

## ❖ Special Announcements ❖

Aurora Interfaith Community Services (ACIS) joined VEC's family of partners last month. ACIS is temporarily operating out of our center while their location on Clinton Street is renovated. ACIS is a non-profit agency whose sole aim is to express concern for our community by providing substantive emergency assistance to the residents of Aurora. Their services include a food bank, a clothing bank, school supplies, limited assistance with transportation and utilities, and employment and human services assistance. ACIS offers assistance **by appointment only**, call them at **(303) 360-0260** or visit their website [www.aurorainterfaithcommunityservices.org/](http://www.aurorainterfaithcommunityservices.org/)



VEC team members at a birthday dinner

### *VEC is Hiring!*

We are looking to add a **Facility Manager** to the VEC team. If you or someone you know is interested in the position, please contact [Sam@villageexchangecenter.org](mailto:Sam@villageexchangecenter.org) for more information on the job and how to apply.

## ❖ Upcoming Events ❖

### Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapuran Saptaha

April 28 – May 5, 2018, 3:00 – 9:00 pm

The Bhutanese Community Colorado will be hosting the Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapuran Saptaha Pooja at the Village Exchange Center. The purpose of this religious ceremony is to raise funds to build a Nepalese Community Center in Colorado. This seven-day pooja will be performed by Vachan Praveen Pandit Shree Dinabandhu Pokharel. Please join us any of the days to help celebrate this special festival.

### Community Bike Rodeo

May 5, 11:00 – 1:00 pm

Come on out to the Community Bike Rodeo! Try out a LimeBike, learn how to fix a flat tire, meet your neighbors! We are going to have a bike course for kids and adults, including a "red light, green light" game, skills testing for signaling, helmet fittings and safe turn negotiating. We will cover safe walking techniques for those new to Denver and Aurora!

### Natural Helpers Awards Luncheon & Leadership Fair

May 19, 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Celebrate the achievements of our Natural Helpers and learn more about employment and leadership opportunities in Aurora. We will also be signing up our first Youth Natural Leaders Cohort. Food provided!

## ❖ News from our Partners ❖

VEC would like to congratulate **DRIVE Project Colorado's** founder **Maytham Alshadood** for receiving Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network's **Immigrant Liberty Award!** This year's Immigrant Liberty Awards, themed "Rise Together," will be held on **Thursday, May 3, 2018**, at the McNichols Civic Center Building in Denver. The event will feature a dinner, a silent & live auction, and the Immigrant Liberty Awards ceremony. DRIVE's office is located at VEC, **Room 6**, 1609 Havana Street Aurora, CO 80010. Learn more about DRIVE Project Colorado at [www.driveprojectcolorado.org](http://www.driveprojectcolorado.org).

A HUGE congratulation is in order for the leadership, advocacy and work **Jennifer Wilson, International Rescue Committee (IRC)** and **Maytham Alshadood, DRIVE Project Colorado** provided in getting **Bill SB18-0887** passed during the 2018 Session of the Colorado Legislature. This bill waives the one-year waiting period for Special Immigrant Visa recipients (SIVs) and refugees to establish residency and qualify for in-state tuition at institutions of higher education. Here is a link to the bill on the Colorado Legislature website. Scroll down to the "Bill History" tab to see a history of the bill's progress through the Colorado State Legislature: <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb18-087>



Shrimad Bhagwat Pooja on Saturday, April 28

## ❖ Programs and Services ❖

### ADULT EDUCATION

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#### ESL Classes with APDC (Asian Pacific Development Center)

What: 10-week class, students learn reading, writing and speaking life-skills English for the job, family and society.

When: High-Beginning Class: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Cost: \$25/10 weeks and \$20/book

Where: 1609 Havana St, Aurora, CO 80010

#### Citizenship Class with APDC

What: 10-week class to prepare students to become US Citizens. Students study vocabulary for the citizenship test and interview, the 100 civics questions, interview practice, and assistance filling out the citizenship application (N-400).

When: Tuesday & Thursday, 9:00 – 11:00 am

Cost: FREE

Where: 1609 Havana St, Aurora, CO 80010

Sponsored by: City of Aurora Office of International and Immigrant Affairs

### English Conversation Circle

What: A conversation circle focused on improving conversational and speaking skills. Call to register.

