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 Celebrated Three Years in Advocacy and Service; Scholars present at 3rd
 Annual College & Youth Summit.....page 5 & 15

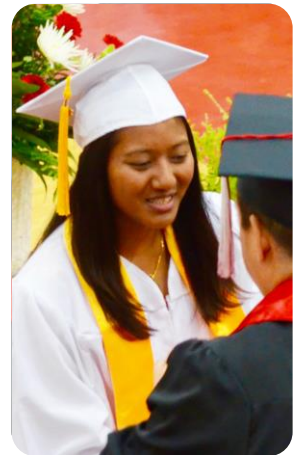


Student
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The Burmese Population in the U.S. Reaches Over 130,000, College Going Rate
 Increasing; Summer 2015 Scholars Intensive Research Program; Volunteerism
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Burmese & Chin Section

Soccer Club ah tel na duh maw?
 Summer Research Program ah kai na
 duh maw? Rian Kawl, Rian Sawk, le
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 Maw?.....page 6 & 27

တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာ ဆည်းပူးသည့်
 မြန်မာဒုက္ခသည်ဦးရေ
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ချင်းတိုင်းရင်းသူလေး Deborah Cung &
 Dim Man နဲ့ VOA ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်းချက်
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Upcoming Events; Invitations:
 BACI Fundraiser - Musical Concert
 & Performance, Martin Luther
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A Message from Chairman of Board of Directors

From the Annual Report



Ro Ding

Dear Partners and Supporters:

We are very pleased that we have been able to achieve numerous accomplishments for our community in 3 years. The statistics highlighted in this annual report indicate that the BACI's work has had a direct and substantial impact on the lives of many people, particularly in Central Indiana. Allow me to highlight some of our important achievements below.

Since 2011, BACI has assisted 1,629 individuals with English language training and various immigration requirements, as well as provided support in gaining employment, scholarships, and college/university admissions. We have also held more than 200 meetings and presentations through our Advocacy efforts. We were able to ensure 100 percent enrollment in post-secondary institutions for students participating in the BACI Upward College Program (UCP). Furthermore, more than 50 percent of college students who enrolled in the UCP also received scholarships! Women in our community, who completed training conducted by BACI and our partners, already run home-based Childcare/Daycare that both assist the community and provide a sustainable source of employment within our community. In 2013, BACI contributed 1,640 volunteer hours to our community. We are also very pleased by our efficiency. BACI's overhead cost is only 4.8 percent of total expenses, while 95.2 percent is spent for program and service provisions.

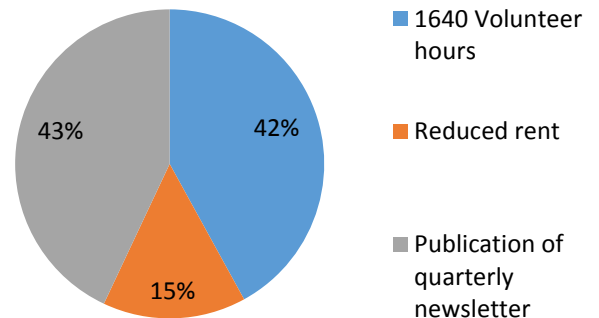
My heartfelt thanks go to Mr. Elaisa Vahnje, Executive Director of BACI, who tirelessly works for BACI and our community. My special thanks to all the BACI staff, team, and volunteers: You are the driving force of BACI; please continue your noble work for BACI and our community.

These achievements and successes could only happen with the support and prayers of our friends and community. Without your support, everything we do would not be possible. I am looking forward to all of your continued support in 2015 and for many years to come.

Thank you for your support,

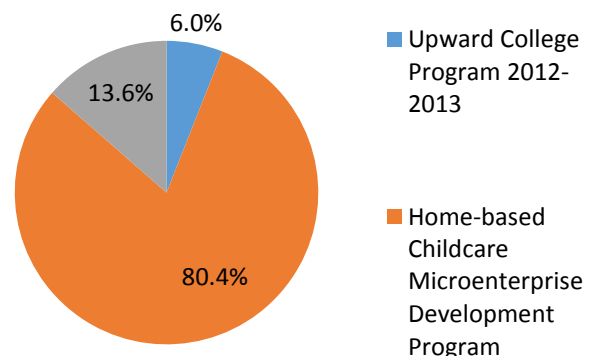
Ro Ding
Chairman, Board of Directors

Donated Services and Contributions



Total donated services and contributions \$87,940.00

Program



"BACI has assisted 1,629 individuals with English language training and various immigration requirements, as well as provided support in gaining employment, scholarships, and college/university admissions."

Letter from Executive Director



Elaisa Vahnrie

Dear Friends:

My warmest greetings to you. As we are in the fourth year of advocacy and educational services, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on our journey in the past three years, and where and how we would like to move forward.

As we know, approximately 140,000 refugees from Burma have been resettled in the U.S.; of them about 12,000 have become a growing part of the Indianapolis community in recent years. The refugees are victims of systematic rights deprivations and violations in their home country; and they came to join a new society under the U.S. Refugee Resettlement program. According to the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. resettlement program reflects the country's highest values and aspirations of compassion, generosity and leadership. Since 1975, Americans have welcomed over 3 million refugees from all over the world. Refugees have built new lives, homes and communities in towns and cities in all 50 states (USDOS/PRM).

Indiana hosts one of the largest Burmese refugee communities in the U.S. Nearly 17,000 Burmese refugees currently live in Indiana. Of them, about 73 percent found their new home in Central Indiana while about 27 percent reside in Fort Wayne and elsewhere in the state. Ethnically, about 80 percent of the total Burmese refugee population in Central Indiana is Chin.

We are thankful to the American people and Hoosiers for welcoming us as we start new lives with them. At the same time, we recognize various challenges and obstacles that newcomers face as they join a new society with a different language and culture. However, we do not want to become a population that relies upon public assistance for a long period. We are fully convinced that it is our responsibility and

opportunity to step up and assist our community members with their long-term self-sufficiency, investing in education so that they become productive and contributing citizens of their new society. With this conviction and passion, the Burmese American Community Institute (BACI) was established in 2011 with a mission to build a thriving, self-sufficient, and integrated community through advocacy, education, and employment.

To ensure additional support is provided to refugees that encourages long-term economic self-sufficiency and integration, and with a vision of education for all, BACI has developed and implemented various advocacy and educational programs in the past three years. Through the provision of these services—and by collaboratively working with our partners—we have seen some encouraging outcomes: the college going rate among recent high school graduates who are originally from Burma in Central Indiana has increased to 72 percent this year from just 43 percent in 2012; at least ten women have started or will be sustaining home-based childcare benefiting our community educationally and economically; more than 1,500 community members have been assisted through various educational components; the Community Integration Guidebook was successfully published. The guidebook reflects our belief and philosophy of two-way-street engagement and its reciprocal benefits in the integration process and beyond.

Looking forward, I am delighted to announce that with the grant from the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), BACI will be implementing the Burmese Community Integration Project FY2015-FY2017. This will enable us to expand and strengthen the Upward College Program (UCP) for High School students that helps the students with college preparedness linguistically and academically, as well as for their future success, the Civic and Culture Education program (CCEP) that empowers new Americans with security in their rights and liberties, and Employment and Microenterprise Development (EMED), which assists newcomers to be self-sufficient and allows them to give back to their communities and contribute to economic growth. Like in past years, we will continue to host and implement a wide range of educational presentations and workshops with our partners with the goal of empowering the community members and

effectuating the integration process. Reflecting our original philosophy and vision, and as a uniquely positioned entity, we will further develop local and international strategic partnerships including through the Burma initiative. The direction to which we are moving forward in the next two to five years will be guided by the strategic planning being developed and should be readily put in place early 2015.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to members of Board of Directors and Chairman Dr. Ro Ding. I am grateful for the support they have given to the BACI and to me. And I am fortunate to be blessed with and surrounded by committed and passionate team members here at BACI. Our deepest thanks to our partners, volunteers, and supporters—I am humbly grateful for you. Without your continued support, partnership, prayers, and time, our work in furthering the mission of helping members of our society to become contributing citizens would not have been possible. With renewed commitment, I hope that you will continue to stand for this cause alongside us in 2015 and for many years to come.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2015.

Very truly yours,

Elaisa Vahnne
Executive Director



"...the Burmese Community Integration Project FY2015-FY2017. This will enable us to expand and strengthen the Upward College Program (UCP) for High School students that helps the students with college preparedness linguistically and academically as well as for their future success, Civic and Culture Education program (CCEP) that empowers new Americans with security in their rights and liberties, and Employment and Microenterprise Development (EMED), assists newcomers to be self-sufficient and allows them to give back to their communities and contribute to economic growth."

Advocacy

At BACI, we believe that to successfully integrate into a new community while maintaining one's own cultural identity, the Burmese and the American communities both need to educate each other and respect each other's cultural norms.

BACI advocates for the Burmese community as well as their individual needs, and hopes to expand the local community's knowledge and understanding of the Burmese population, further enhancing the newcomers' integration into the American community.

BACI engages with the stakeholders and service providers in our community—businesses, community based organizations, non-profits, neighborhood associations, churches, government agencies, educational institutions, leaders and policy makers – through events, meetings, and presentations.

With the philosophy and belief of a two-way street engagement and its reciprocal benefits, BACI is committed to providing culturally and linguistically appropriate services to the population as well as helping the service providers and neighbors in our community with Burma, its people and culture.

The Burmese Population in the U.S. Reaches Over 130,000, College Going Rate Increasing

August 12, 2014 – INDIANAPOLIS, USA: A study led by the Burmese American Community Institute (BACI) has found that the Burmese population is growing in Central Indiana and the college going rate amongst the Burmese high school graduates is steadily increasing.

The research presentation was held in conjunction with the successful completion of summer intensive research program where 27 scholars investigated the issues and challenges facing their communities and presented the findings on the six different research areas with policy and solution recommendations for the stakeholders.

The main findings include 132,231 Burmese Refugees have been admitted to the United States since 2000. Of the total, 17,500 are residing in Indiana, and approximately 12,000 are making Indianapolis their new home, of which 83 percent are of Chin ethnicity.

The Karen and Chin ethnic groups were found to be the two largest, representing 46 percent and 33 percent of the total Burmese population in the US.

The new information was released at the celebration of BACI's three years in service and advocacy at Southport High School on August 2, 2014. More than 150 dignitaries, elected officials, leaders, and community members participated.

"The U.S. Government's legal and policy arrangement for the long term protection of the refugees is fundamentally important. And assisting these individuals and community to become economically self-sufficient and integrated so that they become contributing citizens of our shared community and global democratic society is as crucial as anything", commented Elaisa Vahnje, executive director of the Institute.

"That is where we have been focusing on, and will continue to do so; collaboratively working with our partners", continued Mr. Vahnje.

Another major finding indicates the drastically increasing college going rate among Burmese high school graduates. In Central Indiana, the rate has increased by 54 percent over the past three years. The college going rates were at 43 percent in 2012; 57 percent in 2013; 72 percent in 2014 respectively, with only 66 percent of total number of the 2014 high school graduates surveyed.

"We are pleased to see the continued rising number of students who are planning to attend college in the future", said Lian Ceu, manager of the Institute's Upward College Program.

The Burmese American Community Institute was founded in 2011 and primarily sought to empower the Burmese community living in Central Indiana through advocacy and education investments. The BACI provides educational and vocational support through a variety of programs, initiatives, and strategic collaborative partnerships

"As much as we are delighted by the level of positive impact that our services and advocacy are bringing upon our community, we are committed to continue working with our partners towards achieving our common goals of building a strong community in Indiana and in the U.S.," said Dr. Ro Dinga, Chairman of BACI.

###

Civic Education and Citizenship Application Assistance

BACI continues to host Green Card and Naturalization information sessions, presented by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) as part of the Burmese Community Integration Project. Our program designed is structured with four components: 1) Naturalization information sessions, including rights and responsibilities education, implemented in collaborative partnership with USCIS, 2) Civic and English Instruction, 3) Actual Application Assistance sessions, and 4) Mock Interview Opportunities for Applicants.

The classes are held at BACI Center every **Wednesday and Friday from 9:00am to 12:00noon**. Refugees and all legal permanent residents (LPR) are eligible to take the classes **FREE**. Call 317-731-5537 to register.



Photo above: The Upward College Program (UCP) Academic Year 2014-2015 participants in the program kick-off session.



