

## ❖ Special Announcements! ❖

We are very proud of the 5<sup>th</sup> Cohort of Natural Helpers who completed the volunteer leadership training program last month! Our Natural Helpers are growing in number and we are excited to continue to support the work you all do in the community.

Please **mark your calendars** for a **FREE** Mental Health First Aid Course, **Saturdays, April 28 & May 5** from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm! To register, email Lara at [lara@villageexchangecenter.org](mailto:lara@villageexchangecenter.org).

### *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.

## ❖ This Month's Highlights ❖

### Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapuran Pooja

The Bhutanese Community Colorado will be hosting the Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapuran Pooja at the Village Exchange Center. Please join us any of the days to help celebrate this special festival. The festival runs every day, **April 28 – May 5, 2018, from 3:00 to 9:00 pm.**

## ❖ News from our Partners ❖

The Denver Refugee and Immigrant Vitalization and Empowerment Project (DRIVE) is a community-based organization that was founded, in January of 2017, by refugees, immigrants, and first generation refugees and immigrants. DRIVE's mission is to empower



Photo of the 5<sup>th</sup> cohort of Natural Helpers

refugees and immigrants to become their own citizen advocates through increased civic engagement. DRIVE's office is located in VEC's Building, **Room 6** at 1609 Havana Street Aurora, CO 80010. Learn more about DRIVE Project Colorado at [driveprojectcolorado.org](http://driveprojectcolorado.org).

## ✂ Programs and Services ✂

### ADULT EDUCATION

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#### ESL Class Registration – Tues, April 3 at 6:00 pm Register for ESL Class & Citizenship Class!!

- **English as a Second Language (ESL) Classes with APDC**

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

When: Low-Beginning Class: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 9:00 – 11:00 am  
High-Beginning Class: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 6:30 – 8:30 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

Host Org(s): Asian Pacific Development Center (APDC)

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

#### English Language Acquisition (ELA) with Focus Points

When: Monday & Wednesday or Tuesday & Thursday, 8:45 – 11:45 am or 12:15 – 3:15 pm

Where: 1085 Peoria St, Aurora, CO 80011

Host Org(s): Focus Points Family Resource Center

#### English Conversation Circle

What: A conversation circle to improve conversation 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

Host Org(s): Village Exchange Center (VEC)

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

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#### 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 and tell your story to help with community needs and concerns.

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

Host Org(s): Village Exchange Center

#### Computer Class and Resource Lab

What: Open computer time for adult learners to gain basic computer literacy and job search support.

When: Tuesdays, 11:00 – 12:30 pm

Cost: FREE  
Phone: (720) 668-9968  
Where: 1609 Havana St, Aurora, CO 80010  
Host Org(s): Village Exchange Center

**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 am

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

**Food Pantry**

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

When: Every other Thursday, 3:00 – 4:00 pm  
(April 5 and 19)

Cost: FREE

Phone: (720) 668-9968

Where: 1609 Havana St, Aurora, CO 80010

Host Org(s): Village Exchange Center (VEC)

**Immigration Consultations**

What: The Village Exchange Center is now available to support with basic immigration questions from N-400 applications, green card renewals, to questions of legal status.

When: Tuesdays by appointment only

Cost: \$25

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

Phone: (720) 668-9968

Where: 1609 Havana S, Aurora, CO 80010

Host Org(s): Village Exchange Center

**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

Host Org(s): Village Exchange Center



Photo from Oscar Romero Ceremony in March

**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

Host Org(s): Village Exchange Center

✂ 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**

We are always welcoming volunteer applications. Some 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!

**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 looking for:

- 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.)



Photo from VEC's March Town Hall with City Council Member Crystal Murillo

**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!

**Special Event Sponsorship**

The Village Exchange Center occasionally has sponsorship opportunities for one-time special events. Please contact [amy@villageexchangecenter.org](mailto:amy@villageexchangecenter.org) to enquire about upcoming sponsorship opportunities.

**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)

 @vecaurora

 @villageexchange