



# CITY OF WILLMAR 2007 ANNUAL REPORT



City Attorney  
City Clerk-Treasurer  
Community Ed & Recreation  
**Cultural Liaison**  
Finance  
Fire  
Planning & Development Services  
Police  
Public Works

Mayor Heitke and the Willmar City Council,

As one of our key partners and supporters it is my pleasure to provide you with the Cultural Liaison annual report.

The annual report focuses on our key initiatives, newsworthy achievements, and provides an overall look into WCIC's current financial condition. In addition, the report looks forward as it highlights our mission and our strategic direction as we move into the future.

In 2007, WCIC was part of many successful events, key initiatives, and some unfortunate events.

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Annual Celebration
- Mexican and Minnesotan Community Play.
- MACCRAY School students tour Downtown Ethnic Businesses.
- Kerkhoven, Murdock and Sunburg Schools joined WCIC.
- Bird Island, Olivia, Lake Lillian joined WCIC.
- Renville County West joined WCIC.
- WAMM – Developing Its Non-Profit Status Structure.
- RAICES starts its programs and projects.
- Immigration Raids in Willmar.
- Immigration Forum with Dr. Donna Gabaccia
- SKILLS TO ACTION Graduates 30 additional participants.
- CULTURAL ACTION ALLIANCE group starts up.
- EAST AFRICAN COALITION –Restructuring

In April 2008, we submitted our **2007** annual data to the Minnesota Department of Education and it makes aware the high number of students and community members reached. **We reached over 14,659 students and 3,022 adults** (these numbers includes all the schools we serve and the seven communities).

We feel that those participant numbers speak loudly about the excellent programming WCIC provides to the community.

Moreover, WCIC is also fortunate in that we have an advisory council that is representative of the community we serve. Many of our members come from various ethnic, social, education, and economic backgrounds. These are very caring people from all walks of life that assist us in developing multicultural programs that are educational and help the community foster cultural understanding.

Finally, it is an honor and privilege to have the support of our partners like you. It is because of you that we were able to accomplish many things and especially deliver a very successful Celebration of Cultures.

## West Central Integration Collaborative

### Report 2007



#### EDUCATION TRACK- 2007 Special Events

The West Central Integration Collaborative's programs and activities evolve to meet the needs and promote culturally integrated learning opportunities for the community of Atwater, Cosmos, and Grove City; Bird Island, Olivia, and Lake Lillian; Kerkhoven, Murdock, and Sunburg; Maynard, Clara City, and Raymond; New London-Spicer; Renville County West; and Willmar

#### January

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Attendance: 350
- MACCRAY School students visited downtown businesses. Attendance: 60
- Apply to visit China later this summer (Charly and Jana Hilleren-Garcia) Attendance: 2

#### February

- Minnesotan and Mexican Community Play Attendance: 600
- Assisted Kerkhoven, Mudock, and Sunburg to join WCIC
- Assisted Bird Island, Olivia, and Lake Lillian to join WCIC
- Assisted Renville County West to join WCIC

#### March

- Roberto Dansie providing Cultural Trainings for Willmar School District Teachers and Kandiyohi County Human Service Building staff as part of the RAICES Program. Attendance: 100

#### April

- Multicultural Week at Ridgewater College Attendance: 15
- Statewide Integration Conference in Twin Cities Attendance: 10

#### May

- Area Learning Center Graduation- Students Performing (Raul V., WCIC staff, taught students guitar lessons and songs). Attendance: 75
- WCIC planned Cinco de Mayo Celebration Attendance: 600

## June

- Planning for 08 Celebration of Cultures
- Budget Approval from WCIC School Boards
- Traveling to China (Charly Leuze, Jana Hilleren-Garcia)
- Willmar Public School staff Administrators Mark Miley and Danith Clausen.

## July

- Charly in Beijing, China

## August

- Will “U” Class – Willmar Sr. High Attendance: 12  
“Understanding Rural Latino Culture”

## September

- WCIC Budgets and submit to MDE
- Partner with Community Ed and Rec to apply for Early Childhood Grant (Toyota)
- Assisted Willmar Senior High School with Latino student issues.

## October

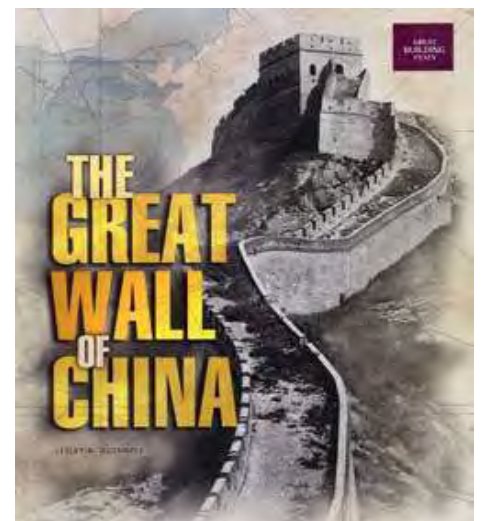
- Responded to questions, concerns, and other inquiries about school student safety with Latino Parents at Willmar Senior High
- Traveled to Washington, D.C. for Foreign Language Conference
- Chinese Language offered at Willmar Senior High

## November

- Added East African School Success Coordinator to Willmar Senior High
- Traveled to San Antonio, Texas to attend the ACTFL Conference
- Celebration of Cultures 08 Planning
- Youth Performance Group will meet to plan Jr. High programming

## December

- Somali Diversity Training in Redwood falls, MN
- MLK Planning Meeting with East African Coalition
- Youth Community Circles Youth volunteer at MLK
- Celebration of Cultures 08 Planning



**HEALTH TRACK:** The focus is healthy youth development by helping Latino and East African youth develop long term healthy lifestyle choices.