Congratulations to **Van "Alian" Lian** on being selected to All-Great Lakes Region Soccer Team by NSCAA after named as All-State player. Currently a senior at Southport High School, Alian was BACI Upward College Summer 2014 Scholar, as well as regular participant of the year-round UCP. A Chin refugee from Burma, he becomes the first person to earn the honor from Perry Township.

BACI was awarded with Community Partner of The Year Award 2014



Pictured, Hre Mang, VP of BACI, Elaiza Vahnne, and Marianna Foulkrod, the program Director, joined by the Service Learning students of the University of Indianapolis (UIndy) during Award acceptance ceremony. The recognition was presented by UIndy's Community Programs.

Photo below: Upward College Program Summer 2014 Scholars, engaging in a 7-week Intensive Research Group project, utilizing Participatory Action Research (PAR) model.



At BACI year round **Upward College Program (UCP)**, we teach and engage with the students in Tutoring, Standardized Test Prep, Essay & Technical Writing, Leadership Development, Study & Life skills Training, Field Trips, College Admissions & Scholarship Application Assistance and more. Application for **Summer 2015 Scholars Intensive Research** will be released in **March-April** and for UCP academic year 2015-2016 in **July** on our **Facebook page** and website www.baci-indy.org. You may also request a copy by email to info@baci-indy.org or telephone at 317-731-5537. **Soccer Club** has been added to UCP. To register, please call our program Director and Coach **Lian Sang (Nge Nge)** at **317-760-5057**.

Interview with Sutin Cer

[Editor's Note: Sutin Cer came to the United States in 2007, and was one of the first students to get involved with BACI Upward College Program, where high school students are trained with life skills, leadership development, public speaking, essay writing, and other college preparatory instructions and activities. She is one of the first students to participate in the program in the 2011-2012 academic school year until summer 2013. BACI had a privilege of having her as an intern at the institute's summer team 2014.]

She graduated from Southport High School with honors in 2013 and ranked in the top 20 of her class. She is currently attending college at Saint Mary of-the-Woods with the following scholarships:

- B.W. Biddle Endowed
- Butler, Bayles V Mary Endowed
- STEM
- Merit (Presidential Scholarship)
- SMWC gift
- SHS Class of 1963.]

Major: Pre-Medicine (Biology), 2017 (Sophomore)
College: Saint Mary of-the-Woods

Participation in BACI: Upward College Program, 2011-2012; 2012-2013; Upward College Summer Scholars Program 2012 and 2014.

Q. Why participate in BACI?

A. I believe that the program sets a bright future for all the participants. As expected, it is very useful and important not only for students' academic performance but also for college preparation.

Q. How has BACI helped prepare you for college?

A. I strongly believe that having a good resume and having a strong personal statement are important materials to start a college application. BACI has helped the students to build a strong resume and revise essays. BACI has helped me with finding scholarships and filling out college applications to be able to attend college. As a former researcher in 2012 UCP, the experiences have helped me to improve my reading comprehension, write academic papers, and build good communicative skills for my college.



Sutin Cer and Julie Cin, a researcher, commuting to meet members of Permanent Mission of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations and others as part of the Education and Leadership trip to New York – UCP Summer 2014.

Q. What are you majoring now and what are your education and career goals?

A. I am majoring in Pre-professional Medicine, mainly focused on Biology. I have always wanted to become a doctor. This has been my dream since I began school. Now that I am in college, I will study hard to get into medical school in order to become a doctor. In this process, I will need to build a Medical Communication Assessment Project after four years of college, which I am working so hard for now not only academically but also mentally and financially. Once I am successful and finish the requirement for the residencies, I will commit to work in Indiana to serve my community.

Q. Your experience with BACI?

A. I worked as an intern and group supervisor of the Upward College Summer Program last summer. The program's main focus is to educate, train, and mentor the Burmese youths through conducting a seven-week long intensive research, which will identify the current community issues and challenges within the Burmese community. As one of the group mentors, my responsibility included to ensure the group truly understands the concept of the research, as well as working together and helping with the projects daily tasks to achieve our goal.

As the program went by, I learned that Upward College

- Summer Program has been very useful for myself and the students. I have seen that the student struggle since most of them do not have the research skills to conduct. However, as we started to engage with the research methodology with persistence day by day, with encouragement the scholars learn how to ask critical questions and how to answer those questions. We required each student to take responsibility as a group leader and report what they did every day at the end of the class. I believe the experiences and skills that the students gained help them not only academically but also they developed leadership skills and can become strong advocates in our community. As an intern I had the opportunity to learn all these skills as much as the students did.

Q. Anything you would like to tell current high school students from Burma?

A. I recommend for all the Burmese high school students to participate and be part of BACI if you can. I truly believe that it will help you to lead your academic success throughout your high school years because BACI helps to apply scholarships, college admission, and tutoring if needed. While you are in summer break, there is a great opportunity for you to get involved with graduate level research and actually engage in research topics and academic investigation of issues facing our community. It also creates a great opportunity for you to get involved with your community. This is a very rare opportunity that you can get, so take your chances while you still have time.

Interview with Ne Mya Mya Shwe

Q. What is your name and your ethnicity? And how long have you been living in U.S. and Indianapolis?

A. My name is Ne Mya Mya Swe. I am a Burmese (Burman) living in Indianapolis since my arrival in 2012 to the United States.

Q. What is your Business name and the location of it?

A. My business name is Blossom Child Care, which is located in my home at 1005 E Stop 11 Rd Indianapolis IN 46227.

Q. Can you tell us about your business? What type of business is it, what kind of services do you provide, and the purpose of opening this particular type of business?

A. Last year, I became a licensed home daycare provider for the Burmese community in the South side of Indianapolis. My business is to take care of the children in our community while their moms are working. As a part of my service, I help them to improve language skills which are in English, as well as Burmese.



Nay Mya May Swe is one of the women trained to be a home-based childcare service provider under BACI Childcare Microenterprise Development Project (CMED), aimed at not only the women becoming economically self-sufficient individuals, but also will help many community members get out of public assistance. Additionally, the licensed women help address issues of the refugee children without much adult supervision.

Although we came from the same country, there are many different dialects which our people from Burma speak. However, some of the parents want their children to be able to understand Burmese, which is the official language in Burma. Another thing is while we are trying to maintain our culture and language, I make sure that they are able to learn good behaviors and manners to become good citizens of this country. I also provide meals & snacks according to Day Nursery Association's Food Program guideline. In our community, there are several childcare businesses that are ran by the government, unlicensed Burmese individuals, and licensed non-Burmese individuals. I acknowledge through my personal observation that most Burmese parents are willing to allow their children with someone who is from the same culture background. I also want to run a business on my own without having to leave my home. That's why I choose to become a daycare provider.

Q. How many Children is under your care now? What are their ages and ethnicities?

A. Currently in my care, there are 5 children who speak 4 different languages from our country. There are 2 Chin-Teddim, 1 Chin-Hakha and 2 Chin-Matu.

Q. How did you get involved with BACI CMED program? And what is your reflection on BACI and its services?

A. Since my arrival in Indianapolis, I had been interested in working as a day care provider. Being new to this country, I didn't know who to contact or how to make it begin. Luckily, my brother who has been working with BACI told me that BACI is interested in helping the women in our community to be able to work as childcare providers. Then, I had a chance to meet with Ko Elaisa Vahnies, executive director of BACI, and he explained the program. Since then, I have training for the childcare business, sponsored by BACI along with other providers from our community. BACI helped us in giving training, applying paper work for licensing, and promoting our business among our community. Without their help, I am sure that I wouldn't be able to attend a single training by myself till now. Since the beginning of the training, through obtaining state license and until now while we are taking CDA (Child Development Associate) classes for being licensed daycare providers, BACI is helping us. I really appreciate BACI's help for my business.

Q. What do you want to say to the parents and members of this community?

A. Most of the parents in our community are still hesitant to send their children to daycare. One of the reasons is the cost. If their income is limited, there is a chance to apply for CCDF vouchers from the State government. Another thing is, as we are legally licensed daycare providers, they can file their children daycare expense when they apply for tax return every year. However, most of the moms are staying at home with the kids to avoid spending money on daycare. Nowadays, living expenses are higher in U.S. If the family income comes from only one person, then life is tough. Being dependent to husbands all the time, weaken the abilities of women, too. If they send their children to daycare, they can perform daily operations of their desire without worry. The community will be stronger and supportive for each other as everybody can earn money independently.



Women in Child Development Associate (CDA) Class session.

The Burmese American Community Institute's work would not be possible without the generosity of
The Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, The Clowes Fund, Inc., The Indianapolis Foundation, an affiliate of CICF, Lily Endowment Inc., The Kroger Co., The Office of Refugee Resettlement, The City of Indianapolis, PNC Bank, Chin Churches, Local Businesses and many Individual Donors.

At BACI, we maintain a high standard of accountability and transparency with the use of grants and gifts our donors entrust to us. We are always trying to keep our overhead rate low. In the past year, we used 95 percent of our total operating expenses towards programs that directly benefit students and community.

The Burmese American Community Institute is exempt from Federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States. Any contributions to BACI are deductible under section 170 of the Code.

Our 2014 Corporate Sponsor:



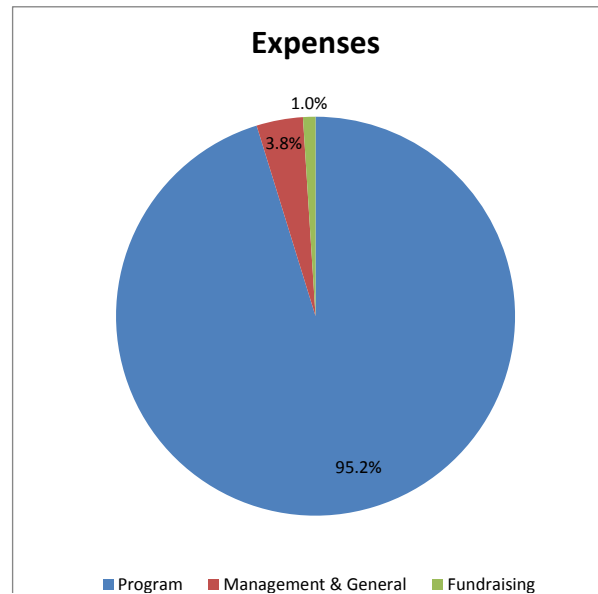
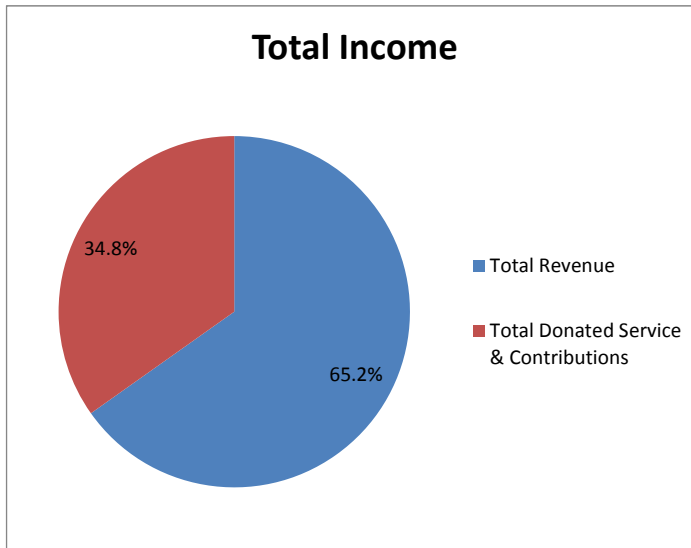
Financial Management

Financial Report

Condensed statement of activities – December 31, 2013

Modified Cash Basis

Revenues	
Contributions	\$1,411.00
Fundraising activities	1,354.00
Grants from foundations	34,625.00
Grants from governmental agencies	127,280.00
Total Revenues	164,670.00
Expenses	
Program	137,470.00
Management & General	5,438.00
Fundraising	1,455.00
Total Expenses	144,363.00
Donated Services and Contributions	
1640 Volunteer hours	36,900.00
Reduced rent	13,120.00
Publication of quarterly newsletter	37,920.00
Total Donated Services and Contributions	87,940.00
Assets	
Change in net assets	20,307.00
Net assets, beginning of year	16,525.00
Net assets, end of year	\$36,832.00



Service Outcome

Since its inception, BACI has assisted **1,629** people through its' services.

