

# IOSC Newsletter



*Immigration Outreach Service Center*

**Volume 1 / Issue 1**

## **Name the IOSC Newsletter Contest**

This is our First issue of the IOSC Newsletter and it needs a Name!

We are holding a contest to name the newsletter and you are invited to participate. Please send your suggestions to Mary Ritter at [mary@ioscbaltimore.org](mailto:mary@ioscbaltimore.org) by May 30, 2020. We will have an opportunity to vote on names submitted. The winner will receive an IOSC cap!

We look forward to your creative input!

## **Savor The World 2020 Postponed!**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our Twentieth Anniversary Gala Savor the World 2020 is being postponed.

If you have already purchased tickets, made a donation or sponsorship, you will receive a follow up letter.

We are hoping to host the Gala in the Fall of 2020 depending on continued changes with the COVID-19 shutdown.



## **Mentoring Program**

In February and March we brought individuals together who were interested in either being mentored or being a mentor. This gives an immigrant or immigrant family someone to connect with, to walk the journey with them through their experience of adjusting to life in the United States.

We matched and connected 3 immigrant mentees with 3 mentors, and provided basic training on the concept of mentorship connections. We hope to connect more mentors and mentees, so if you are interested in being a mentee or a mentor, please contact Cynthia Keenan, IOSC Assistant Director at: [Cynthia@ioscbaltimore.org](mailto:Cynthia@ioscbaltimore.org)



**Stay Home, Stay Safe!**  
**Social Distancing Saves Lives**

## **Coronavirus / COVID-19 Updates**

Our website provides current information about the Coronavirus / COVID-19 pandemic with opportunities for food services, student learning packets, job opportunities, and more. Please go to the link below for many more details:

<https://www.ioscbaltimore.org/covid-19/>

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## Tutoring Updates

During the Coronavirus pandemic the center remains in touch with our students, tutors, and staff via text messages, emails, and phone calls. On March 28th Hightopps Backstage Grille provided meals for over 40 families. Fr. Joe, Pat, Cynthia, and Elaine delivered the meals along with copies of student learning packets from Baltimore City Schools' online opportunities.

In April the staff continued reaching out to our students and tutors to check-in with families and arrange virtual tutoring for the students. Thanks to many donors we were able to assist with grocery store gift cards and masks for several families.



## Financial Literacy

This year we began our first Financial Literacy Class on Saturday afternoons in the St. Matthew Rectory.

Our wonderful and talented instructors Cliff Okoth and Francois Ntchombou provide financial literacy training to immigrants seeking a better understanding of financial stability in the USA.

Classes were held in person until the COVID-19 shutdown, however, with the use of ZOOM technology Cliff and Francois have continued the classes online on Saturday afternoons.



## ESOL Classes

The Center recently started virtual ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes via Skype with teacher, Jenny McMeekin. She meets with four students on two evenings per week, to converse about everyday topics like cooking and visiting the doctor.

The students are expanding their vocabulary and building relationships with each other and with Jenny.

If you are interested in ESOL, please contact Cynthia at: [Cynthia@ioscbaltimore.org](mailto:Cynthia@ioscbaltimore.org)

## Census 2020

*Everyone Counts and it is safe!*

If you haven't already, please take a few minutes to complete Census 2020. For more information on completing the Census, please go to the link below:

<https://www.ioscbaltimore.org/census-2020/>