Focus on exposing youth to health services in the community.

Deliver “For the Health of It” Summer Camp Youth Program.

### **2007 Activities Report**

For the Health of It Summer Camp Youth Program	Attendance: 50
School Year Round Health Program	Attendance: 300
Reapplied for funding from Minnesota Department of Health	
Eliminating Health Disparities among minority youth in Kandiyohi County.	
Assisted MDE in Latino Health Committee – St. Paul, MN	
Assisted MDE in planning for the Integration Conference	
St. Cloud Nursing Students conducting project with	
WCIC High School Youth.	
Attended DHS Forum “New Populations in Rural MN	
Implications of Child Welfare.	
ECHO Program meeting and Emergency and	
Community Health Outreach	
Attended Minnesota Department of Health HIV/AIDS Conference	
Assisted in United Way Community Needs Survey	
Rainbow Research Conference in St. Paul, MN	
Planning for Genomics Conference in St. Paul, MN	
Presenter at Redwood Falls Public Health Conference	
“Healthcare and Public Health in a Multicultural World”	
WCIC Staff assisting during Ridgewater Summer Camp	
Minnesota Department of Health Site Visit	
Member of Food Policy Council	
Poverty Conference Heartland Community Action Agency	
STEPS Community Consortia Meetings	
Partnering with PACT 4 to apply for Chemical Health Grant to help Latino youth with	
chemical dependency issues.	
Community Health Outreach Workers Conference in Bloomington, MN	
CHAS Teen Pregnancy Coalition	



## CULTURAL LIAISON

The City of Willmar Cultural Liaison department provides access to city services to those who speak limited English skills. The Cultural Liaison Department has Spanish, Somali, Chinese, and Norwegian language interpreters who are available to assist city staff and the public.

Cultural Liaison Department through the West Central Integration Collaborative  
611 5<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Willmar, MN 56201  
320-231-8546

Spanish: Peter - 320-894-6116  
Jill - 320-905-4467  
Loudez - 320-979-2272  
Roberto – 320-905-3966

Somali: Mohamud - 612-598-3617  
Bashar - 320-212-1774

Chinese: Todd - 320-235-9736

Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### **Free language services in Spanish, Somali, and Chinese include:**

- In-person or telephone interpretation in a city office or in the field (e.g., an inspections visit)
- A primary point of contact for City of Willmar services for Spanish, Somali, and Chinese speaking residents
- Follow-up with city customers as needed (e.g. to schedule an appointment with Spanish, Somali, and Chinese speaking residents)
- Outreach and education related to city services (e.g. provide translation services at community events, city cable, speaking to community groups, etc.)
- Work on cultural issues that benefit the City of Willmar
- Willmar Area Multicultural Market – assist ethnic businesses

### **In addition, Cultural Liaisons can provide departments with the following services for all immigrant and refugee groups free of charge:**

- Phone-based or in person interpretation and written translation for nearly all languages through external vendors
- Lists of media contacts for local ethnic newspapers, radio stations, television, etc.
- Information about contracted interpretation and translation services
- Statistics and research on immigrant and refugee groups in Willmar

- Assistance with making city services more accessible to non-English speakers

### **2007 Activities Report:**

- Assisted the East African Coalition in the planning and delivery of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration at Ridgewater College
- Presented with Mayor Heitke to other City leaders on the Cultural Liaison project
- Facilitated the Immigration Forum held in Willmar, MN
- Assisted City of Austin, MN implement Integration Collaborative
- City helped with some resources for the Minnesotan and the Mexican play (WEAC Theater, Rehearsal Hall for practices, etc. through Community Education)
- Presented 2006 Annual report to the City of Willmar
- Planning Celebration of Cultures to take place February 08
- Trained WAL-MART new employees on Cultural Diversity (50)
- WCIC provided interpreter workshop for Heartland Community Action employees
- WCIC partnered with MN Legal Services to implement “Newcomers Guide to Services”
- Charly presented Cultural Liaison project and WCIC to American Association of University Women
- Assisted with Skills to Action Cultural Training for community members (30)
- Further develop WAMM and apply for 501 C3 status
- Kandiyohi County made financial contribution for Celebration of Cultures 08
- Assisted Olivia Diversity Council and presented Cultural Liaison concept
- Start up of Latino Service Providers
- WAMM Entrepreneurial fundraising start up
- WAMM asking Northwest Area Foundation for dollars
- WAMM site visit from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of MN
- Start up of Willmar Area Interpreters group
- WAMM Coordinators presenting to various service clubs
- Emergency and Community Health Outreach through Kandiyohi County
- Assisted with Community Information Meeting regarding Immigrant Rights for Latino people
- City of Willmar – City Council Meeting, Immigration update by Raices Coordinator, Maria Diaz, Roberto Valdez, and Charly Leuze
- Minnesota Public Radio Community forum
- Mexican Consulate provide ID services for Mexican Nationals in Willmar
- Chicano Latino Affairs Council conducting community forum in Willmar
- Assisted United Way with Community Needs Survey
- Attended the University of Minnesota Diversity Conference in St. Paul
- Start up of WAMM Talk Business Sessions
- Start up of Kandiyohi Food System meeting with Amy Stratton
- Start conversation regarding Cultural Liaison concept with City of Long Prairie

- MN Legislators visit Willmar and learn about poverty in the community
- Attended Somali Diversity Training, Redwood Falls, MN

**Multicultural Resources**

- Adult Basic Education/English Language Learning
- City of Willmar Community Education

**Next Steps:**

- Federal law requires any city that receives federal funding to develop a Limited English Proficiency Plan
- Human Rights Commission
- Add Spanish and Somali provisions on city's website

**WCIC Staff:**

- Full-time Employees: 21
- Part-time Employees: 19

**2007 Financial Results**