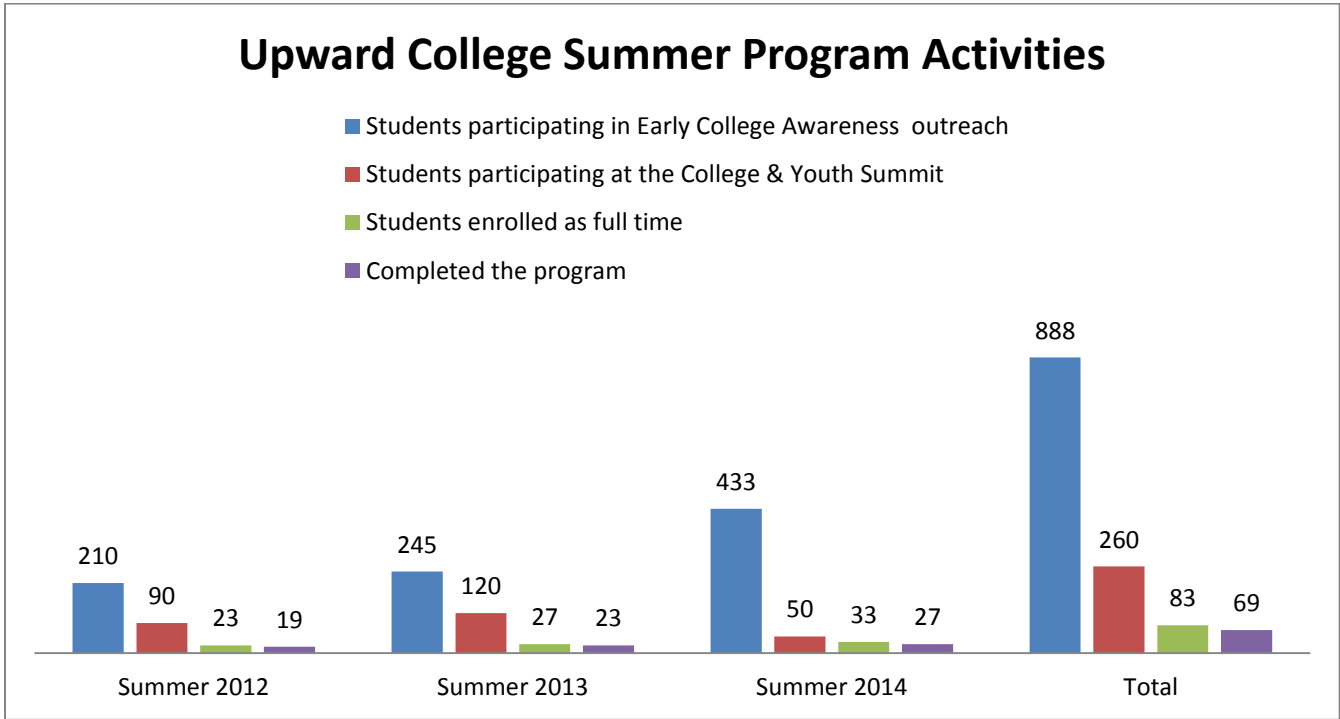
Approx. **200** meetings and presentations with public elected officials, government agencies, businesses, non-profits in **3** years.

College going rate in the Burmese Community in Central Indiana increased from **43% (2012)** and **72% (2014)**.

100% of students participating in Upward College Program and graduated from their high school enrolled in College or Post-secondary Education.

At least **10** women have started or will be starting home-based childcare to benefit our community.

In 2013, 1,640 volunteer hours were committed by BACI which benefit our community.



The Burmese Population in the U.S., Indiana, and Indianapolis
Burmese American Community Institute – August 2014¹

I. Burmese Population in Indianapolis - Total: 11708

- **Total Burmese primary resettled CY2000-CY2014 as of August 1, 2014: 7004²**
 1. Chin - 5322
 2. Karen - 975
 3. Karenni (Kayah) - 280
 4. Kachin - 95
 5. Mon - 76
 6. Burman - 74
 7. Arakanese - 68
 8. Shan - 23
 - Others - 75³
- **Total Chin population (Primary + Secondary) - 10,027⁴**(85.6% of the Burmese total)
- **Total non-Chin population (Primary + Secondary) - 1681⁵**(24.4% of the Burmese total)
- **Total Burmese (Primary + Secondary) - 11,726**
- **Secondary Migrants all Burmese - 4722** (40.3% of the Burmese total)
- **Secondary Migrants Chin - 4305⁶** (43% of the Chin total)

II. Burmese population in the State of Indiana - Total: 17551

- **Total Burmese primary resettled in Indiana CY2000-CY2014 as of August 1, 2014: 10027**
 1. Indianapolis - 6986
 2. Fort Wayne - 2948
 3. All other cities - 93
- **Total Burmese population in Indiana - 17551**
 1. Indianapolis - 11,708
 2. Fort Wayne - 5750⁷
 3. All other cities - 93

¹ Our thanks and credit go to the scholars who conducted the research on the topic of "Refugee and Secondary Migration in the U.S. and Indiana" in the Upward College Summer Scholars Program 2014, run and implemented by BACI.

² Total number of all refugees from Burma directly resettled to the city of Indianapolis during 01/01/2000-08/01/2014.

³ Other groups include Chinese, Tamil, Rohingya etc.

⁴ This total number is derived from each church and congregation membership records within the Chin community. The number also includes all refugees who arrived prior to the year 2000, estimated about 100, and also includes Burmese American children who were born on and after the year of 2000, estimated at 300 or 3% of the total.

⁵ Total number of all non-Chin are calculated using two sources: 1) Data from the Refugee Processing Center (RPC) is used for the Karen and Karenni which are 975 and 280 respectively. Although Jerry Htoo, BCCE community leader estimated the number to be only 300 and 500 each. The discrepancy can be a result of either Mr. Htoo and BCCE undercounting or 455 Karen and Karenni have moved out to different cities and states. But we believe using the RPC data 975 for Karen and 280 Karenni is the most accurate and reliable. 2) The rest of the figures are based on the number provided by each particular community leaders – e.g. Burman, Kachin, Mon etc.

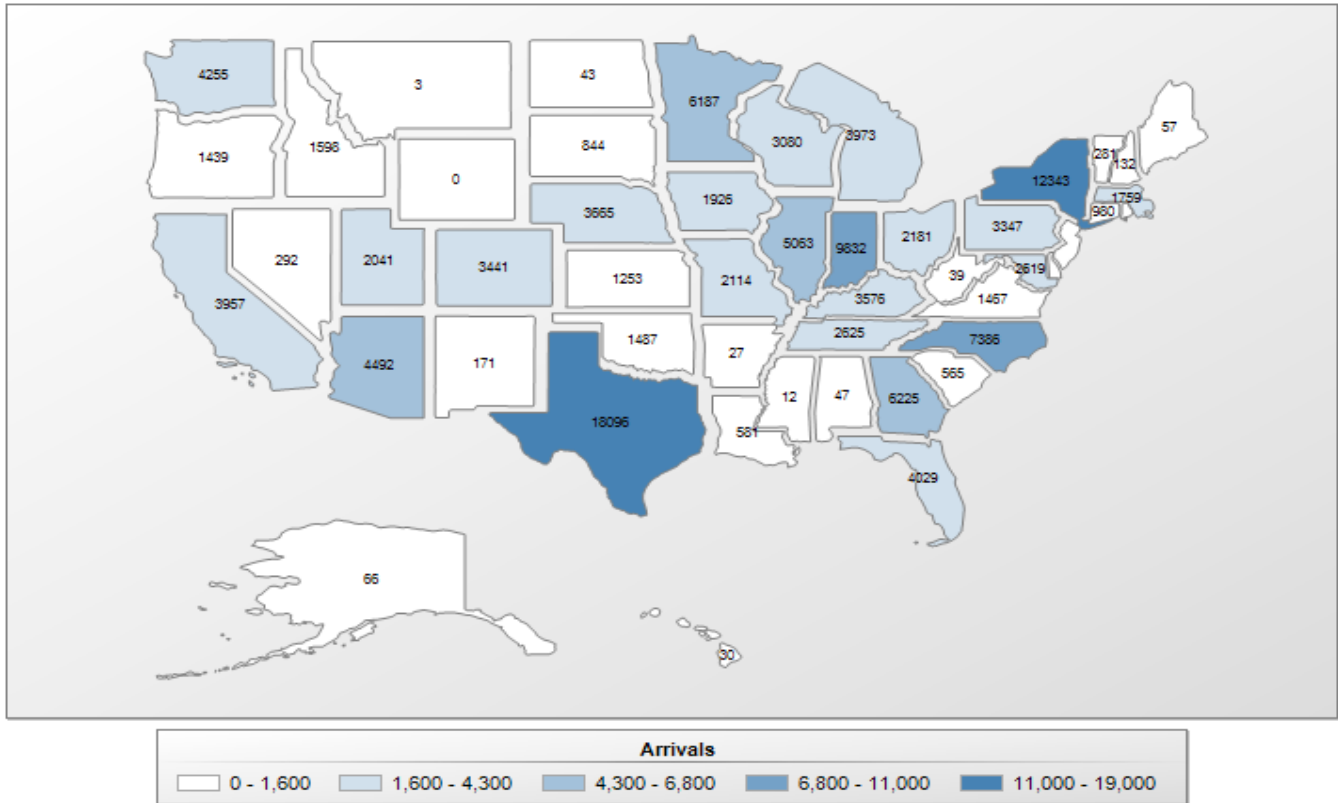
⁶ Taking the number of arrivals prior to the year 2000 estimated to be about 100, also the Burmese American children who were born on and after the year of 2000, estimated at 300 or 3% of the total, the total Chin non-secondary migrants is 4705.

⁷ This estimated number is provided by Nyein Chan (nchan@ccfwsb.org), Catholic Charity. Assuming this number is accurate, about 2802 or 48.7% of total Burmese refugees in Fort Wayne are secondary migrants and/or resettled before 2000.

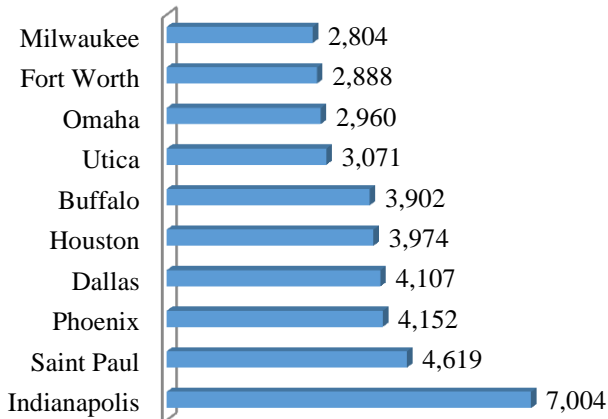
III. Burmese Refugee Population in the U.S. CY2000-CY2014 as of August 1, 2014: 132,231

Total Burmese Refugee Arrivals: For the Reporting Period of 10/01/2001 through 08/14/2014ⁱ

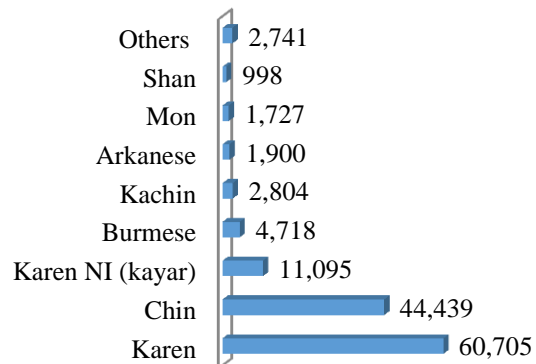
Nationality of Burma



Top 10 U.S. Cities with Highest Number of Burmese Refugee Arrivals (01/01/2000-08/01/2014)



Burmese Refugee Population in the US: 8 Major Ethnic Groups (CY2002-08/01/2014)



[Editor's Note: The following is full text of the testimonial speech delivered by Emily Ngunhlei Sung at Open House of the Chin Community of Indiana October 20, 2014. Emily, the first Place Winner of Essay Competition on "The Importance of Volunteerism and Community Service" the contest organized in conjunction with World Refugee Day in 2013, is a recipient of Sister Cities International Scholarship through which she attended the Global G20 Youth Summit at San Jose, California in August 2014. Emily is BACI Summer 2013 Scholar and voted as the Best Student of the Academic Year 2012-2013 at UCP.]

Good afternoon everyone

I am honor to stand in front of you this evening at this special occasion. I am thankful to the leadership of Chin community for giving me this opportunity.

My name is Emily Sung and I am currently a senior in Southport High School. I came to the US in 2011. As some of you might probably know, singing has been my passion and I am privileged to be able to sing regularly at community events, church, concerts and weddings. As much as I love to sing, I am also very passionate about education. And today I would like to focus my testimonial speech on how community has been playing important role in overcoming challenges and preparing for my future success through education.

