

**OXFORD CIRCLE CHRISTIAN
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
ASSOCIATION**

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www.occcda.org



Wishing you Christ's joy this Christmas season

To extend healing and hope in the Oxford Circle community, believing that God's purpose of reconciling all people to Jesus leads us to minister on spiritual, physical, social & economic levels.



NOTES FROM THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

We have the following ministry and resource opportunities and welcome your participation!

Human resources:

- After School volunteers—Contact Chantelle Todman @ telly120@yahoo.com or (215) 288-8504
- GED Tutors and instructors – Contact Sophat Kong @ kimsophat_kong@yahoo.com or (267)265-6070.

Financial/material resources: Contact Anita Lyndaker-Studer @ occcda@verizon.net or (267) 265-1709

- Sponsors for children in the after school program. Cost for OCCCDA is approximately \$25/week per student of which families provide \$25/month per student.
- Funding for our family support programs beginning this fall which include GED and Financial Management!
- Funding for Moveable Partitions for Sunday and After School Classrooms (total = \$21,000)
 - a. 2 moveable partition @ \$6600 each
 - b. 2 moveable partition @ \$4000 each
- Funding to begin to pay down our loan debt

Board of Directors

Officers:

- Leonard Dow, President
- Hong Tran, Vice President
- Karen Jantzi, Secretary
- Carlos Rodriguez, Treasurer

Members:

- Janelle Junkin
- Krista Yoder-Latortue
- Jennifer Leaman
- Larry Massanari
- Bianca Lani Prunes
- Tiffany Shoup
- Ron Sider
- Ken Rush
- George Young



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NOTES FROM THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

DECEMBER 2010

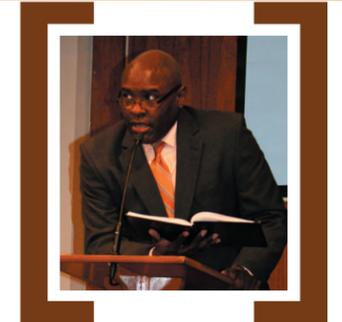
A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Therefore since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses.....let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."
--Hebrews 12:1

out for us" and in the process show His unfailing love and compassion through us! In other words, God was already moving on our behalf – we simply needed to be obedient and sensitive to the move of God.

In the summer of 2003 we began a rather unusual practice prior to the beginning of our church service on Sunday mornings as well as part of monthly prayer gatherings. A few of us would walk outside the doors of the church and begin to pray in the Oxford Circle community. As we began our prayer walking that summer in the community it eventually led us to pray and walk specifically around a rather large facility across the street from us. As we prayed and walked we began to sense that God was leading "the little white church on the corner" in the direction to expand both our physical and spiritual territory in Oxford Circle. The "expansion" that I speak of was so that we could be a blessing to one another in our faith community and a greater blessing to the larger community named Oxford Circle. As a congregation we begin to joyfully recognize in a very intimate way our desire for a larger space for ministry was less about "us" and more of God's desire for us to "run with perseverance the race marked

The summer of 2003 a small group of us from OCMC took the humble position to "pray on site with insight." During those early years of prayer we pleaded with God for direction and for God to trust us with loving our OC community in the name of Christ Jesus. Many of you covenanted with his in prayer during this period. The "direction" that God has led us seven years later into becoming the Oxford



Circle Christian Community Development Association now located at that "large facility across the street"

In this season of thanksgiving, we at OCCCDA truly thank God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" for all your support! Thank you for coming along side us in so many ways – financial, in kind gifts, notes of affirmation and encouragement and your prayers. I cannot begin to describe for you the comfort we have knowing that we are "surrounded by such a great cloud of witness"! Thank you.

UPCOMING DATES

- 11/30 - Home Care Event: 6:30-8:30pm. Free weatherization kits and smoke alarms will be given out.
- 12/7 - Board Meeting: 7:00-9:00pm
- 12/16 - After School Program: Christmas Party @ 3:00pm
- 12/18 - Holiday Food Distribution: Time to be decided
- GED Classes, October-December 2010: Tuesday evenings – 5:00pm and 7:00pm
- After School Program, October-December: 3:00-5:30pm, Dance class on Tues. & Thurs.



Since this is the season of Thanksgiving it seems appropriate to acknowledge the many amazing volunteers who made our new property possible. Based on data provided by Dan Umstead (top, second from left) Kingdom Builders Construction, we recently discovered that a total of 10,450 volunteer hours were provided by approximately 19 different volunteer work teams!

America Seen Through Cambodian Eyes



What I know about America is it is a powerful country in term of politics. It is a wonderful, peaceful and democratic country. These ideas led me to high expectations for coming to the United States. However, I am aware of the danger of a stereotype of a single story of America and what I have seen on

the movies about Americans. There might be both positive and negative things about this well known country that I need to know and learn.

I am so grateful to the living God who has sent me to Philadelphia. I have been sight seeing in different parts of the city as well as travelling to different states. I have observed is that in some cases what I have seen is not what I have heard. What I have seen is not what I expected for some reasons. For example, there are people who need basic food and ask for assistance. There are people who sleep on chairs in the park surrounded by nice buildings. There are people who speak alone and sing aloud along the streets. There are also beggars who sit and stand at the corners of the city while America is considered one of the richest countries in the world. Moreover, one of the neighbors was concerned about people who were killed by crime. In 2009, 303 people were killed in Philadelphia as reported by Associated Press.

It surprised and scared me since I hadn't heard such a high rate of crime and murder in my country currently. However, this is just the snapshot and I believe there are different stories in different areas of this wonderful county. What I think of what I have heard and what I say from what I have seen about this country is not to judge it, but a lesson learned and an insight. I realize that understanding a society, a new culture and its practice is better living in it, respecting it for what it is and being willing to learn from it.



My placement is in Northeast Philly which surrounds the Oxford Circle community, a neighborhood where there are diverse ethnicities. I can see multi-cultural practices, behaviors and I'm able to get along with people who have different races and color of skin. There are many good things about this area such as good infrastructure, lots of diversity, so many kinds of foods, services, lots of children and young couples, etc. At the same time, there are things of concern in terms of racism, number of crimes, drug use, violence, single parent families and youth who drop out of school, etc. It is a challenge and an opportunity to learn. It is my privilege to be part of extending healing and hope to people in this community through Oxford Circle Christian Community Development Association (OCCDA).

I have figured out myself this way during the first two months of adjusting to America. I sometimes get nervous and other times I feel okay. Sometimes I am not sure and other times things seem to make sense. Sometimes I mistreated and other times just right. Sometimes I am young, other times old. These are the cycles of emotions and feelings of being a foreign visitor in the US. New world, new system, new culture, new practices, new foods, new language, new neighbors, new work, new church, new friends...and new family but the same faith, hope and values. I am ready to be not afraid of failure, to have a sense of humor and to lay down expectations since what I see might not be what I expected. Last but not least, I am reminded that my common practices can be misunderstood and my best practices might not work out. I need to be sensitive.

Abundant Blessings,

Phat Sop (also known as Sophat)
MCC-International Volunteer Exchange Participant, 2010-2011
Youth Development Intern

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