

ISU Women's Group

Opportunities for growth and Learning of New skills has been the main focus of ISU women's group for 2010. From the few workshops they did last year (embroidery, beading and cookery sessions), it is very obvious they wanted more. Beginning this year, the group engaged in 4 weeks of knitting workshop, with language being a barrier, the women capitalize on using their hands in the best way they can. They were all keen to start and were happy with the end result, each knitted a scarf which they are proud of. It is amazing the amount of integration and learning that goes on in the workshops, learning of new skills, improving their spoken English and making new friends. At present, the group is doing workshops on Sexual Health Promotion, to follow will be fun fitness activities such as Salsa Dance, Pilates and Aerobics.

Photos from the Knitting Workshops



Photos from St Brigids group visiting ISU Women's group

To mark the 2010 International Women's Day, ISU Women's group proudly welcomed St Brigids FCC group on Friday 5th March, everyone enjoyed the tour around the Edmund Rice Museum and afterwards enjoyed some refreshments. Touring the museum was a learning experience for both the Waterford natives and New Communities of the life and work of Edmund Rice laying the foundation of our work today and across the world.



Amelia Byrne a member of the women's group facilitated 2 weeks workshop, making basket which can serve as storage or decoration, the beauty of it is that the basket is made of recycled cereal box. Svetlana, Lisa and Amelia are all members of the group who have progressed with time in facilitating the group, a testimony to their friends that they can do what they set their mind to do. These women have been encouraged and decided to take up the challenge thereby moving themselves to the next level, they refused to allow language barrier inhibit them of this opportunity. They are grateful for the experience and will continue to maximise opportunities like this for growth and personal development.



ISU focus

Edmund Rice
International Heritage Centre Ltd

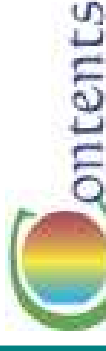
The Mayor of Waterford visits Integration & Support Unit for New Communities



Staff and Clients of the Integration and Support Unit for New Communities were happy to welcome the Mayor of Waterford Cllr John Halligan in the Edmund Rice Heritage Centre on Thursday 25th February 2010. During his visit, the mayor had the opportunity to interact with members of New Communities informally. Shortly after his arrival, the mayor made a short presentation, in his speech, he acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the immense contribution New Communities has made in Waterford.



He went on to say that during his term as the Mayor of Waterford, he will continue to support New Communities to positively impact in Waterford. After his speech, he went round to give everyone a warm handshake, then over cup of coffee he entertained queries from anyone wishing to speak to him privately, for individuals needing more attention, the Mayor gave them appointments to meet him in his office.



Mayors's Visit to ISU

Information Session on Irish Citizenship

English Language & Computer Classes

Women's Group

Teenage Integration

Men's Group

DIY Skills Programme

Notices

Information Session on "Applying for Irish Citizenship"



Over 65 people gathered on the evening of Wednesday 24th March for 2 hours here in the Edmund Rice Heritage Centre for an Information Session on applying for Irish Citizenship. The session organised by the ISU and delivered by the Immigrant Council of Ireland was very timely considering that majority of those in attendance are due or soon to be eligible to apply for citizenship in Ireland. All topics covered in the session are relevant to the Citizenship application process. The facilitator allowed a forum for questions and answers, all questions in relation to this was dealt with. For more information on applying for Citizenship, you can contact Br Kevin Mascarenhas of Integration & Support Unit for New Communities on 051-852564, or Immigrant Council of Ireland on 01-6740200 or visit the Irish Nationalisation and Immigration service website on www.inis.gov.ie



Teenage Integration Programme

Photos from the EU Poster Competition



2010 got off to a flying start for ISU's Teenage Integration (T.I) group. The monthly Teenage Integration sessions have seen increased attendance with both old and new faces making an appearance (very recently are some young people from Carrick on Suir joining the group). These sessions focus on games, they are more about having fun, being creative and making friends, and everyone was excited about Waterford Youth Arts last month (March) joining us to teach drama.

Teenage Integration Programme was expanded to include Waterford schools. So far the following schools have taken part in T.I Workshops: **Presentation Secondary**, **Mount Sion Secondary**, **Waterpark College**. Workshops will take place in April in the following: **Urslin Secondary** and **St Paul's Community schools**.