Like many Chins here in Indianapolis, I too, fled my native country in seeking for protection and a better life. As most of us know, Burma is a non-democratic country and many of us did not have the opportunity to learn English and have access to proper education. As we joined our new community here in America, like many others, I have been challenged with language and my school. But I know that I will have to work and study harder than mainstream students. That is why I took the opportunity to participate at the Burmese American Community Institute (BACI).

I started participating in the Upward College program run by BACI and its partners in 2012. In this program, we have the opportunity to learn leadership, communication and life skills, but also, they helped us with our homework, SAT prep, College and Scholarship applications. Furthermore, they gave us the opportunity to engage with community leaders and decision makers in our community through meetings, forums, and presentations. The experience and knowledge I gained through



Emily Sung, her mom Cer lang with Indianapolis Mayor Gregory A. Ballard at the Sister Cities Celebration December 8, 2014.

-our trip to Washington D.C. through Summer Scholars Program taught me how to appreciate the American democracy and its rich historical heritages. And in this summer with the help of the Upward College Program and their partners, I was extremely honored to be selected as a recipient of Sisters Cities International Scholarship to attend the Global Youth Summit at San Jose California in August 2014. This opportunity provided me to see the issues around the world and in our community and how young people like me can engage and affect positive change towards a greater good for human society.

With the help of my teachers at schools, and additional experiences and skills set that I have developed through my extracurricular activities like in church, Upward college program, community, Key Clubs and others in the past three years, I am now better prepared for my future.

However, this will not have happened without the support of my parent, church leaders, and community leaders like all of you here. So on behalf of students and all of your children, I would like to express my thanks to our parents and all the community leaders for your love and continued support.

I am grateful for all of you who have been tirelessly and passionately working together for us and helping us achieve our dreams.

Thank you – and may God Bless you all!



Volunteering and cultivating a community garden at Indy Urban Acres on World Refugee Day 2014. The project was in its 3rd year and all products of the farm were donated to local food pantries in the city for who are in need of food assistance.



BACI on Sept. 17th hosted the Quarterly Consultation Meeting as part of Coordinated Refugee Services in Central Indiana where stakeholders including government agencies, nonprofits, and community partners come together and seek to improve services and further strengthen collaborative initiatives and engagements towards a more rapidly and sustained economic self-sufficiency and integration.



Educational and Leadership Trip to New York City – Summer 2014.



The BACI in collaborative partnership with Perry Township Trustee, Chin Community of Indiana, Chin Youth Organization, organized the Tree Planting Project as part of the "Giving Back to the Community" initiative on World Refugee Day 2014. A group photo picture of volunteers and community leaders at Alcorn-Tilton Cemetery 1107 W Banta Road, Indianapolis, IN.

Cover page photos: Year End Celebration of the Upward College Program 2013-2014. Dr. Howard Levitin, Shane Maung, Dr. Michael Russell, and BACI Board Member Nguncer Bualteng. BACI gratefully presenting its outstanding partner of the year Award to St. Francis Health. Center L: Peter Biak, BACI/CCI Volunteer Interpreter, Maria Wildridge, Marion Co. Prosecutor's Office, Lun Kham Pieper, Attorney; R- Participants of BACI Research Presentation Day 2014.



BACI Upward College Program Alumni giving and sharing their college experience with current Scholars at the Annual Reunion August 2, 2014

Executive Director Sinin Cakuat

Dawtmi U le Nau Miphun hawi hna:

Nan zatein dam le thawng in nan um cio lai, tiah zumhnak ka ngei. Kan riantuannak kum 4 chung kan kal cang. Tutan ah hin, a luan ciami kum hna ah kan riantuannak hna le hmai lei kan tuan lai dingmi kong hna he pehtlai in vun langhter ka duh.

Kan theih cio bantuk in, USA ram ah Kawlram mi ralzam a rak phan mi dihlak 140,000 hrawng kan si cang. Cu hna lak ah cun 45,000 hrawng cu Chinmi kan si i, 12000 hna cu Indianapolis ah khua kan sa hna.

Mah tihin, US ram le hmunhma ah a kan lak i khuasaknak a kan tuahpiaktu American miphun hna cung ah lunglawmhnak chim cawk lo kan ngei. Aluanciami kum 20 chung international community ah cimrelpiaknak kan tuan mi kan hlawhtling, tiah chim khawh a si ko hnga. Khat lei ah, mah tihin hmunhma thar ah a rak phan mi kan mah zong nih hin, nunphun le holh dang hman ding le nunpi ding caah harnak te te zong cu kan tong ve. Sihmanhsehlaw, cozah bawmhnak rumro i khuasa dingmi Miphun si cu kan duh lo. Kan umnak khua le ram, sang le hmun caah, tuanvo le covo kan ngeih ve, timi kan i fiang bantukin, cu tuanvo lak ding zong kan i ruahchih ve. Cu hlei ah, US rammi a sitharmi mah hi kan miphun nih hin mah hi ram caah thiltha a chuahpi kho tu ding, le mah le ke te ah dir khomi siding in saduhthahnak ngan pi kan ngei zungzal. Cuticun athawngmi community kan si lai i, kan kaltakmi kan ram serthannak zong ah tampi nih kan telpi kho lai, tiah zumhnak kan ngei. Cu bantuk kan vision cu tlintar ding in, BACI kan timi Burmese American Community Institute cu 2011 kum lio ah khan rak dirh a si. Chimrelpiaknak, fimcawnnak, le riantuannak hna ah abikin rak tuan asi.

Aluan ciami kum 3 chung ah BACI nih cu bantuk vision kan ngeihmi hna caah rian biatak tein kan tuan. Cu tin BACI riantuannak hna cu bu dangdang hna he riantuantinak le bawmhnak thawng in theipar tha cheukhat kan hmuh khawh ve. Kum 2012 lio ah Indiana ah ralzam dirhmun in arak phanmi kan Miphun, kan fale hna high school an dih khawh in Sianghleirun a pehmi an rak tlawm ngai. Minung 100 ah 43 lawng an rak si. Sihmansehlaw, tukum ah cun 43% in 72% tiang a kai. Kan community chung nu 10 hna cu cozah nih pekmi hngakchia zohkhenhnak license tling an ngei

kho i, kan fale thatein a kan zokhenhpiak cuahmah cang. BACI nih cawnnak phunphun tuahmi ah minung 1500 renglo an rak i tel kho. Cun America ram nunphun le umtu khuasakning cang cauk pakhat zong kan chuah khawh.

Hmailei kan kalnak ding le tuan kan i timhmi kong tlawmte chim ka duh. ORR le adang hna grant hmang in Upward College Program (UCP) kan timi High School Sianginn kai lio mi hna nih Siang Hleirun an pehzulh khawh ding caah tha deuh le kau deuh in kan tuah kho cang lai. Cu pin ah US rammi sinak sawknak, tuanvo le covo kan ngeihmi, le rian tha hmu khawh ding bawmhchannak zong tam deuh tuah khawh ding timhlmahnak kan ngei. Aluan ciami kum hna ah kan rak tuan tawn bantuk in, hmai lei zong ah workshops hna le cawnpiaknak phunphun hna cu kan rian tuantimi bu hna he kom in pehzulh lengmang ding zong timhlmahnak kan ngei. Hmai lei kum 5 chung kan rian tuan le hmai kal ning cu kan timhhlamnak (strategic planning) nih an kan hruai te lai.

Adonghnak ah, lawmnak bia chim ka duh. BACI Board of Directors hna cung ah, ahleiin Chairman Dr. Ro Ding cungah ka lawm. BACI riantuannak hna caah an thazaang le bawmhnak an kan pekmi vialte cungah lunglawmnan nganpi ka ngei. Cun, riantuanti tu hna dihlak le zaanghleii cawitu hna dihlak cung zong ah ka lung a lawmh. Cun, bu le phu dang dang hna i bawmhnak le riantuantinak vialte hna caah lawmhnak dongcatlo ka ngei. Nan zate bawmhnak, thlacampiaknak, nan caan sunglawi, pekchanhnak, le riantuannak hna hi um hlah seh law kan community caah rian kan tuannak hna hi a tlamtling kho hnga lo.

Kum 2015 le a ra lai dingmi kum tampi hna tiang ah, nan kan dirpi rih lai, timi ruahchannak ka ngei.

Khrimas le Kum Thar lawmhnak nan cung ah um ko seh.

Upatnak he,

Elaisa Vahnne
Executive Director



[Editor biacah: **Suitin Cer** cu 2007 kum lio ah khan United State ram ah a rak phan. A nih hi BACI Upward College Program ah a rak i tel hmasa pawl a si. Upward College Program ah hin siang hnakchia hna cu hruaitu sinak kong, biachim, catial le sianghleirun kai khawhnak ding caah herhbau timhlanhna thil tampi hna an cawn i an tuahnak a si. Suitin Cer hi 2011-2012 cacawn kum lio tein mah program ah hin a rak i tel i Summer 2013 tiang ai tel. BACI zung zong nih 2014 kum lio ah rianbawmtu intern in an rak hman mi a si.

Southport High School in 2013 kum lio ah ah khan honor in a rak dih mi 20 hna lak ah Suitin hi a rak i tel kho ve. Tulio ah hin Saint Mary of-the-Woods timi College ah Sianghleirun a kai cuahmah lio a si i, a tang lei scholarship hna hi a hmuh.

- B.W Biddle Endowed
- Butle, Bayles V Mary Endowed
- STEM
- Merit (Presidential Scholarship)
- SMWC gift le
- SHS Class of 1963 timi scholarship le fimcawnnak caah bawmhnak phun (6) hi a hmuh.

Amin: Suitin Cer

Major: Pre-Medicine (Biology), 2017 (Sophomore)

College: Saint Mary of the Woods

Participation in BACI: Upward College Program 2011-2012, 2012-2013; Upward College Summer Scholars Program 2012 and 2014

Q. BACI ah ze i ruang ah dah nai tel ve?

A. Mah ka hin ai tel mi hna caah hi program nih hin hmailei caah lamtha a sial piak hna tiah ka zumh. Cu hlei ah sainghngakchia pakhat caah fimcawnnak caah bawmtu tha a si piin ah sianghleirun kainak ca zong ah bawmtu a si tiah ka zumh fawn caah ka rak i telve mi a si.

Q. BACI nih Sianghleiruan kai kawhnak caah ze i tindah a bawmh?

A. Sianghleiruan sianginn sawknak ding caah hin resume le, pumpak kong lam tha tein tialnak (personal statement) hna hi a bia pi hringhran tiah ka zumh. BACI nih hin sianghnakchia hna nih resume tha tein ngeih ding caah le pumpak kong lam i tialnak caah a kan bawmh. Cun, scholarship hmuh khawhnak ding caah siseh, sianghleirun sianginn sawknak application

tuahnak caah siseh BACI nih a kan bawmh. 2012 kum lio ah Upper College Program i ningcang tein dothlatnak (formal research) kan rak tuahmi zong nih cawnsang catial ning (academic paper), le sianghleirun kaitik ah chawnhbiak ning cang tbtk hna ca zong ah bawmhnak tampi a ka pek.

Q. Tuhi ze i major dah na cawn cuahmah i, hmailei fimcawnnak le riantuannak lei ah hmuitinh na ngeihmi hna ze i dah an si?

A. Pre-professional Medicine timi si lei kam cawnnak asi i i, Biology hi ka cawn bikmi cu a si. Sibawi Doctor si ding hi ka duh ngaimi a si, i cu cu ka chunmang a si. Sibawi si khawhnak ding caah tu sianginn ka kai lio ah hin fak piin kai zuam lai. Tu kum 4 ka kaimi ka dih khawh hin Medical Communication Assessment Project timi ka cawng chap te lai. Siang inn ka kai lio ah hin ca zoh lei zuamnak pakhat lawng si lo in, thinlung thawnnak caah siseh, phaisa hmanning cang hna caah siseh, teirial ka ma ngai ko. Cu ti cun, tlamtling tein ka dih khawh a si ah cun, Indiana ah hin kan pawng kam caah riantuan than ding in kai tinh mi a si.

Q. BACI ah na rak i telnak tete?

A. Nikum ah khan Upward College Summer Program timi ah group supervisor le intern rian ka rak bawm hna. Mah cu program ah cun Kawlram mi mino hna nih Kawlram mi kan nun khusaknak kong he pehtlai in dothlatnak research cu zarh 7 chung kan rak tuah. Group hruaitu ka si bantu in, mah cu dothlatnak i aa tinh bikmi hna tlamtlin ding le nitin tuanvo te te hlawn tlin ding caah tuanvo hna ka rak la.

