

# Newsletter

Vol. 2, No. 1  
Spring 2014



# Episcopal Refugee and Immigrant Center Alliance



## Upcoming Events

### April 26:

Positive Parenting  
Workshop

### May 3:

Business Workshop for  
Immigrant Women

### June 13:

"Stories of Home" at the  
Village Learning Place

### June 19:

World Refugee Day  
Evensong at The  
Cathedral of the  
Incarnation

### June 21:

"Le Havre"  
Film Screening & Panel  
Discussion at  
The Charles Theater

Visit our [website](http://www.ERICA-baltimore.org) for  
more details

Compelled by faith, compassion, and a yearning for justice, the Episcopal Refugee and Immigrant Center Alliance (ERICA) honors and ministers to the dignity and humanity of our brothers and sisters in Baltimore who have fled persecution and poverty in other countries.

We hope the Newsletter will foster a welcoming and connected community for new arrivals.

Please contact us: (410) 467-3750, ext. 224 | [infoERICA.cathedral@gmail.com](mailto:infoERICA.cathedral@gmail.com)  
<http://www.ERICA-baltimore.org>

## A Week of Connection in Honor of World Refugee Day!

**June 13 at 7 pm:** "Stories of Home" - Refugee Stories through Dance, Music and Word, featuring performances, samples of sumptuous fare from around the world, wine, and a silent auction

**June 19 at 6 pm:** World Refugee Day Evensong

**June 21 at 9 am:** Film Screening of "Le Havre" with discussion and notes by film critic Ann Hornaday

See the back of the Newsletter or check out our website for more details and events!

## A LETTER FROM BEATRICE JAYJAY

Dear ERICA clients and supporters,

I am Miss Beatrice Jayjay an immigrant from Liberia, West Africa. I arrived in the USA more than 16 years ago.

It was a difficult transition for me and my daughter, like it is for all new arrivals from conflicted areas around the world. My story is not about the difficulties we had to go through, but rather a success story. I am a successful business owner. I want to give back to the refugee and immigrant community by sharing my story as a way of motivation to the community.

In the year 2007, I decided to take a leap of faith and open my own business. After working in several salons as a hair stylist, including the Hair Cuttery at the Rotunda, I decided to open my own salon. Just when I opened my salon, we had the economic meltdown and things became very challenging for every business, including mine. I began to wonder if opening the salon was the best decision that I could have made. But one thing I knew was the resilience of being a refugee and a woman standing up to the challenges of daily life and from a war torn country and difficulties we had to go through to survive, and this situation with the economy was one of those challenges.

I am happy to say that I am still in business and my doors are open. I am very grateful to all that have made this business a success for me. I am kindly asking the community to please create the awareness in our refugee and immigrant community to support my business Tee Rose Unisex Salon.

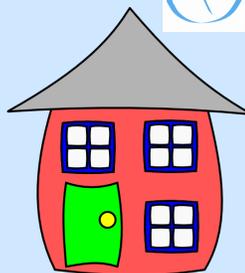
We are offering to all organizations that work with the refugee and immigrant community a discount price and a flat rate for all services!

Beatrice Jayjay, Owner of Tee Rose Unisex Salon  
410-443-9797  
7214 Harford Road, Baltimore, MD 32334



## Home Stays

When two asylum seekers recently came to our door with housing situations that had unraveled and left them homeless, ERICA worked with supporters to find family hosts. The experience has enriched the lives of all involved and has deepened our appreciation of the call to welcome the stranger.



Beatrice and a committee of immigrant entrepreneurs are teaming up with ERICA to host a second Business Workshop for Immigrant Women on May 3, 2014. To learn more, visit <http://www.ERICA-baltimore.org/business-workshop.html> or call 410.467.3751. To support ERICA's programs go to [www.ERICA-baltimore.org/donate](http://www.ERICA-baltimore.org/donate).

## ERICA by the Numbers

Since 2002 —

\$99,850 for zero interest loans

674 clients from

73 home countries

In 2013 —

\$8,000 added to our Marian Lyle Family Reunification Loan Fund



### Photonovella

Lindsey and a group of students at the Bloomberg School of Public Health worked with a family of Bhutanese Refugees to create a photonovella about healthy eating

[Click here to view the project!](#)

### Healthy Food Fuels Family Fun!



**THANK YOU** to our friend and supporter **CAFÉ AZAFRAN** for providing delicious salads for our workshops! Please patronize this civic minded business on 3700 San Martin Drive.

### Did You Know?

2014 Boston Marathon winner Meb Keflezighi, the first American to win this race in 31 years, came to the US as a refugee from Eritrea at age 12. What a Journey!



Click [HERE](#) to donate or visit [www.ericabaltimore.org/donate](http://www.ericabaltimore.org/donate)

## HOPKINS SOURCE SERVICE SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT:

Lindsey Leslie coordinates ERICA's educational workshops and is a graduate student at the Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Passionate about health and education, she has planned a Vision Screening, a School Success workshop for parents of elementary students, a nutrition Photonovella, and a Parenting workshop.



**44 immigrants attended the Vision Screening for glaucoma checks and referrals to the Wilmer Eye Institute for follow-up care and free glasses.**



**The School Success Workshop brought together Baltimore City teachers and Bhutanese**

**refugee parents, giving parents a chance to ask questions and better understand teacher expectations despite language barriers.**

## STORIES OF HOME THROUGH DANCE, MUSIC, AND WORD, JUNE 13

Join ERICA supporters, partners, and clients for an evening celebration of the refugee and asylee journey. Stories of Home will feature client stories, dance and instrumental performances symbolizing home, and a silent auction. The event will also offer sumptuous home-style canapés from around the world and plenty of wine. It will take place at the Village Learning Place, 2521 St. Paul St., and begin at 7 pm. **Tickets are \$50—Purchase on the ERICA [website](#) or at the Cathedral office.**

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

## “LE HAVRE” SCREENING, JUNE 21

On June 21, ERICA will be hosting a screening of French film “Le Havre” at The Charles Theater, with introductory notes by Washington Post film critic Ann Hornaday (read her review [here](#)) and a lively panel discussion. A brief synopsis: In this warmhearted portrait of the French harbor city that gives the film its name, fate throws young African refugee Idrissa (Blondin Miguel) into the path of Marcel Marx (André Wilms), a well-spoken bohemian who works as a shoeshiner. With innate optimism and the unwavering support of his community, Marcel stands up to officials doggedly pursuing the boy for deportation. A political fairy tale that exists somewhere between the reality of contemporary France and the classic cinema of Jean-Pierre Melville and Marcel Carné, Le Havre is a charming, deadpan delight.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

### JOHN McDONNELL & PATTY PARSLEY

John and Patty are active members of the Cathedral of the Incarnation and co-chairs of the committee for ERICA's Week of Connection Celebration and Fundraisers in honor of World Refugee Day in mid June. Patty decided to volunteer because of the “dynamic Cathedral leadership” that includes ERICA Advisory Board President Margo Landon and John McDonnell, and her “empathy and connection with the people served by ERICA.” When asked what makes this fundraiser unique, John said “the wonderful variety of the week's activities and the story telling that will be a big part of the week.” He says attendees will “hear the stories of those who have come to this country with nothing and are now part of our community.” He is looking forward to the movie and discussion, as well as the celebration, and Patty is looking forward to “seeing a flood of happy people at “Week of Connection” events.

