsored the panel discussion **Social Justice and Community Activism: Global Perspectives** in November at the **University of Illinois at Chicago**, hosted by the **Jane Addams Center for Social Policy and Research** and the **Jane Addams College of Social Work**.

Our three participants from Germany successfully completed their work-based training. **Adalbert Mauerhof** finished his work at the **West Cook YMCA** in November. **Marlene-Anne Dettmann** and **Michael Detzell** completed their work at the **Illinois Department of Children and Family Services** in December. We at CIP wish them all the best in the future! CIP would also like to thank the agencies and host families for their services to these participants!



You will also read about **Karlijn Tummers** from the Netherlands and her work at **Chicago Commons**, a non-profit organization which serves communities affected by violence, poverty and discrimination. **Associate Executive Director Edgar Ramirez** also shares his thoughts about the partnership between his organization and CIP.

Later, catch up with former participant **Anja Hunsinger** from Germany and learn about how she has applied her experiences in Chicago to her work back home! Also read about CIP's **Annual Meeting**, recent **SOAR Analysis** and our featured board member, **Delores Richmond**.

Moving ahead into 2013, learn about the **upcoming groups from Serbia and Turkmenistan**, our host **Nancy Kramer** and CIP's plans for the year!

Don't forget to 'Like' us on **Facebook**, follow us on **Twitter** and subscribe to us on **YouTube** to get instant updates on CIP! (Please see the links below)

CIP Hosts Open World Delegation from Russia



Above: The flag of the Russian Federation

Below: The flag of the city of Moscow



“[It was a] very good, educational and informative program! Our time in the USA was used very productively!”



Above (from left to right): **Andrey Ambartsumov, Yekaterina Kalatskaya, Vladimir Garnachukavit, Maksim Motins and Natalya Chernysheva** at the **Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago.**

From November 30 until December 8, CIP proudly hosted a delegation of **municipal deputies from Moscow, Russia**, which was sponsored by the **Open World Leadership Center at the Library of Congress**. The delegation included **Andrey Ambartsumov, Natalya Chernysheva, Vladimir Garnachukavit, Yekaterina Kalatskaya, Maksim Motins and the Open World facilitator Inna Dolgushina.**

In addition to sightseeing at Chicago landmarks like the Willis Tower and the Art Institute, the delegation learned firsthand about American systems of elections and governance by visiting a variety of insti-

tutions, such as the **Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago, the Cook County Board, the offices of the Cook County Clerk, the Union League Club, Chicago City Hall, the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, the Urban Forum at the University of Illinois at Chicago, the Village of Skokie and the League of Women Voters.**

The delegates unanimously enjoyed their enriching and fun program here in Illinois. One delegate says, “CIP, I believe, has done a great job—the program was very well-organized and extremely interesting!”

The delegates also

learned about American culture and customs by staying with host families. One delegate shares, “I think that living with the family is a very good option. Homestay gives you more opportunities to gain knowledge and experience of a different culture. I loved the people.”

CIP is very grateful to Open World and CIP USA for this opportunity that turned out to be enriching for the visiting deputies and for the host families, seminar leaders, and CIP volunteers and staff. Thank you to everyone who made this program possible!



Left: The delegation with **Skokie Village Manager, Al Rigoni and Mayor George Van Dusen** (third and fourth from right)



Right: The delegation with **former Chicago Bear Bruce Herron** (third from left)

Special Feature: Chicago Commons

“For a lot of the people in the neighborhood and the students at our center, I am the first person from Europe whom they have ever seen.”

CIP has enjoyed a strong partnership with **Chicago Commons**, a non-profit organization that provides programs and services to children and families in neighborhoods most at risk for poverty, violence and educational disadvantage. At facilities in the Grand Boulevard, New City

(Back of the Yards), Pilsen and West Humboldt Park areas of Chicago, Chicago Commons offers daycare and educational programs to children; educational and extracurricular programs to teens and youth; English, GED and computer courses for adults and adult day care and home care ser-

vices for the elderly and disabled.