Mah program ka rak i tel ah khan, sianghnakchia hna ca lawng ah si loin, kei mah ca hrimhrim ah a rak that hnem ngai. Sianghngakchia tampi cu cu bantu dothlatnak research an rak tuah bal lo caah, harnak tlawmpal cu a rak um. A si nain, research methodology timi research tuah ning cang te hna le bia halning le lehning cang hna mithmuh kut tongh in tuah le cawn a rak si.

Q. Tulio i High School Sianghnakchia hna sin ah Chim na duhmi?

A. High School Sianginn kai cuahmah mi hna nih BACI program ah an i tel cio ding in duhsaknak tampi ka ngei. Hmailei sianghleirun kainak caah a herhmi scholarship sawknak, sianghleirun luhnak sawknak hna caah

a herhmi bawmhnak hna cu BACI nih an tuahpik khawh hna caah, highschool sianghnakchia hna caah a tha hringhran mi a si. Cun, Summer sianginn khar lio ah telhveihnak le cawnnak ngeih khawh mi zong hi a tha tukhringhran mi a si. Mah bantuk BACI nih tuahmi hi hmuh awk har ngaimi thil sunglawi an si tiah ka ruah.

Emily Ngunhlei Sung International G20 Youth Summit 2014 Ah Akai



Emily Ngunhlei Sung Mino Hrawitu Cheukhat he G20 Summit ah

Emily Ngunhlei Sung cu July 31 – August 2, 2014 ni hna ah khan San Jose, California ah tuahmi a vawi 58-nak Sister Cities International Annual Conference ah Indianapolis khua ai-awh in a kai. Cu Global G20 Youth Leadership Summit ah cu USA chung Cities tampi i high School akai lio mi 100 le ram dang dang (England, Germany, Japan, China, le South Korea ram tbtk) hna i mino hna he hmunkhat ah biaruah tinak an ngei hna. ###

Global Festival ah Chin Mino An Laam; University of Indianapolis ah Chimrelpiaknak le Nungphung Langter

USA: Indianapolis ah tuahmi Indy Sister Cities Global Festival ah Chin Miphun zong an i tel kho ve. Niruk ni September 6, 2014 Indianapolis ah tuahmi kum 3-nak International Festival ahcun Chin Mino hna nih Ruakhuatlak an lam. Kawlram tuanbia, ramuknak dirhmun, le Chin miphun nungphung kong hna zong festival ahcun an langter khawh ve, tiah thawng thei a si.

Tutan lam ahhin Laizo, Hakha Lai/Mara, Mizo, Matu timi kan Chin thum tling ngai in hruk in, Ruakhuatlak lam cu Chin Mino hna nih dawh tein Miphun dang sin ah an langter.



Upward College Program Dance Club Sister Cities International Festival tuannak Indianapolis Downtown ah

Indianapolis Khuabawi zung lei tuavo ngeih tu director Jane Gehlhausen zong nih Indianapolis khuasa Chinmi sinah siseh, hi bantukin Indianapolis khua caah i pekchannak le thaazang he hruaitu Burmese American Community Institute cungah sunglawi in lung lawmnak langternak bia a chim ve.



Pu Ca Hmung nih Chinmi Nunphung Vawrhla a hrawi lio. "Spirit & Place: The Journey" – Engaging and Celebrating with the Burmese hosted by BACI and Univeristy of Indianapolis November 8, 2014

USA le Indianapolis cu kan khuasaknak kan ram, kan khua a si cang. Hi bantuk caan ah hin kan umnak kan khua chung i khua kan sati mi miphung dang he hmunkhat ah riantuanti khawh le i hrawm ti khawh hi thil tha a si lawng si loin, aherhmi thil zong a si. Zeicatiah kan khuasaknak ram, khua le miphun dang caah kan caan le thaazang kan i pek ve mi asi. Kan ngeih mi kan nungphung le tuanbia hna kilvengnak, cawisangnak rian biapi pakhat zong a si, tiah zumh a si.

BACI Riantuannak Theipar Cheukhat le Lawmnak Bia Tawi

Kum 2011 thawkin BACI nih kan Chin Community le kan Miphun caah ipekin kan rian tuannak ah pumpak in siseh, buu in siseh tampi telh in tanti le tuanti a si. Thlacamnak in siseh, ruahnak in siseh, chawva in siseh, thilri le thazaang in siseh, kan ti khawhnak lam cio in nan kan telpi caah kan miphun caah a thathnemmi thil tam ngai kan tuanchuah khawh. Aluan cihami kum (3) chung kan rian tuanak i a theipar achuak khomi cheukhat hna cu atang lei ah hin kan vun langhter.

1. BACI kan thawk ka tein minung **1629** kan bawmh khawh cang. Chimrelpiaknak, Green Card sawknak, Citizenship Sawknak, English class kainak, Rian tha hmuh khawhnak, Colledge kai khawhnak, Scholarship hmuh khawhnak tbtck hna ah kan bawmh bik hna.
2. Kan Community huap in le pumpak caah chimrelpiaknak (advocacy) hna cu aluanchiahmi kum 3 chung ah **meeting le presentation vawi 200 hrawng** ngei/tuah khawh a rak si. Cozah, Businesses, NGOs le Pumpak hna he meeting/presentation hna ngeih a si.
3. Sianginn le a dang rian kan tuantimi bu hna he kan tanti caah kum 2012 ah High School a dihmi kan fale vialte 100 ah 43 (**43%**) lawng nih college (post-secondary education) an peh. Kum 2014 ahcun 100 ah 72 (**72%**) nih an peh khawh.
4. BACI Upward College Program ah aatelhmi High School sianghngahkchia 100 ah 100 nih High School an dih tikah College (or post-secondary education) an peh dih (**100%**).
5. Upward College Program ah i tel in College apehmi vialte chung i 100 ah 50 (**50%**) nak tam deuh nih Scholarship an hmuh.
6. Kan Community chung Nu **10 nih Nau zokhehnak (Childcare/Daycare)** an kan tuahpiak cuahmah.
7. Kum 2013 chung lawngah manloin (volunteer hours) **naazi 1640** hmangin kan community caah rian kan tuan.
8. Phaisa kan hmanngi ah **4.8%** lawng hi zung riantuannak (overhead/general management) caah kan hmanngi, **95.2%** cu mi bawmhchan riantuannak (program and service) ah hman a si.

Hi bantukin kan Community le miphun caah rian kan tuan khawhmi hi nan zate thlacamnak le tantinak ruang ah a si, timi fiangte in kan thei caah nan zaate cungah lawmhnak bia chim than kan duh. Pathian nih thlachuah in pe cio ko hna seh.

The Burmese American Community Institute (BACI)

Chinmi Nunphung Vawrhla by Pu Ca Hmung

1) Uknak e, pennak e, chia kha ruangah e, Chinram ah e, nau bang kan ngam kho ti lo ee. Chinmi cu e, UN nih e, Europe, US nau bang kan hlom ton hna maw e, aw...

2) Kan Biak e, zingnu nih e, Chinmi cu e, nunphung he kan sersiam ton ve maw ee. Kan nun e, phung cu e, sunglawi ngai in e, an pei bawi sinah e, kan nih hrawm ve hna e, aw..

3) Kan hrin e, semmawng rual han hi e, fimnak e thiamnak e a zaa in kan chanh piak hna uh law ee. Kan ram e, kan miphun e, tum mer kho ding in e, kan nin hngak chan hna e, aw..

4) A sung e, lawi bik e, fimthiamnak hi e, kan miphun nih a hlam tuk ee. Kan ram e, sersiam nak caah e, Ph.D. par tiang in e, kan bawm chanh ton uh law e, aw...

5) Nan kan e, zohkhen e, nan kan kil kamh e, nak cungah e, lawmh bia za kan chim ee. Kan Biak e zingnu nih e, lu nun e, damnak e, nun sau in pe hram hna seh law e, aw...

[Note: University of Indianapolis le BACI komh in tuahmi "Spirit & Place: The Journey" timi pawl caah phuahmi a si]

Chin Miphunpi Ni (Chin National Day Celebration) Sawmnak



Nikhatnak (Paih Le Lai Laam) Caanhmanhnak

Ahmun: Southport Life Center Gym (ICBC pumhnak)
(4002 E southport road, Indianapolis, IN 46237)

Ani: February 14, 2015; Acaan: 11:00 am - 8:00 pm
Paih thok caan: 12:00 pm

Nihnihnak (Chin Miphunpi Ni) Caanhmanhnak

Ahmun: Southport Life Center (ICBC pumhnak)
(4002 E southport road, Indianapolis, IN 46237)

Ani: February 21, 2015; Acaan: 1:00 - 6:00 pm

As a uniquely positioned entity, BACI provides educational and vocational support through a variety of programs and initiatives and continues to strive to support community members locally and Internationally through strategic partnerships and advocacy.



During BACI Myanmar's Initiative trip, our Executive Director Elaisa Vahnne was received by H.E. Dr. Zaw Min Aung, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education, Union of Myanmar in Naypittaw on June 27, 2014.



Meeting with Executive Associate Dean David Reingold, School of Public and Environment Affairs (SPEA), Indiana University Bloomington. In principle agreement was reached to support the Burmese with a world class education.

Indiana University Bloomington administered the Burmese scholarship program in the past, funded by the U.S. Department of State, which facilitated university education for students from Myanmar. Additionally, the Center for Constitutional Democracy at IU School of Law led by David Williams, John S. Hastings Professor of Law and Susan Williams, Walter W. Foscett Professor of Law, has advised reformers in the country.

BACI leadership met with its partners from the International Institute of Business (IIB) at IU Kelly School of Business and IU Office of International Development in Bloomington. BACI, IIB, and OID are collaboratively working together on the Myanmar conference.

IIB at IU Kelly School of Business has already been supporting Myanmar's economic transition through a Global Development Alliance project that will extend the teaching and outreach capabilities of the Yangon Institute of Economics and help micro- to medium-sized business enterprises to be more successful. OID has implemented the Youth Leadership Program with Myanmar, funded by the U.S. Department of State.



Photo above L-R: Dr. Ro Dinga, Chairman of BACI, Elaisa Vahnne, Executive Director of BACI, Christine Davis, Associate Director of IIB, LaVonn Schlegel, Managing Director of IIB, Courtney Michelle of OIB, and Genevieve Pritchard, Associate Director of OID.



Photo picture L-R: David Williams, John S. Hastings Professor of Law, Executive Director, Center for Constitutional Democracy, Elaisa Vahnne, Executive Director of BACI, Austen L. Parrish, Dean and James H. Rudy Professor of Law, Indiana University Maurer School of Law.



Our young scholars at the Summer Research Program visiting with the Global Program at Columbia University - Institute for Study on Human Rights during the Leadership trip to New York City in summer 2014.



Students and faculty members at Liberal Arts program at MIT (Myanmar Institute of Theology) in Yangon during "Leadership, Ethnic conflict, and Democracy" lecture and engagement session held with our Director Elaisa Vahnje. The Peace Studies Center at MIT involves with several peace initiatives.



Participants of The U.S. Department of State/Indiana University Bloomington's Burma Youth Leadership Program and the BACI Upward College Program on a trip to the City of Indianapolis warmly received and presentation given by the Mayor's Office – Jane Gehlhausen, Director of Culture and International Affairs. The UCP students had a privilege of engaging with the students from Myanmar for two days.



A group photo picture at The Journey: Engaging and celebrating with the Burmese as part of the Spirit and Place 2014 - hosted by The University of Indianapolis & BACI.

"And if you don't have that sense of national unity, ...country like Myanmar... If people think in terms of ethnic identity before national identity, then I think over time the country will start breaking apart and democracy will not work. So there has to be a sense of common purpose."

- President Barack Obama

Photo R: The USDOS/IUB's Burma Youth Leadership Program together with the BACI's UCP participants dressed in different ethnic groups' representation of Myanmar - Chin, Kachin, Karen, Karenni, Shan, Mon, Bama, and Rakhaine at Downtown Indianapolis 2014.



