

June 2010 Newsletter

A 7th Successful Save Our Homes Walk!

Our 7th Annual Save Our Homes Walk, which took place on May 16th, was a great success. The weather was beautiful and our event was kicked off by some fabulous local entertainers. Over 110 walkers helped raise more than \$20,000 to assist Somerville families in preventing homelessness. We continue to collect donations for this important cause. If you would like more information about becoming involved and/or making a donation, please visit our website www.somervillecdc.org or contact Stacey Pires at spires@somervillecdc.org or 617-776-5931 x232.

St Polycarp's Village has Retail Spaces Coming to Life

Our vision of making Saint Polycarp Village into a vibrant, mixed-use village has taken some additional steps towards becoming a reality. We are very happy to announce that Central Convenience is now open for business! Central Convenience would be more aptly named Central Market. In addition to standard convenience store fare, you will also find produce, dairy, meat, and Nepalese and Brazilian staples. You'll be pleasantly surprised at the prices, which are more in line with supermarket prices than a typical convenience store. Owners Dikshant Dahal and Sachin Kayastha are always happy to take requests for what you'd like them to keep in stock. Store hours are 7am-12pm, 7 days a week. Stop by and support this new local business.

Central Convenience joins the Just-A-Start Futures for Young Parents program as a retail tenant. The Futures program had been operating for many years in a small building on the former Saint Polycarp Parish campus and we are thrilled they can keep this important program on site in a new and improved space. Futures for Young Parents is a free GED, vocational awareness, life goals, counseling and placement services program for pregnant and parenting teens on Traditional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC). For more information, go to www.justastart.org.

Last but not least, we have a signed a lease with a tenant for the final retail space at Saint Polycarp Village. Dr. Michael Ofir will be opening Avalon Dental, his third dental office, this summer! This area does not have many dentists near by, so Dr. Ofir will be providing a much needed service to the community. He plans to be open for business this summer. Stay tuned!

SCC Hosts an "Evening to Thank Our Community Builders"

On Monday June 7th SCC hosted "An Evening to Thank Our Community Builders" at The Independent in Somerville's Union Sq. The event was attended by a number of donors who have supported SCC's work in recent years. With SCC Board Member Marty Martinez serving as MC, the gathering heard from SCC's Director of CPR, Meridith Levy, Mike Rosenberg from Bank of America and SCC Board Member Stephanie Toews-Moeling. The night was one for SCC to thank its supporters and for those folks to mix, mingle and enjoy each other's company. With lively conversation and laughter around the room, we call the evening a rousing success!

SCC and the Welcome Project Hosted a Second Successful Round of ESL Classes

In April we kicked off the second round of our themed ESL classes. The class, which focuses on money management and access to good jobs in Somerville, was created in partnership with the Welcome Project. In response to student feedback we focused this round more on reading and writing rather than just conversation. Students meet twice a week from 6 to 8 PM to learn English in the context of how to manage their money and how to improve the job prospects for immigrants in Somerville. In one money-focused class students read a story about Paula, a wasteful Somervillian who could benefit from a budget. Students read the story, answered questions, and then debated what the main character could change in her life to save more money. The second half of the class will teach English while providing students a chance to read about and discuss what makes a good job, do these jobs exist, and what their experiences have been at work. Be on the lookout for future iterations of this class in the summer and fall!