Karlijn Tummers from the Netherlands has served Chicago Commons since January 2012. Read ahead to learn her story and more about CIP’s enriching partnership with Chicago Commons!

Meet Current CIP Participant Karlijn Tummers

Karlijn Tummers, a CIP participant from **the Netherlands**, has served **Chicago Commons** since January 2012. About working there, she says, “I enjoy my work at Chicago Commons a lot, since I work with a mixed group of people with different backgrounds, either culturally, religiously or professionally.” She herself contributes to the diversity of the organization, because she is not from the community or the United States. “For a lot of the people in the neighborhood and the students at our center, I am the first person from Europe whom they have ever seen, and I am able to tell them about my culture and life in Europe and discuss the differences between us.”

As a professional, Karlijn wanted to learn about urban poverty in the United States. She says, “I wanted to learn from American methods how to work with urban communities regarding diversity, poverty and integration.” After over a year in Chicago, she has gained new perspectives on life in the United States. “I have learned a lot about the American workforce and how it is very different from work in the Netherlands. I’m impressed by the drive in the United States to work hard and a lot.” Her work in community development, however, has exposed her to another side of America. “I have been mostly impacted by the extreme differences between different neighborhoods in Chicago. I travel through several neighborhoods every day and I am still not used to the inequality. The level of poverty and violence is very high in the neighborhood where I work, but at the same time I feel very welcomed, respected and valued by the people. Every day I am excited to go to work, and every day I hear different stories that surprise me and make me understand the challenges and complexities of urban life in Chicago.”

The highlight of Karlijn’s work at Chicago Commons so far was when she hosted a viewing of the documentary **Woke Up Black** for the adult education and youth programs, including a discussion with **Mary Morten**, the producer and director of the film, and one of the youths featured in the documentary. “It was an enlightening experience since the participants were very engaged and able to discuss some of their everyday challenges.”

Karlijn will continue her work at Chicago Commons until July. About CIP’s role in her experiences in America, she says, “I am very thankful that through CIP I was able to obtain a visa and make my dream come true to work at a non-profit in Chicago, which gave me the opportunity to meet other professionals from around the world who work in the same field.”



Above: Karlijn Tummers, CIP participant from the Netherlands at Chicago Commons



Above: Chicago Commons logo

Below: Chicago Commons Associate Executive Director Edgar Ramirez



“Education is the means to escape poverty. Education, therefore, is not just a neighborhood mission, but a global one.”

A Global Mission Serving Local Communities: A Look Into the Partnership Between CIP and Chicago Commons

With a team of local staff, Chicago Commons provides services and programs to local communities, so how could an outsider like Karlijn fit in and understand the issues which these communities face? As it turns out, Karlijn provides a refreshing, new perspective, according to **Chicago Commons Associate Executive Director Edgar Ramirez.**

CIP’s global mission of cross-cultural exchange has enhanced Chicago Commons’ neighborhood mission of education and social services.

“CIP provides trainees who are people who care and who have a mission. Anyone who wants to take the time and effort to come to another country to work with [an organization like Chicago Commons] has a mission,” says Ramirez. “[CIP participants] provide an international perspective to our staff and our work. We appreciate their different worldview. They bring new ideas,

new energy.” In addition to her unique perspectives, Karlijn has improved the ways in which Chicago Commons operates. “[Karlijn’s] strengths are in data and analysis. She has developed ways to improve our data systems, so that we can meet our goals more quickly and efficiently.”

Karlijn’s outstanding work has furthered Chicago Commons and its cause, but how will she and other CIP participants benefit and which skills will they develop? Ramirez explains, “We want [CIP participants] to gain experience working in a neighborhood in a localized effort. They will build relationships with individuals and families within the community.”

In addition to working with local communities, CIP participants will gain experience working in a non-profit organization. “They will learn how to run high-quality programs and evaluate the progress and success

of such programs. They will ask themselves, ‘Is this program meeting our goals, and if not, how can I improve it?’”