နေမြမြဆွေ နဲ့မေးမြန်းချက်

မေး။ အမရဲ့ နာမည်နဲ့ လူမျိုးက ဘာပါလဲ။ နောက်ပြီး အမေရိကန်နိုင်ငံနဲ့ အင်ဒီယာနာပိုလစ်စ်မြို့ မှာ နေထိုင်တာ ဘယ်လောက်ကြာပါပြီလဲ။

ဖြေ။ ကျမနာမည်က နေမြမြဆွေပါ။ ကျမက မြန်မာလူမျိုးတဦးဖြစ်ပြီး အမေရိကန်နိုင်ငံကိုရောက်ရှိတဲ့ ၂၀၁၂ ခုနှစ်ကထဲက ဒီအင်ဒီယာနာပိုလစ်စ်မြို့ မှာနေထိုင်နေပါတယ်။

မေး။ အမရဲ့ စီးပွားရေးလုပ်ငန်းအမည်နဲ့ နေရာကိုပြောပြပေးပါဦး။

A. ကျမရဲ့ လုပ်ငန်းအမည်ကတော့ Blossom Child Care ဖြစ်ပြီး 1005 E Stop 11 Rd Indianapolis IN 46227 ဆိုတဲ့ ကျမရဲ့ အိမ်မှာတည်ရှိပါတယ်။

မေး။ အမရဲ့ လုပ်ငန်းအကြောင်းကို ကျနော်တို့ ကိုပြောပြလို့ ရမလား။ ဘယ်လိုလုပ်ငန်းမျိုးလဲ၊ ဘယ်လိုဝန်ဆောင်မှုမျိုးတွေပေးသလဲ။ ဒီလုပ်ငန်းကိုပဲ လုပ်ရခြင်းရဲ့ အဓိကရည်ရွယ်ချက်ကတော့ ဘာပါလဲ။

ဖြေ။ ကျမဟာ ပြီးခဲ့တဲ့နှစ်မှာပဲ အင်ဒီယာနာပိုလစ်စ်မြို့ တောင်ပိုင်းရှိ မြန်မာအသိုင်းအဝိုင်းအတွက် လိုင်စင်ရ အိမ်တွင်းနေ့ ကလေးထိန်းကျောင်းဖွင့်လှစ်သူဖြစ်လာခဲ့ပါတယ်။ ကျမအလုပ်ကတော့ ကျမတို့ အသိုင်း အဝိုင်းက မိခင်တွေအလုပ်လုပ်နေစဉ် သူတို့ရဲ့ ကလေးတွေကို စောင့်ရှောက်ထိန်းသိမ်းပေးဖို့ ပါပဲ။ ကျမရဲ့ ဝန်ဆောင်မှုတွေရဲ့ တစ်စိတ်တစ်ပိုင်းအားဖြင့် ကလေးတွေရဲ့ ဘာသာစကားစွမ်းရည် (မြန်မာစကားနဲ့ အင်္ဂလိပ်စကား) တိုးတက်စေဖို့ အတွက် ကူညီပေးပါတယ်။ ကျမတို့ ဟာ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတစ်ခုလုံးကလာကြတယ်ဆိုပေမဲ့ ဒီမှာနေထိုင်ကြတဲ့ အသိုင်းအဝိုင်းကြားမှာတော့ မတူညီတဲ့ဘာသာစကားတွေအများကြီး သုံးနေကြပါတယ်။ ဒါပေမဲ့ တချို့ မိဘတွေဟာ သူတို့ရဲ့ ကလေးတွေကို မြန်မာနိုင်ငံရဲ့ ရိုးသုံးဘာသာစကားဖြစ်တဲ့ မြန်မာစကားကိုလဲ တတ်စေချင်ကြပါတယ်။ နောက်တချက်ကတော့ ကလေးတွေဟာ ကျမတို့ရဲ့ ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှုဘာသာစကားတွေကို ထိန်းသိမ်းနေရင်းနဲ့ ဒီအမေရိကန်နိုင်ငံရဲ့ နိုင်ငံသားကောင်းတွေဖြစ်လာကြစေဖို့ အတွက် သူတို့ လေးတွေကို ကောင်းမွန်တဲ့အလေ့အကျင့်၊ ပြုမူပြောဆိုပုံတွေကို လေ့လာသင်ယူစေပါတယ်။ ကလေးတွေအတွက် အစားအစာနဲ့ သရေစာတွေကိုလဲ Day Nursery Association လို့ ခေါ်တဲ့ပြည်နယ်အစိုးရရဲ့ အထောက်အပံ့အဖွဲ့ ရဲ့ စည်းမျဉ်းစည်းကမ်းတွေနဲ့ အညီ ကျွေးမွေးပါတယ်။ ကျမတို့ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံကလာကြတဲ့သူတွေရဲ့ အသိုင်းအဝိုင်းကြားမှာ ကလေးထိန်းလုပ်ငန်းမျိုးစုံရှိပါတယ်။ အစိုးရပိုင်ကလေးထိန်းလုပ်ငန်းတွေ၊ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံကလာသူတွေရဲ့ လိုင်စင်မဲ့ကလေးထိန်းလုပ်ငန်းတွေ၊ လိုင်စင်ရ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံကမဟုတ်သူတွေရဲ့ ကလေးထိန်းလုပ်ငန်းတွေ စသဖြင့်ပေါ့လေ။ ကျမရဲ့ ကိုယ်ပိုင်လေ့လာသုံးသပ်ချက်အရဆိုရင် ကျမတို့ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံကလာကြတဲ့မိဘတွေဟာ သူတို့ရဲ့ ကလေးတွေကို ယဉ်ကျေးမှုနောက်ခံချင်းတူညီတဲ့သူတွေဆီမှာပဲ အပ်နှံလိုကြပါတယ်။ ကျမကိုယ်တိုင်ကလဲ အိုးမကွာအိမ်မကွာစီးပွားရေးလုပ်ငန်းကိုပဲလုပ်ချင်တဲ့သူဖြစ်တော့ ဒီနေ့ ကလေးထိန်းလုပ်ငန်းကိုပဲ လုပ်ကိုင်ဖို့ ရွေးချယ်ခဲ့တာပါ။

မေး။ အခုလောလောဆည်အမရဲ့ စောင့်ရှောက်မှုအောက်မှာကလေးဘယ်နှယောက်ရှိပါသလဲ။ သူတို့ရဲ့ အသက်တွေနဲ့ လူမျိုးတွေကရာဘာတွေပါလဲ။

ဖြေ။ လောလောဆည် ကျမဆီမှာ ကလေး ၅ ယောက်ရှိပြီး သူတို့ ပြောတဲ့ ဘာသာစကား ၄ မျိုးကွဲပြားပါတယ်။ အငယ်ဆုံးလေးက ၃ လသားလေးဖြစ်ပြီး ၂ နှစ် ၃ နှစ် ၅ နှစ်အရွယ်ကလေးတွေရှိပါတယ်။ လူမျိုးအနေနဲ့ တော့ တီးတိန်ချင်း ၂ ယောက်၊ ဟားခါးချင်း ၁ ယောက်နဲ့ မတူပီချင်း ၂ ယောက်ပါ။

မေး။ BACI ရဲ့ CMED program မှာ ဘယ်လိုပါဝင်ခဲ့ပါသလဲ။ BACI နဲ့ သူ့ရဲ့ ဝန်ဆောင်မှုတွေအပေါ်မှာ ဘယ်လို သဘောထားပါသလဲ။

ဖြေ။ အင်ဒီယာနာပိုလစ်စ်မြို့ ကိုရောက်လာစကထဲက နေ့ ကလေးထိန်းသူအဖြစ်အလုပ်လုပ်ကိုင်ဖို့ ကျမစိတ်ဝင်စားခဲ့ပါတယ်။ ဒါပေမဲ့ ဒီနိုင်ငံကိုရောက်စလူတဦးအနေနဲ့ အဲဒီလုပ်ငန်းလုပ်ကိုင်ဖို့ အတွက် ဘယ်ကိုဆက်သွယ်ရမယ် ဘယ်လိုအစပြုရမယ်ဆိုတာတောင် ကျမမသိသေးခဲ့တဲ့အချိန်ပါ။ အဲဒီအချိန်မှာပဲ BACI အနေနဲ့ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံကလာခဲ့တဲ့သူတွေအသိုင်းအဝိုင်းက အမျိုးသမီးတွေကို

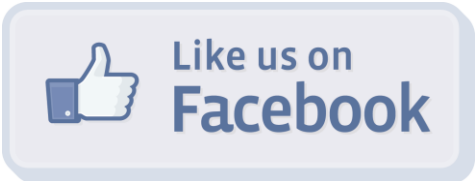
ကလေးထိန်းလုပ်ငန်းလုပ်ကိုင်သူတွေဖြစ်လာဖို့ အတွက် အကူအညီပေးဖို့ စိတ်ဝင်စားနေတယ်လို BACI နဲ့ အလုပ်လုပ်နေတဲ့ ကျမ မောင်လေး ဆီကတစ်ဆင့် သိခဲ့ရပါတယ်။ နောက်တော့ BACI ရဲ့ အလုပ်အမှုဆောင်ဒါရိုက်တာ Ko Elaisa Vahnies နဲ့ တွေ့ဆုံရပြီး ဒီအစီအစဉ်အကြောင်း ပြောပြပါတယ်။ ကျမတို့ ကလေးထိန်းလုပ်ငန်းလုပ်ကိုင်ခွင့်လိုင်စင်ရဖို့ အတွက် တက်ရမဲ့သင်တန်းတွေ၊ စစ်ဆေးရမဲ့အချက်အလက်တွေ၊ ရုံးတွေကိုပို့ ရမဲ့စာရွက်စာတမ်းကိစ္စတွေကအစ BACI က အကူအညီပေးခဲ့ပါတယ်။ အခုလဲပဲ လိုင်စင်ရ ကလေးထိန်းလုပ်ငန်းလုပ်ကိုင်သူတွေ ကိုင်ဆောင်ရမဲ့ Child Development Associate လို့ ခေါ်တဲ့ CDA လက်မှတ်ရဖို့အတွက် တက်ရမဲ့သင်တန်းတွေကို BACI ရဲ့ အကူအညီနဲ့ ကျမတို့ တက်ရောက်နေကြပါတယ်။ ကျမရဲ့ စီးပွားရေးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် BACI ရဲ့ အကူအညီပေးမှုတွေကို ကျေးဇူးတင်ကြောင်းအသိအမှတ်ပြုပါတယ်။

မေး။ ဒီအသိုင်းအဝိုင်းဝင်တွေနဲ့ မိဘတွေ အမအနေနဲ့ ဘာပြောချင်ပါသလဲ။

ဖြေ။ ကျမတို့ အသိုင်းအဝိုင်းက မိဘတွေအနေနဲ့ သူတို့ ရဲ့ ကလေးတွေကို နေ့ ကလေးထိန်းကျောင်းပို့ ဖို့ အတွက်တွန့် ဆုပ်နေသေးတဲ့သူတွေ အတော်များပါသေးတယ်။ အကြောင်းရင်းတွေထဲက တချက်ကတော့ ကုန်ကျစရိတ်ပေါ့လေ။ တကယ်လို့ သူတို့ ရဲ့ ဝင်ငွေက အကန့် အသတ်ဖြစ်နေတယ်ဆိုရင်တော့ ပြည်နယ်အစိုးရကနေ ကလေးထိန်းခပေးပေးတဲ့ CCDF ဆိုတာကို လျှောက်ထားလို့ ရပါတယ်။ နောက်တချက်ကတော့ ကျမတို့ က တရားဝင်ကလေးထိန်းခွင့် လိုင်စင်ကိုင်ဆောင်ထားသူတွေဖြစ်တဲ့အတွက် ကျမတို့ ဆီမှာသူတို့ ကလေးတွေကို လာထားတဲ့ ကလေးထိန်းခကုန်ကျငွေတွေကို နှစ်ကုန်လို့ အစိုးရဆီကနေ tax return လျှောက်တဲ့အခါ ထည့်သွင်းရင်ပြန်ရပါတယ်။ ဒါပေမဲ့လို့ ကလေးထိန်းခပေးရမှာကို ရှောင်ကျဉ်လိုတဲ့အတွက် အမေတွေအများစုဟာ ကိုယ့်ကလေးကိုယ်ထိန်းပြီးအိမ်မှာပဲ နေနေကြတာများပါတယ်။ ဒီကနေ့ အမေရိကန်နိုင်ငံမှာလူနေမှုစရိတ်တွေဟာ တနေ့ ထက်တနေ့ မြင့်မားလာနေပါတယ်။ မိသားစုတစုလုံးအတွက် တဦးထဲဝင်ငွေနဲ့ ရပ်တည်မယ်ဆိုရင် ဘဝဟာကျပ်တည်းလှပါတယ်။ ယောက်ျားလုပ်သူကိုပဲတချိန်လုံးမိခိုနေမယ်ဆိုရင် မိန်းမတယောက်ရဲ့ ကိုယ်ရည်ကိုယ်သွေး တွေဟာလဲ တဖြည်းဖြည်းနဲ့ လျော့ကျလာမှာသေချာပါတယ်။ အကယ်၍သာ ကလေးတွေကို ကလေးထိန်းကျောင်း ပို့ မယ်ဆိုရင် သူတို့ ရဲ့ နေ့ တမူပဲဆောင်ရွက်ဖွယ်ရာတွေကို စိတ်ပူပန်မှုကင်းစွာနဲ့ ဆောင်ရွက် နိုင်ကြပါတယ်။ ဒီလိုသာဆိုရင် လူတိုင်းလူတိုင်းဟာ ဝင်ငွေကိုယ်စီရှာနိုင်ကြတဲ့အတွက် တဦးကို တဦးပိုမိုရိုင်းပင်းနိုင်လာပြီး ကျမတို့ လူ့ အသိုင်းအဝိုင်းဟာလဲ ပိုမိုခိုင်မာ လာမှာအသေချာပါပဲရင်။