Finally, some of the Teenage Integration members participated in a poster competition set out by the UN, to coincide with their updated 'Rights of a Child' publication. These individuals were very creative and their poster has been submitted to the competition along with others from youth groups all over Ireland and Europe.

Youth Services Open Day

Presentation Secondary School hosted an Open Day for Youth service providers, this was organised by the ISU. The open day was a chance for all youth services in Waterford to showcase their clubs and activities, it proved very popular with young people. Waterpark College also hosted one on the 4th of March and St Paul's community college will host them on Thursday 22nd April.



Easter Activities & Community Youth Challenge

The ISU Outreach Worker has been busy over the Easter holidays with an Easter activities Programme for children under 10 years old. The activities have been taking place in Birchwood House in Waterford and Bridgewater House in Carrick-On-Suir, and have included dancing, games and Easter egg hunts. Help from ISU volunteers Jenny Egan, Mike Kasirye and Sobirin Anhar meant a fun time was had by all.



A small group of 12-14 year olds from the Teenage Integration club have been participating in Team Challenges organised by Waterford Sports Partnership. The challenges have so far included orienteering in Kennedy Park, athletics and even archery. All activities have proven to be more difficult than they appear! There's more to come...



Voluntary English Language Classes

All the English Language classes are back in action, Voluntary English, Fáilte Isteach and English Enhancement Classes all resumed in January. All of these classes are facilitated by volunteers, we have over 20 volunteers taking the classes.

Very recently, some members of the Fáilte Isteach Programme had the opportunity to meet the President of Ireland Mary McAleese during their trip to Dublin for the Launch of the Fáilte Isteach Initiative.

About 8 people attending the Voluntary English Language class received their FEIAC Level 3 Certificate Award on Friday 19th March 2010.

Voluntary Computer Class

Voluntary Computer Class resumed in February of this year, the 8 weeks Computer skills course is aimed at Asylum Seekers still leaving in Direct Provision Accommodation. The computer class is coordinated by our volunteer Lisa Orogun, the 8 weeks covers everything in the basic computer such as MS Word, Excel, Power point, Internet Explorer, File management etc. The class takes place every Tuesday afternoon, 1:30-3:30pm. Our computer room is made up of six computers which means that only 6 people can be offered a place at a time, we currently have a waiting list and people wishing to register are encouraged to do so as we operate on a first come first serve basis.



ISU Initial Skills Programme

ISU developed an initial skills training Programme which is designed to assist those in preparation of leaving Direct Provision Accommodation (Transition Programme) and those who have recently left Direct Provision Accommodation and are now living in the community (Independent Living Programme).

The aim of the Programme is to provide participants with initial skills to enable them maintain their own accommodation through basic D.I.Y. skills such as painting, decorating, grass cutting, gardening, recycling responsibility, accessing utilities, glass/window repairs, basic plumbing and accessing local services to ease integration into the local community.

The D.I.Y. skills Programme has been running for 6 weeks with one remaining session, it has proved very popular amongst Waterford and Tramore residents, with a total of 29 people taking part in both groups.

We are currently developing a Volunteer Training Programme to assist and support our Volunteers increase their capacity and skills in volunteering.

Notices

- Students day trip has been booked to take place on Wednesday 20th April 2010, trip to Mosses Pottery and Moth in Kilkenny.
- ISU will host an event on Tuesday 25th May 2010 to celebrate the Annual Africa Day, sponsored by Irish Aid. All Africans wishing to participate in the event are welcomed to contact the ISU office (Beverly or Aime) on 051-852564
- We will host an event in June to mark the Annual Celebration of World Refugee Day. If you need more information or your group would like to take part in this, please contact the ISU office on 051-852564.
- The following groups now meet here in the Edmund Rice Centre, Liffhanna, Brazil, Philippine, IBO (Nigeria), IGO (Congo), Indian. Each group meet differently (Day & Time), you can contact your own group for more information.
- Migrant Right Centre Ireland will deliver an information session on the Right of Employment Permit Holder to Change Jobs. This meeting is organised by ISU and will take place in house ...Edmund Rice International Heritage Centre, Mount Sion, Barrack street on Monday 19th April from 6 to 8pm.

The Fáilte Isteach English Language Class



Voluntary English Language Class