When: Mondays, 10:00 – 12:00 pm

Cost: FREE

Phone: (303) 915-3105

Email: [di\\_ots@hotmail.com](mailto:di_ots@hotmail.com)

Where: 1609 Havana St, Aurora, CO 80010

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### COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

#### Community Care – Drop-In Hours

What: The Village Exchange Center provides a safe space where all are welcome to come for general support, a place to ask questions, to get help with community needs and concerns and tell your story.

When: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:00 – 5:00 pm

Cost: FREE

Email: [marcel@villageexchangecenter.org](mailto:marcel@villageexchangecenter.org)

Phone: (720) 668-9968

Where: 1609 Havana St, Aurora, CO 80010

#### Diabetes Prevention Program (in Spanish)

What: Weekly course in diabetes prevention and wellness taught in Spanish. Call or email to register.

When: Tuesdays, 11:00 – 12:30 pm

Cost: FREE

Email: [lmendivil@denverymca.org](mailto:lmendivil@denverymca.org)

Phone: (303) 591-5685

Where: 1609 Havana St, Aurora, CO 80010

Host Org(s): YMCA

#### Mobile Food Pantry

What: Mobile food truck brings food for the community twice a month.

When: Every other Thursday, 3:00 – 4:00 pm  
(May 10 and 24)

Cost: FREE

Phone: (720) 668-9968

Where: 1609 Havana St, Aurora, CO 80010

Host Org(s): Bread of Life Community Outreach & Village Exchange Center



Throwback photo of 4<sup>th</sup> Natural Helpers Cohort

#### Scrap Booking & Storytelling

What: Learn how to create colorful memories and life stories in beautiful scrapbook pages; and have a fun social time. All experience levels welcome.

When: 1<sup>st</sup> Monday every month 4:00 – 9:00 pm

Cost: FREE

Email: [betty@villageexchangecenter.org](mailto:betty@villageexchangecenter.org)

Phone: (720) 668-9968

Where: 1609 Havana St, Aurora, CO 80010

Room: Martin Luther King Room

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### YOUTH PROGRAMS

#### International Afterschool Program

What: An afterschool wellness program for middle school youth with games, tutoring and homework help, karate, and more. Snacks included.

When: Monday – Thursday, 3:30 – 6:00 pm

Cost: FREE

Email: [amy@villageexchangecenter.org](mailto:amy@villageexchangecenter.org) or  
[sam@villageexchangecenter.org](mailto:sam@villageexchangecenter.org)

Phone: (720) 668-9968 or Amy at (510) 717-6720

Where: 1609 Havana St, Aurora, CO 80010

## ❖ Get Involved ❖

### Host Your Event in our Center

VEC has a variety of spaces and rooms available for rent for special events, classes and services. Please contact us through our website at <https://villageexchangecenter.org/contact-us/> or by phone at (720) 668-9968.

### Volunteer with Us

Volunteer applications are always welcomed. Areas of need include: **youth tutoring, event staffing, and front office reception.** Contact us through our website or call us at (720) 668-9968 for more information about how to volunteer your time!



### Throwback photo March Town Hall Dinner Special Event Sponsorship

The Village Exchange Center often has sponsorship opportunities for special events. Contact [amy@villageexchangecenter.org](mailto:amy@villageexchangecenter.org) to learn about upcoming sponsorship opportunities.

### Support Our Work

You can make contributions through our website using our online donation form. [www.villageexchangecenter.org/donate/](http://www.villageexchangecenter.org/donate/).

### In-Kind Donations

As a new and emerging organization, we also welcome in-kind donations. Currently we are in need of:

- Classroom-size whiteboards
- Projectors and other AV and IT equipment
- Recreational and educational items for our afterschool program such as board/card games, art materials, books, and sports equipment (soccer balls, basketballs, etc.)

### Donate While Shopping

We are participating in AmazonSmile! Follow this link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/81-5174986> and 0.5% of your eligible purchases on Amazon will be donated quarterly to the Village Exchange Center through a direct deposit! Remember to bookmark this link and always start from the [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) link every time you shop at Amazon!

**Share Your News and Events in our Newsletter** Do you have something to add to future issues of *The Exchange*? Send content submissions to [Kasey@villageexchangecenter.org](mailto:Kasey@villageexchangecenter.org). Connect with us:

[www.villageexchangecenter.org](http://www.villageexchangecenter.org)

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 @villageexchange