Blossom Child Care (Ne Mya Mya Swe)
 1005 E Stop 11 Rd Indianapolis IN 46227
 Tel: (317) 889-1345

Photo R: Children at Chin Suh Childcare (Julie Mawi)
 5559 Chalan Court,
 Indianapolis, IN 46227
 Tel: (317)701-1440; (317) 295-2177



Burmese American Community Institute

ဓာတ်ပုံ များ ပုံမှန် တင်ထား သည်။ BACI လှုပ်ရှားမှုများ နှင့် ကြော်ငြာများ အလုပ်အကို အခွင့်လမ်း၊ သင်တန်း နှင့် အစီစဉ်များ ကို တွေ့နိုင်သည်။ Like ပေးခြင်းဖြင့် BACI နှင့် ဆက်သွယ် နေပါ။

ချင်းတိုင်းရင်းသူလေး Deborah "Za Hmun" Cung နဲ့ ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်းချက်

ဒေါ်လှလှသန်း

25.08.2014 05:19



Photo L-R: Ah Htong, Miriam Sung, Emily Sung, Deborah Cung – the team that conducted the research on Small Business and Economic Self-Sufficiency during summer 2013.

အင်ဒီးယားနားပုလိစုံ အခြေစိုက် BACI လို့ခေါ်တဲ့ မြန်မာ-အမေရိကန်အသိုင်းအဝိုင်း ကနေ မကြာသေးခင်ကပဲ ထုတ်ပြန်ခဲ့တဲ့ အစီရင်ခံစာအရ အမေရိကန်ပြည်ထောင်စု အတွင်း မြန်မာဒုက္ခသည် ၁ သိန်း ၃ သောင်းကျော် အခြေချနေထိုင်လျက် ရှိပါတယ်။ အင်ဒီးယားနားပြည်နယ်တစ်ခုတည်းမှာ ဒုက္ခသည်ဦးရေ ၂ သိန်းနီးပါးရှိနေပြီး၊ အများစုကတော့ ချင်းနဲ့ ဖိမ်းတိုင်းရင်းသားတွေ ဖြစ်ကြပါတယ်။ ဒီဒုက္ခသည်မိခင်တွေရဲ့ ကလေးတွေဟာ အထက်တန်းကျောင်းကနေ ကောလိပ်ပညာ သင်ကြားလာကြတဲ့နှုန်းဟာ ၂၀၁၂ ခုနှစ်မှာ ၄၃ ရာခိုင်နှုန်းကနေ ဒီနှစ် ၂၀၁၄ ခုနှစ်မှာတော့ ၇၂ ရာခိုင်နှုန်းအထိ တိုးလာတယ်လို့ ဖော်ပြထားပါတယ်။ အမေရိကန်ပြည်ထောင်စုမှာ ပညာသင်ကြားခွင့်အတွက် ဘက်စုံ ကြိုးစားရုန်းကန်ခဲ့ကြရတဲ့ အတွေ့အကြုံတွေကို ပထမနှစ် ဆေးပညာအကြိုသင်တန်း တက်ခွင့်ရခဲ့တဲ့ ချင်းတိုင်းရင်းသူ Deborah Za Hmun ကို ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်းပြီး ဒီသီတင်းပတ်ရဲ့ အမျိုးသမီးကဏ္ဍမှာ ဒေါ်လှလှသန်းက တင်ဆက်ထားပါတယ်။

Audio Link: <http://burmese.voanews.com/audio/2426625.html>



Barbara J Brouwer, Principal of Southport High School, giving remarks at Research Presentation Day 2014, combined with BACI Three Years in Service and Advocacy Ceremony. SHS enrolls more than 300 Burmese High School students.

Dim Suan Man နဲ့မေးမြန်းချက်



Indiana တက္ကသိုလ် Bloomington မှာ ပထမနှစ် တက် Dim Suan Man

ဒေါ်လှလှသန်း

Indianapolis အခြေစိုက် BACI လို့ အတိုကောက်ခေါ်တဲ့ မြန်မာ အမေရိကန် Community အဖွဲ့ရဲ့ မကြာမီက ထုတ်ပြန်ခဲ့တဲ့ အစီရင်ခံစာအရ ၂၀၀၀ ခုနှစ်ကစလို့ အမေရိကန်ပြည်ထောင်စုမှာ လာရောက် အခြေချတဲ့ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံက ဒုက္ခသည်ဦးရေဟာ အခုဆိုရင် ၁ သိန်း ၃ သောင်းကျော် ရှိပြီဖြစ်ပါတယ်။ ဒီအထဲ Indiana ပြည်နယ်မှာ အခြေချတဲ့ ဒုက္ခသည်ဦးရေဟာ ၁ သောင်း ၇ ထောင် နဲ့ ၅၀၀ ရှိပြီး အများစုက ချင်းနဲ့ ဖိမ်းတိုင်းရင်းသားတွေ ဖြစ်ကြပါတယ်။ အဖွဲ့ရဲ့ လေ့လာချက်အရ အထက်တန်းအောင် ဒုက္ခသည်ကျောင်းသားတွေအကြား ကောလိပ်ပညာ သင်ကြားနိုင်ကြတာ၊ ၂၀၁၂ ခုနှစ်က ၄၃ ရာခိုင်နှုန်းကနေ ၂၀၁၄ ခုနှစ်မှာ ၇၂ ရာခိုင်နှုန်း တိုးလာတယ်လို့ သိရပါတယ်။ Dim Suan Man ဟာ ဖိမ်းတိုင်းရင်းသူတဦး ဖြစ်ပါတယ်။ သူဟာ ဒီနှစ် အင်ဒီးယားနား တက္ကသိုလ် Bloomington မှာ ပထမနှစ် စတင်မှာဖြစ်ပါတယ်။ သူ့ရဲ့ ပညာသင်ကြားမှု အတွေ့အကြုံနဲ့ ပတ်သက်ပြီး Dim Suan Man ကို ဒေါ်လှလှသန်းက ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်းထားတာကို ဒီသီတင်းပတ် အမျိုးသမီးကဏ္ဍမှာ ဒေါ်လှလှသန်းက တင်ဆက်ထားပါတယ်။

Audio Link: <http://burmese.voanews.com/audio/2415346.html>



Pictured L-R: Tyres Par, Biak Nei Mawi, Van Cung Lian, Freda Sung, Dim Suan Man - Research Team on Health and Nutrition at the former presentation of the BACI scholars program in 2013.

တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာ ဆည်းပူးသည့် မြန်မာဒုက္ခသည်ဦးရေ အမေရိကန်တွင်တိုး

(အေဒီတာမှတ်ချက်။ ဤအင်တာဗျူးသည် ဗီအိုအေမြန်မာ့ အသံမှ စုမြတ်မွန်၏ တင်ပြချက်များကို ပြန်လည် ဖော်ပြခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။)

အမေရိကန်ပြည်ထောင်စုကို ရောက်ရှိနေထိုင်နေကြတဲ့ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံက ဒုက္ခသည်ပေါင်းဟာ ၂၀၀၀ ခုနှစ်ထဲကစလို့ ၁ သိန်း ၃ သောင်းကျော်ရှိပြီလို့ အမေရိကန်ရောက် မြန်မာအသိုင်းအဝိုင်းကူညီရေး BACI အဖွဲ့က ပြောပါတယ်။

အဲဒီလို အခြေချလာကြတဲ့ ဒုက္ခသည်တွေထဲမှာ အထက်တန်းအောင်လို့ တက္ကသိုလ်-ကောလိပ်အဆင့် ပညာရေးကို ဆက်ပြီး သင်ကြားကြသူ အရေအတွက်ကလည်း ၂၀၁၄ ခုနှစ်ထဲမှာ သိသိသာသာ များလာတယ်လို့ BACI [Burmese American Community Institute] အဖွဲ့ရဲ့ အမှုဆောင်ဒါရိုက်တာ ဆလောင်း အေလိုင်ဆာ ဟနီ က ဗီအိုအေမြန်မာပိုင်းကို ပြောပါတယ်။

ဘာကြောင့် အခုလိုများလာသလဲ၊ ဘယ်လိုဘာသာရပ်တွေမှာ သင်ကြားကြတာများသလဲ ဆိုတာကိုသိရဖို့ မစုမြတ်မွန်က စစ်တမ်းကောက် လေ့လာထားတဲ့ ဆလောင်း အေလိုင်ဆာ ဟနီ ကို ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်းထားပါတယ်။

အရင်ဆုံး အမေရိကန်မှာ ရောက်လာတဲ့ မြန်မာဒုက္ခသည်တွေနဲ့ ပတ်သက်လို့ သူတို့လုပ်တဲ့ စစ်တမ်းအကြောင်း မေးတဲ့အခါ ဆလောင်းအေလိုင်ဆာက အခုလို စဖြေပါတယ်။ “ကျနော်တို့ research လုပ်တာတော့ အမေရိကန်မှာရောက်နေတဲ့ မြန်မာကနေ ဝင်လာတဲ့ ဒုက္ခသည်အကုန်လုံးရဲ့ လူဦးရေကို လုပ်တာဖြစ်တယ်။ ဒါပေမဲ့လို့ ကောလိပ်တက်သွားတဲ့ ရာခိုင်နှုန်းတွေ၊ High School ပြီးသွားတဲ့ ကျောင်းသူကျောင်းသားတွေရဲ့ နံပါတ်တွေကိုတော့ ကျနော်တို့ ဒီ central အင်ဒီးယားနားပြည်နယ်ကိုပဲ လုပ်သွားတာဖြစ်တယ်။”

မေး။ ။ ဒီ research ထဲမှာပါတာကို ပြန်ပြီးကောက်ရမယ်ဆိုရင် အဲဒီ ဗမာပြည်က ရောက်လာကြတဲ့ ဒုက္ခသည်တွေ အသိုင်းအဝိုင်းထဲမှာ ၁၂ တန်းအောင် အထက်တန်းကျောင်း အောင်ပြီးတော့



Dr. Jennifer Drake, Dean of College of Arts and Science, University of Indianapolis, delivering a Keynote speech at the BACI Research Presentation Day 2014.

