



Welcoming Michigan

Building Immigrant Friendly Communities

WMU Evaluation Café

Tuesday, September 25th, 2012

Lillie Wolff

West Michigan Communities Coordinator

WelcomingMichigan.org

www.facebook.com/welcomingmichigan



Welcoming Michigan

BUILDING IMMIGRANT FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

- Welcoming Michigan is a statewide immigrant integration initiative of the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, which aims to foster mutual respect and understanding among immigrant and non-immigrant Michiganders.
- When it comes to immigration, it's easy to let differences separate us. We believe that Michigan thrives when we bring the best of what has been and the best of what can be together to create a stronger, more vibrant Michigan for all. At Welcoming Michigan, we seek to build mutual respect among U.S. and foreign-born people who call Michigan home today.



Welcoming Michigan

Building Immigrant Friendly Communities

- Welcoming Michigan is currently working in Van Buren County and Sterling Heights, Hamtramck, and the Chadsey Condon neighborhood of Detroit in southeast Michigan.
- We work to support Michigan’s “receiving community” members — U.S.-born Americans who live in communities where immigrants settle — in creating welcoming communities where immigrants can fully integrate into their adopted hometowns.
- At the heart of Welcoming Michigan are “Welcoming Committees,” made up of local leaders who help plan activities to bring long-time and new residents together to learn about each other. Events include film screenings, faith encounters, and public dialogues to help build connections among members of the community.

Our Basic Principles

1. We believe the majority of U.S. residents are empathetic and compassionate people, and that this compassion is being clouded by the country's current immigration debate.

2. We believe most U.S. residents are hospitable, welcoming and inclusive of diversity and agree we have a shared responsibility to treat all our neighbors with respect and decency;

3. We are dedicated to advancing the basic principles upon which the United States was founded, establishing the equality and dignity of all people, including immigrants;

4. We recognize that immigrants are fellow human beings and reject the use of dehumanizing language;

5. We are committed to raising the level of public discourse concerning immigrants and immigration and;

6. We are committed to promoting understanding of the contributions that immigrants make to the U.S. and the effects of immigration on our communities, and to challenging common myths and stereotypes.

7. We believe that Welcoming campaigns are an ideal vehicle for changing the public discourse on immigrants and immigration in our communities.

What is “Welcoming” work?

- Leadership Development



- Public Engagement



- Media/Communications



Welcoming Michigan Media Launch



At Welcoming Michigan we believe that when Michigan welcomes immigrants, Michigan thrives. Together. It's better.

Let's Get Started

Welcoming Michigan is pleased to announce that welcoming efforts are currently underway in three communities in southeast Michigan: Sterling Heights, Hamtramck, and Chadsey Condon in southwest Detroit.

Over the past few months local leaders in these areas have been coming together to talk about how to make their communities more welcoming and planning activities to bring diverse groups together. Folks in Chadsey Condon are getting ready to celebrate Cinco De Mayo, Hamtramck is preparing for a screening of the film "Welcome to Shelbyville," and in Sterling Heights the leadership team is busy planning events for World Refugee Day. The leadership teams are made up of youth and adult community members, clergy, business leaders, charitable organizations, nonprofit staff members, and city government employees. Many of the local leaders have expressed personal commitments to their communities and would like to build on past successes to ensure their communities remain

[Read More:](#)

What is Welcoming Michigan?

When it comes to immigration, it's easy to let differences separate us. Michigan thrives when we bring the best of what has been and the best of what can be together to create a stronger, more vibrant Michigan for all. At Welcoming Michigan, we seek to build mutual respect among foreign-born and U.S.-born people who call Michigan home today. Together. It's better.

Why We Care

Welcoming Michigan works to support Michigan's "receiving community" members—U.S.-born Americans who live in communities where immigrants settle — in creating welcoming communities where immigrants can fully integrate into their adopted hometowns. This is why we care...






Welcoming Michigan
Building Immigrant Friendly Communities





Activities in Hamtramck

- 4/28 Hamtramck Health Hike
- 5/26 Kite Day
- 5/31 “Welcome to Shelbyville”
film screening & dialogue
- 7/14 Public Safety Day
Festival







Activities in Chadsey Condon (SW Detroit)

- 4/21 Youth Dialogue on Race
- 5/3 Diversity Training
- 5/6 Cinco de Mayo celebration
- 5/19 Unity Festival
- 6/8 “Welcome to Shelbyville” film screening & dialogue
- 6/25 Welcoming Resolution passed
- 7/7 You’re Welcome! Youth + Arts
- 7/12 Filming begins for Immigration/Migration/Welcoming stories video project





Activities in Sterling Heights

- 5/5 Pride & SHINE property clean-up



- 7/21 World Refugee Day Picnic



Activities in Southwest Michigan

- Building partnerships to establish a SW MI Welcoming Michigan Leadership Committee
- Hartford Strawberry Festival, June 8th and 9th, 2012
- Hartford Ministries Fair, July 28th, 2012
- With grant from Welcoming America, creating short documentary film to highlight immigration, migration, and "welcoming" stories that make up the history and cultural tapestry of this region of our state.
- Community film screenings and facilitated dialogues this fall.
- First billboard in SW Michigan up on I-94W, 2 miles west of Hartford: "When Michigan welcomes immigrants, Michigan thrives."



The logo for National Welcoming Week features the text "National Welcoming Week" in a blue, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a large, thin blue arc. Below the main text, there is a smaller graphic with the words "WELCOMING AMERICA" and a red silhouette of the United States map.

National
Welcoming
Week

WELCOMING
AMERICA

Welcoming Week 2012

- During the week of September 15th, Welcoming Michigan joined 20 other Welcoming America affiliates and partners across the country in celebrating the first ever National Welcoming Week. This nationwide event promoted meaningful connections and a spirit of unity between U.S. and foreign-born Americans by providing opportunities to learn about each other and work together for the greater good.
- To mark the occasion Governor Rick Snyder issued a Welcoming Week Proclamation and joined with Welcoming Michigan and its partners “to encourage citizens of the Great Lakes State to recognize the importance of working together in order to create and support strong, secure and successful places to live, work and play for years to come.”

State of Michigan

Welcoming Week Proclamation



Get Involved!



At Welcoming Michigan, we seek to build mutual respect among foreign-born and U.S.-born Michiganders. We invite you to get involved!

Lots of Ways...

Attend an Event	Learn More	Plan a Project	Put Up a Poster
Raise Your Hand	Read a Book	Read Our eNews	Send a Picture
Tell Your Story	Watch a Film	Wear a Button	Write a Letter

Get Involved!

Please visit: WelcomingMichigan.org

“Like” us: www.facebook/welcomingmichigan.org

Contact:

Lillie Wolff

West Michigan Communities Coordinator

lwolff@lsscm.org

tel: 269-492-7196



Thank you!

Welcoming Michigan

Building Immigrant Friendly Communities