Besides providing talented professionals from abroad, CIP’s work in cross-cultural exchange allows the staff at Chicago Commons to view their own work in a different light. CIP and Chicago Commons share the common mission of education but realize it in different ways: CIP with exchange programs and Chicago Commons with courses for adults and programs for children and teens. Ramirez says, “[CIP’s exchange program] lets us learn about another country and culture. The whole experience is educational for everyone involved: the participant, the staff and the community. Education is the means to escape poverty. Education, therefore, is not just a neighborhood mission, but a global one.”

Social Justice and Community Activism: Global Perspectives Panel at UIC

On Wednesday November 28, the **Jane Addams Center for Social Policy and Research at the University of Illinois at Chicago** and CIP co-sponsored an international social work panel titled **Social Justice and Community Activism: Global Perspectives**. **Professor Alice K. Butterfield** moderated the panel discussion.

Two CIP participants gave presentations on issues in social work in their native countries. **Michael Detzel** (above), a CIP participant from Germany, spoke about his work as a social worker at Hephata Jugendhilfe (Hephata Youth Services) and efforts by the German government in the past decade to fund community development and educational programs for



lower-income individuals and families. In Chicago, he worked for two months at the Illinois Department for Children and Family Services and has since returned to Germany.

His presentation was followed by that of **Michel Eduardo Lagunes Harris** (below), a CIP participant from Mexico. He talked about the role of women in the Zapatista Army of National Liberation in Chiapas and their efforts to advance women's rights in rural Mexico. Michel also spoke about his work as the founder of Tónali Tehuacán, an organization that encourages youth participation in community affairs. As a CIP participant, he currently serves a non-profit organization named Family Service in Highland Park as a Latino and Youth Program Advocate.

To see more pictures from these events, as well as to get the latest on CIP events, please 'Like' us on [facebook](#)

Catch Up With Former Participant Anja Hunsinger

Anja Hunsinger from **Germany** came to Chicago as a CIP participant in January 2011. For four months she served the **Chicago Children's Advocacy Center (CCAC)**. "I had chosen the United States for an abroad work experience because I wanted to gain experiences in the field of fundraising and learn more about the motivations, strategies, techniques and best practices in raising money for good causes," she says. "Since the culture of giving and asking is far ahead in the U.S., this country was my first choice."

Before coming to Chicago, Anja was a fundraising and public relations officer for a child and youth welfare organization. At the CCAC, she served as an external affairs assistant, in which she supported activities to raise awareness and money for the organization. Upon returning to Ger-



many, she resumed her previous role, but today she works for the Munich University of Applied Sciences, where she manages the scholarship program by both raising money and administering the application and selection process.

Anja looks back fondly on her experiences in Chicago with CIP. "Living with my two host families was definitely the most enriching experience. I cannot thank them enough for their warmth and generosity," she states. "I felt very safe and confident during my stay in Chicago knowing that with [CIP Executive Director] Dr. George Palamattam there's always someone who cares and whom I could call and ask in any kind of difficult situation. Without CIP and their network of host families I wouldn't have had the chance to live with a host family and get to know the 'American way of life' firsthand."

CIP Annual Meeting and Looking Forward to 2013!

On Wednesday November 28, CIP hosted its annual meeting after the panel discussion at the University of Illinois at Chicago (see page 5). **CIP Executive Director Dr. George Palamattam** presented the Annual Report. He proudly shared that **34 professionals from eight countries participated in CIP-sponsored programs in 2012.** CIP Treasurer Gladys Nunley presented the financial report.

Looking forward to 2013, CIP anticipates making its mission possible with a greater impact by engaging a larger number of participants, groups of delegations and increased sources and amount of funding. More importantly we hope to enable more families and local communities to actively participate in international and cross-cultural exchange, which is what CIP is all about. We also plan to enhance our presence and impact through social media and designing a more user-friendly and interactive website. In 2013 we want to offer opportunities for individuals from the U.S. to visit individuals and communities in other countries, including former CIP participants!