ကောလိပ်သွားတဲ့သူ အရေအတွက်ကလည်း တက်လာတယ်လို့ ပြောပါတယ်ရှင့်။ ဘယ်လောက်အရေအတွက်ထိ တက်လာတာလဲ။ ဘယ်လိုနေရာတွေမှာ တိုးလာတာကို တွေ့ရသလဲဆိုတာကိုလည်း သိချင်ပါတယ်ရှင့်။

ဖြေ။ ။ “ဟုတ်ကဲ့ပါ။ ကျနော်တို့ ဒီ Central Indiana မှာ High School တွေမှာ တက်နေတဲ့ ကျနော်တို့ မြန်မာပြည်သူပြည်သားလေးတွေ သူတို့ High School ပြီးသွားတဲ့အချိန်မှာ ကြည့်မယ်ဆိုလို့ရှိရင် ၂၀၀၂ တုန်းကဆိုရင် သူတို့ ၄၃ ရာခိုင်နှုန်းပဲ ကောလိပ်သွားတာရှိတယ်။ ၂၀၀၃ မှာဆိုရင် နည်းနည်းတက်သွားတယ်။ ၅၇ ရာခိုင်နှုန်းတက်သွားတယ်။ ဒါပေမဲ့ ဒီနှစ်မှာ ကျနော်တွေ့ရှိချက်အရဆိုရင် ၇၂ ရာခိုင်နှုန်းက သူတို့ ကောလိပ်ကို ဆက်သွားဖို့ရာ စီစဉ်ထားတယ်။ ဆိုတော့ တော်တော်လေး တက်သွားတယ်လို့ ကျနော်တို့ ပြောလို့ရတယ်ပေါ့နော်။ အားရစရာလည်း ကောင်းတာပေါ့လေ။ ဒီ နှစ်နှစ် သုံးနှစ်အတွင်းမှာ ၆၇ ရာခိုင်နှုန်းလောက် တက်သွားတယ်လို့ ကျနော်တို့ ပြောလို့ရပါတယ်။”

မေး။ ။ အဲဒီလို တက်သွားရတာကရော ဘယ်လိုကြောင့်လို့ အဓိက တွေ့ရပါသလဲရှင့်။

ဖြေ။ ။ “ဒီဟာ ကျနော်တို့ ဝိုင်းဝန်းပြီးတော့မှ သူတို့ High School, normal school setting လို့ ကျနော်တို့ ပြောရမှာပေါ့လေ။ ဒီ High School မှာ သူတို့တက်တာတင် မကဘဲနဲ့ အပြင်မှာ ကျနော်တို့ After School Programs တွေပြီးတော့မှ English instructions တွေ၊ SAT, Leadership Skill, Life Skill ဆိုပြီးတော့မှ အမျိုးမျိုးနဲ့ ကျနော်တို့

သင်ပေးတာတွေလည်းရှိတယ်။ ကျနော်တို့ BACI Burmese American Community Institute တင်မကဘဲနဲ့ ကျနော်တို့ရဲ့ partners တွေ တက္ကသိုလ်ရော ကောလိပ်ရော၊ ကျောင်းတွေနဲ့ ဝိုင်းဝန်းပြီးတော့မှ ကျနော်တို့ အလုပ်လုပ်သွားတာ ဖြစ်တယ်။ အဲဒါကြောင့်လည်း တော်တော်များများပါတယ်လို့ ကျနော်တို့ ပြောလိုရပါတယ်။”

မေး။ ။ အဲတော့ သေချာအောင် ကျမတခုမေးချင်တာက ကောလိပ်တက်တယ် ဆိုတာက ကောလိပ်ဆိုတာ အသက်မွေးဝမ်းကျောင်း ကောလိပ်ကို သွားတာလား၊ တက္ကသိုလ်သွားတာလား၊ တက္ကသိုလ်ရော ကောလိပ်ရောသွားတာလား အဲဒီနှစ်ခုကိုရော ရှင်းပြပါဦးရှင့်။

ဖြေ။ ။ “ဟုတ်ကဲ့ ဒီ post-secondary education လို့ ပြောရင်လည်း မမှားပါဘူးထင်တယ်။ ကောလိပ်ဆိုတဲ့နေရာမှာ နှစ်နှစ် Associate Degree လည်းပါတယ်။ ပြီးတော့မှ လေးနှစ် Bachelor Degree လည်းပါတယ်။ ပြီးတော့မှ အဲဒီမှာ လေးနှစ်တင်မကဘဲနဲ့ Advanced Degree Master တွေ၊ Doctorate အထိကို University တွေမှာလည်း သူတို့သွားတာများပါတယ်။ အကုန်လုံး ဝိုင်းချုံ့ပြီးတော့ ပြောမယ်ဆိုရင်တော့ High School ပြီးပြီးတော့မှ Higher Education တွေမှာ သွားနေတဲ့ population တွေကိုပဲ ကျနော်တို့ ပြောနိုင်တာဖြစ်ပါတယ်။”

မေး။ ။ သူတို့ အဲလိုသွားတဲ့အခါမှာ ဘယ်လိုဘာသာရပ်တွေကို အဓိက စိတ်ဝင်တစား ဘာသာရပ် မေဂျာအနေနဲ့ ယူကြတာကို တွေ့ရလဲရှင့်။

ဖြေ။ ။ “တော်တော်များများ ကျနော်တို့ မြန်မာပြည်ကနေ ရောက်လာတဲ့သူတွေက Engineering နဲ့ Medical နဲ့ ပြီးတော့မှ Science တွေမှာ သူတို့ပါသနာပါတာ မေဂျာယူတာ များတယ်လို့ ကျနော်တော့ အခုတလော တွေ့ရှိချက်အရဆိုရင် အဲဒီလို ရှိနေတယ်။”

မေး။ ။ ဟုတ်ကဲ့ပါ ဆိုတော့ အဲဒီလိုသွားတဲ့အခါမှာရော တကယ်ပဲ ကျောင်းကို ဆုံးခန်းတိုင်အောင် တက်ကြတဲ့ ပမာဏရော အားလုံး ကျောင်းကိုပြီးအောင် တက်ကြတယ်လို့ ပြောလိုရလား။ အဲဒီပမာဏကိုရော လေ့လာတဲ့အထဲမှာ ပါပါသလား။

ဖြေ။ ။ “ဟုတ်ကဲ့ ကျနော်တို့ လေ့လာတဲ့နေရာမှာ အဲဒါကို ထည့်ထားပါတယ်။ ၂၀၀၂-၂၀၀၃ ကနေသွားတဲ့ High School

ပြီးပြီးတော့မှ ကောလိပ်ဝင်သွားတဲ့ သူတို့ ကောလိပ်မှာ ဆက်နေသလားဆိုတဲ့ဟာကိုလည်း ကျနော်တို့ အတတ်နိုင်ဆုံး ပြန် study လုပ်ထားပါတယ်။ ၁၀၀ မှာ ၉၅ ရာခိုင်နှုန်းက အခုထိ ကောလိပ်မှာ ဆက်တက်နေကြတယ်။ Degree လည်း ရသွားမယ်လို့ ကျနော်တော့ မျှော်လင့်ပါတယ်။ ပြီးတော့မှ ဒီဟာကိုလည်း တနှစ်တခါ Research ဆက်လုပ်ဖို့ရာ ကျနော်တို့ စီစဉ်ထားပါတယ်။”

BACI အဖွဲ့ရဲ့ အမှုဆောင်ဒါရိုက်တာ ဆလိုင်း အေလိုင်ဆာ ဗာနီကို မစုမြတ်မွန် ဆက်သွယ် မေးမြန်းခဲ့တာပါ။ ၂၀၀၀ ခုနှစ်ထဲက အမေရိကန်မှာ အခြေချတဲ့ ဒုက္ခသည်ပေါင်းက ၁ သိန်း ၃ သောင်း ၂ ထောင် ၂ ရာ ၃ ဆယ် ၁ ယောက်ရှိနေပြီး အဲဒီထဲမှာ ကရင်လူမျိုးက ၆ သောင်းကျော်နဲ့ ချင်းလူမျိုးက ၄ သောင်းကျော် ရှိပါတယ်။



Photo above L to R: The Upward College Program Summer 2014 Scholars Tial Rem, Van Lian, Ebi San, and David Bawi, giving a formal presentation of the research findings on "College Going Rate and Motivation", with policy and solution recommendations.

To address the issues and emerging needs in the Burmese American community, BACI has developed and implemented **Upward College Summer Program** since 2011. Participants as researchers conduct research with an emphasis to discuss and address social justice issues currently facing in our local communities with a global perspective. The 2014 research topics include 1) Higher Education and Burmese Professionals in the US and Canada; 2) College Going Rate Among the Burmese; 3) Prevalence of Drugs and Alcohol Use; 4) Refugee and Secondary Migration in the US and Indiana; 5) Parenting in the Burmese Community; and 6) Culture and Community Integration.

Please join us in celebrating

The Chin National Day

Celebrated on February 21, 2015,

From 1:00 p.m. To 5:00 p.m.

At Southport Life Center,

4002 E. Southport Road, IN 46237

Green Card, Citizenship Bawmnak, Mirang Ca Cawmnak, le Rian Kawlnak Bawmnak, Small Business Thawk Duh Caah Bawmnak

Green Card le Citizenship Sawknak kong cawnpiaknak, Mirang ca cawmnak, Citizenship Interview tuah tikah aherhmi American Nunphung, Cozah, Tuanbia hna cawnpiaknak cu BACI nih kan tuah piak. Cun rian kawlnak le small business thawk duh mi caah bawmnak (technical assistance) hna zong kan i pek kho.

BACI Office Tel: [317-731-5537](tel:317-731-5537) ah au in appointment lak khawh a si lai.

Library Card Day

Ani: **Saturday, January 24, 2015**

Acaan: **10:00 am – 5:00 pm**

Ahmun: Southport Library (Chin Center pawng te)
Address: 2630 East Stop 11 Road, Indianapolis, IN
46227

Acung lei langtermi Ni le Caan ah hin Library Card FREE in kan i tuah piak hna lai. Nu le Pa nih kum 3 le 17 karlak a simi nan fale vialte nan rak chuakpinak lai theiterin sawm nan si. Nu le Pa Minthut piak aherh caah nanmah hrimhrim nih nan rak chuak aherhna cu a si.

Southport Public Library nih Ngakchia caah Program an Ngeih Mi tampi a um. Thilchihmi Catlap le an website zong ah zo khawh a si lai. Librbarry Card Day ah tlantling deuh in kan i chim khawh te lai.

<http://www.imcpl.org/>

Nutrition Class Offered by Franciscan St. Francis Health hosted at BACI

Place: BACI Center; 4925 Shelby Street, SUITE 200
Indianapolis, IN 46227

**Date: January 13; February 10; March 24; April 21
May 19**

**Time: 9-10am Underweight Nutrition;
10-11am Overweight Nutrition**

Contact:

Abigail Emerick

Franciscan St. Francis Outpatient Nutrition Services

Ph: [317-528-7540](tel:317-528-7540)

OR

Lian Sang (Nge Nge)

Burmese American Community Institute

Ph: [317-731-5537](tel:317-731-5537)

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

BACI's Upward College Program will observe
Martin Luther King Day
on January 19, 2015.

"I Have a Dream", speech delivered by the King will be screened. The participants will have a chance to reflect, compare, and contrast the issue of civil rights in America with that of Burma where ethnic conflicts, persisting for more than half a century. You are cordially invited. For more information, please contact us at info@baci-indy.org; or 317-731-5537.

The Myanmar Conference

The International Institute of Business, IU Kelly School of Business, Indiana University Office of International Development, the Burmese American Community Institute and our partners will be hosting the Myanmar Conference in Indianapolis during summer 2015 (exact date TBA).

For additional information, please contact us at:
email: info@baci-indy.org; or Tel: 317-731-5537.



MUSICAL CONCERT & PERFORMANCE

BACI FUNDRAISER FOR EDUCATION

ပညာရေးအတွက် ရန်ပုံငွေ

Band: L.A.I

Ata Van ZT L.A.I
Bawi Min Lian
Ci Lian
Cung Pi
David Bawi
Emily Ngunhlei Sung
Rachel Hniang
Spi
Venus Par Tin Mawi
others ...



Band: L.A.I


David Bawi


Spi


Bawi Min Lian


Emily Ngunhlei Sung


Ata Van ZT L.A.I


Venus Par Tin Mawi


Ci Lian


Rachel Hniang


Cung Pi

TICKET: \$10

VENUE: PMHS Auditorium
DATE: Saturday, Jan. 3rd 2015
TIME: 6 pm

CONTACT: **Cung Khenglawt** - 317 954 6065
Ceu Thawng - 317 341 1856
Lian Sang - 317 760 5057
Lian Ceu - 317 273 9781

You are cordially invited to our Fundraiser Musical Evening on Saturday, January 3, 2015.

World Refugee Day - June 20, 2015

In collaborative partnership with Indy Parks and Recreation, Immigrant & Refugee Service Corps, CCI, CYO and others, BACI will engage in Volunteer and Community Service at Indy Urban Acres Farm in the form of the "Giving Back to the Community" Project on World Refugee Day 2015. Music, games, food, and other fun factors are included. You are invited and your participation is appreciated. Please contact us at info@baci-indy.org; or 317-731-5537.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Printing sponsored by Franciscan St. Francis Health. Any opinions expressed are those of the authors and are not necessarily shared by Franciscan St. Francis Health. The content does not constitute medical advice. For medical questions, please call your physician. In an emergency situation, call 911.



Annual Youth & College Summit

Colleges, Universities, Organizations and Community members will be holding the Annual Youth and College Summit on Saturday, August 1, 2015, from 9:00am to 5:00pm, hosted by BACI. At the event, the summer scholars will present their research findings with policy and solution recommendations on issues that are facing our society. This forum is designed for all the stakeholders to experience, share, and learn more about the challenges and opportunities in our communities and promote higher education. For further information, please contact us at info@baci-indy.org.