SOAR Analysis

A **SOAR (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations and Results) Analysis**, conducted by Paul Palamattam (a volunteer and graduate student of Public Administration at Seton Hall University), was gathered from CIP board members, interns and volunteers, reviewed CIP's current practices and developed an action plan for the organization to achieve its goals more effectively. Some highlights of the plan are below:

- Facilitate opportunities for more interaction between its participants, host families, staff, interns, volunteers and partner agencies for greater cross-cultural exchange and enrichment. Some concrete steps would be monthly events featuring current CIP participants.
- Enhance the circulation of CIP newsletter for increased exposure to other organizations and individuals.
- Create a comprehensive database of participants, agencies, host families and volunteers for greater efficiency in operations and follow-up.
- Expand CIP's Social Media presence through Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, etc.
- Organize two annual fundraising events.
- Development of a CIP Ambassador program for one or more former participant(s) (see page 8) to serve as a CIP Chicago representative in his/her country

We at CIP thank Paul for his compelling analysis and anticipate a new-and-improved CIP in 2013!

Meet Our Board Member, Delores Richmond



Dr. Delores Richmond, Ph.D., Th.D., co-secretary of the CIP Executive Board, is a woman of countless causes. She is the Broker Owner of Richmond Partners Real Estate, a Broker-Producer at Autumn Financials and the CEO and Founder of Mothers Informing Mothers International, a non-profit organization which assists single mothers with housing. She is

also Vice President of Ramah Mt. Olive Theological Bible College. Here she shares her experiences about her involvement with CIP.

How did you find out about CIP? What made you want to get involved?

I found out about [CIP] through a dear family member who in turn has a friend from Ethiopia. I wanted to get involved because I liked how the members [of CIP] interact with the participants from different countries and go out of their way to make them all feel welcome in the United States. Meeting many professionals

from around the world, including visiting Israel, and understanding different cultures as a result of CIP exchange programs is worth every moment of involvement.

What would you like to see CIP accomplish in 2013? What will you do to help CIP reach its goals?

Our committees are doing a fabulous job to get the word out on CIP and how one can become a host family, who make our programs so successful. I'd like to see successful fundraising by CIP so that the cause of the organization is publicized as I know

more people would be interested if they knew more about [CIP's] cause. I will help to organize a meaningful and successful fundraising event, similar to the annual event which Mothers Informing Mothers International hosts.

Why should someone become involved in CIP?

Although [CIP] consists of a small group of people, they have the heart of a giant with a large mission of building peace and cross-cultural understanding. The fact that you can serve for a day, a specific event or on an ongoing basis depending on your schedule is not intimidating. I encourage anyone to get involved. Whatever skills you have, you will be appreciated!



Upcoming CIP Groups



In early 2013, CIP will host three delegations of professionals: two from **Serbia** and one from **Turkmenistan!** All these delegations are sponsored by the **Open World Leadership Center at the Library of Congress.**

In **February**, the first Serbian delegation, which consists of theater management professionals,

will come to Chicago to learn about the city’s rich contributions to American theater. In **March**, the second Serbian group will come to learn about women’s entrepreneurship in Chicago. In **April**, the delegation from Turkmenistan will come to learn about small business administration and management.

If you or someone whom

you know would like to host one of these professionals for their short time in the United States, please see the contact information at the bottom of this page! Create lasting relationships and gain an in-depth perspective into another culture! Contribute to CIP’s vision of building peace and cross-cultural understanding!

“I like the cultural exchange the most...I have had a lot of fun with [my international guests].”



Our Host: Nancy Kramer

Nancy Kramer (right) of Chicago has been involved with international exchange for decades. After serving in the Peace Corps, she decided to host professionals from abroad, including one from Russia for two years and another from France for four years! If she could, she would host more than one guest at a time! She says enthusiastically, “[CIP Executive Director Dr. George Palamattam]

called me during those years of having roommates and I always had to decline but then just recently I was available!” This past May she hosted two participants from the delegation of municipal government officers from the **Republic of Georgia**, Elaterome Targadze and Vardo Gvarjaladze.

Nancy especially delights in the curiosity of her guests. She says, “I enjoy their ‘Aha!’ moments. A recent visitor asked why there were chairs in the street protecting parking spots. I explained that this often occurs when it snows. I like the cultural exchange the most and I love sharing food. It’s great when they

cook. I have had a lot of fun with them.”

As a host with decades of experience, Nancy has had the opportunity to experience how hosting international professionals has changed over the years. She states, “A recent guest did not speak any English but we used Google Translate and had a great time! Technology can really enhance the experience.” So what did Nancy do before the days of online translators? “I remember years ago when I hosted a person who did not speak English. I played charades with her to try to identify what she wanted for breakfast! Times have changed!”

Interested in hosting a participant?

The best way to learn about another culture is to immerse yourself in it, so why not host a participant? Hosting can be an enriching and enjoyable experience for you. CIP is looking for homes for upcoming participants for as little as one week to as much as two months.



If you are interested or just curious, please contact Dr. George Palamattam, CIP Executive Director, by phone at (630) 359-3393 or (312) 545-6682 or by email at gp@cipchicago.org. You can also fill out a host family application on our website at cipchicago.org under the ‘Host Family’ tab.



Calling Former CIP Participants: Become a CIP Ambassador!



CIP ALUMNI AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Did you have an enriching experience participating in a CIP program? Are you interested in sharing your experience with others?

Then become a CIP Ambassador!!

CIP is now seeking international Ambassadors to represent our organization around the world!

What you will do as an Ambassador:

Promote the mission of CIP by

- Seeking out opportunities to further CIP's presence in your country (reaching out to organizations, companies and universities to give a presentation about CIP and what we do, speaking to friends, family, co-workers about CIP)
- Identifying individuals who are well-qualified and would benefit from the professional training opportunities CIP provides by using your professional and personal network and social media (Linked In, Facebook, Twitter) to discover and encourage professionals to apply
- Looking for potential partners who would be interested in benefiting from a cross-cultural experience working with Discovery Journey in arranging future study trips (social work organizations, educational institutions, etc.)
- Identifying possible partner organizations who would be interested in implementing a reoccurring professional development exchange program with CIP or an American organization/company
- Any other ways you can think of promoting CIP!

What are the benefits of participation?

- Play a critical role in the promotion of cross-cultural exchange and international understanding
- Expand your professional network by developing relationships with people and organizations in your country
- Develop skills in leadership, communication and management

*If you are interested in becoming a CIP Alumni Ambassador, please email CIP Executive Director **Dr. George Palamattam** at gp@cipchicago.org.*



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Volunteer and Internship Opportunities

CIP is currently looking for volunteers and interns interested in any of the following areas: *marketing, PR, international recruitment, host family training, web design, fundraising and grant writing.*

Nonprofit and international training are fields in which the volunteer or intern will gain enhanced knowledge and skills regardless of the area in which the intern will work. This opportunity would be a great chance to develop skills and gain experience for a resume or portfolio.

If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Dr. George Palamattam, CIP Executive Director, by phone at (630) 359-3393 or (312) 545-6882 or by email at gp@cipchicago.org.

More information is provided on the CIP homepage at www.cipchicago.org.

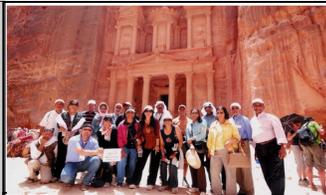


DISCOVERY JOURNEY



CIP Chicago, in partnership with Discovery Journey, organizes five to six international trips each year that enable members to visit some of the exotic and culturally-rich places of the world.

People connection is one of the special features of Discovery Journey, which includes not only visits to popular and historic sights and monuments but also meetings with local communities and former CIP participants.



Upcoming trips include **South Africa, Russia, India, Greece and Turkey, China** and finally **Cambodia and Vietnam!**

For additional information, please visit www.discoveryjourney.org, email gp@discoveryjourney.org or follow Discovery Journey on Facebook and Twitter:

