September 2013

SAFSS NEWSLETTER

Volume 3,2013

Settlement Assistance and Family Support Services

SAFSS formerly South Asian Family Support Services, is a non profit, charitable, community based organization providing services to the community since 1989. The Mission of South Asian Family Support Services is to assist, educate and empower newcomers, women, seniors, youth, children and families in their integration process to improve their health, quality of life, realize their fullest potential and become contributing members of the Canadian society.

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Message *from the Executive Director*

Message *from the Executive Director*

Dear Readers:

Welcome to another edition of SAFSS newsletter!

Well summer is almost over and everyone will be back to the grindstone very soon. As we approach the fall, we are excited to have the opportunity to share with you some of our on-going and upcoming initiatives. At the beginning of fall, we would be hosting two important events: One is our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on September 20 and the other is our 1st Annual Walk-A-Thon on September 21st at Scarborough Town Centre (for details, see the information under Upcoming Events in this newsletter and our website: www.safss.org. We hope you would be able to attend to support our initiatives.

Fall is a very special time for us, as we attend and organize several special events during this time. On September 12, we will be attending United Way's 2013 Fundraising Campaign Kick-Off at the YWCA Toronto (87 Elm Street West) with our new banner showing SAFSS new name and logo. This would be a great marketing opportunity for SAFSS, as the Campaign will be attended by a large number of community agencies, partner organizations and key stakeholders.

We would also be hosting a Fundraising Gala Dinner on November 22nd at Scarborough Convention Centre (see the Upcoming Events for details) to enhance the profile of the organization and raise funds to support our existing or any new programs. I would like to thank all of our staff, volunteers and Board of Directors in advance for their help organizing this event in a befitting manner.

This is my twelfth year as Executive Director of SAFSS, and I am pleased to report that during my tenure the organization has achieved many successes both internally and externally among our key stakeholders. Bolstered by SAFSS 24th years of solid history, I look ahead with promise and anticipation towards a better and brighter future for the organization.

As I write this report, I see tremendous economic uncertainty across the globe. While I cannot visualize the full impact of this economic downturn, I do believe that there are some tough times ahead of us, it is extremely worrying to think about how funding cuts from all three levels of government will impact us and how this will affect our services as well as the lives of many newcomers, women, children, youth, seniors, and their families in Toronto!

Nevertheless, together we can achieve many successes and overcome many difficulties. I take this opportunity to thank everyone at SAFSS for making a positive difference in the lives of many. It would not have been possible without your hard work and commitment.

Dr. Kazi Hoque

Quote of the month:

We cling to our own point of view, as though everything depended on it. Yet our opinions have no permanence; like autumn and winter, they gradually pass away.

Chuang Tzu, Chinese Philosopher

Rabindra Nath Sabat: Editor & Program Director
Seema Hunjan: Co-Editor and Volunteer Development Associate

SAFSS LINC Centre Activities: Marie Sarvananthan, Lead Instructor, SAFSS LINC Finch Centre.

SAFSS – LINC @ Finch is a hub of activities all year round. These activities are intended to engage and educate our newcomers to successfully integrate in Canadian society and culture. For example, we celebrated Canada Day at our centre with a poster focussing on 'What Canada Means to Us'. We also organized a Canadian trivia contest and a maple leaf cake-cutting ceremony. SAFSS LINC Centred also organised fund raising activities such as plant sale and pancake sale to raise extra dollars for this kind of activities. These extra dollars also help the student to explore field trips to Kortright Sugar Bush, Centre Island, CNE, and Vegetable picking at Farintosh Farms etc. so that they can get firsthand information. The manager also organised information sessions to provide relevant information to enhance knowledge on need based topics. Info sessions on Dental Hygiene, Housing, Healthy Lifestyle, Prevention of Diabetes and Healthy Eating & Budgeting have been organized this year. All these activities have provided valuable learning experience and were well supported by our students.

SAFSS sharing the podium in 2013 United Way Campaign

United Way Curtain Raiser for 2013 Target

Priorities and Strategies for 2012-2015 Strategic Plan

FINANCIAL STABILITY: * Maintain current program funding levels, and if possible return program funding to earlier, higher levels. *Reduce reliance on federal program funding. * Increase level of funding which is not tied to specific programs or activities – primarily through fund raising.

PROGRAM EFECTIVENESS: *Continue efforts to stay aware of client needs and develop and maintain program opportunities as they arise.* Continue to develop capacity within the agency to evaluate program effectiveness through ongoing monitoring and analysis and through targeted program evaluation *

WORK ENVIRONMENT: Develop system of regular employee engagement surveys to ensure that issues addressed earlier have been successfully addressed and that overall engagement remains strong

DIVERSITY: *Track and monitor the origin of clients. * Continue efforts to recruit staff and board members who reflect the diverse newcomer community in the areas served by SAFSS. * Ensure that outreach and communication efforts are reaching various cultural groups

On behalf of SAFSS, I would like to thank Ontario Science Centre and Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) for providing tickets to SAFSS. We really appreciate it, with these free tickets our clients and students at LINC were able to enjoy CNE and Ontario Science Ctr. this year with the kids.

It is the support of community-minded people like you that inspires us to rise to the occasion to serve our clients from around the world. We appreciate this kind gesture and look forward to your support in the future. Bravo.....

Neelam Ahmed, Administrative Coordinator

Some are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them: William Shakespeare

Upcoming Events

SAFSS Annual General Meeting

All General Body Members are requested to attend SAFSS Annual General Meeting scheduled on September 20, 2013 at LINC Morningside Centre, 1154 Morningside Ave East, Unit 206, Toronto, ON M1B

SAFSS Walk-A-Thon at Scarborough Town Centre on September 21, 2013 at 8:00 AM

Please visit our TWITTER and FACEBOOK link in our website www.safss.org to pre-register for SAFSS Walk-A-Thon scheduled on September 21st at Scarborough Town Centre. Be a part of more than 10, 000 followers!!!

SAFSS 24th Annual Gala Dinner is on Friday, November 22, 2013 at 6:30 pm at Scarborough Convention Centre, 20 Torham Place , Scarborough, ON M1X 0B3, Tel: 416-335-6060
Purchase community tickets for 75 and Corporate tickets for $100 and enjoy Music, Dance, Entertainment, Door Prizes, Raffle Draw, Sumptuous Dinner & Much More…

ATTENTION NEWCOMERS: YOU CAN GET $1,000 WELCOME PACK!!!

WelcomePack Overview: 1. WelcomePack Gift Box: ☐ WelcomePacks are elegant, professionally branded, packed and sealed gift boxes filled with products and gifts that are of immediate and valuable use to newcomers. ☐ It also contains the WelcomePack Magazine with helpful settlement information and coupons of free products/services and special discount offers. ☐ The gift packs are given free of cost to all new immigrants who are 18 years of age or over and landed in Canada on or after September 1, 2011

2. Qualifications of WelcomePack recipients: ☐ New immigrants (18 years and older) who arrived in Canada on or after September 1, 2011 are qualified ☐ Newcomers can bring along their Permanent Resident Card or their passport with the 'Confirmation of Residence' landing paper to any participating settlement services centres to register for and pick up the gift pack ☐ Each newcomer receives one gift box. Registrations with the same set of first name, last name, birth year and arrival date in Canada will be rejected by the registration system

3. Benefits to Newcomers: ☐ Newcomer receives a gift box filled with free products and gifts, special offer coupons and valuable information on settlement needs ☐ Gift box recipients will receive additional prizes, special offers and valuable tips from WelcomePack Canada on an ongoing basis via email

Contact SAFSS to a $1,000 WelcomePack if you are a newcomer and have arrived in Canada after September 01, 2011. Certain conditions apply:

Info sessions/workshops from June to August 2013

Behroze Bhasin organized an info session on Employment Standards Act on June 20, 2013
Waheeda Alam organized an info session on How to Start Your Business on June 27, 2013.
Perminder Dhanjoon organized an info session on Road to Employment on July 04,2013
Abi Kanagasabai organized an info session on Raising Children in Canada on July 11, 2013
Massoumeh Tatary organized an info session on Job Search on July 16, 2013
Behroze Bhasin organized an info session on Changes to Immigration on July 17, 2013
Perminder Dhanjoon organized an info session on Know Your Rights At Workplace on July 18,2013
Usha Chhabra organized an info session on Advice Event Banking Awareness on July 25, 2013
Abi Kanagasabai organized an info session on Changes in Citizenship on August 08, 2013
Andres Monsalve organized an info session on Immigration Process on August 09, 2013
Behroze Bhasin organized an info session on Wills and Estate on August 14, 2013
Waheeda Alam organized an info session on Your Road to Employment on August 20, 2013
Usha Chhabra organized an info session on Financial Literacy on August 21, 2013
Abi Kanagasabai organized an info session on Ontario Works and ODSP on August 22, 2013
Perminder Dhanjoon organized an info session on Canadian Work Culture on August 22,2013
Perminder Dhanjoon organized an info session on Tenants Rights on August 26,2013

SAFSS Membership

SAFSS Clients/Volunteers $5.00; Individual Members $10.00; Community Agencies $25.00

SAFSS is dedicated to addressing some of the pressing issues/needs faced by community members. Members benefit greatly as they are advised of current events and opportunities. To be a member of SAFSS, we request that you complete the membership form and send it along with your membership fee to:

Download our membership from our website at www.safss.com or write to info@safss.org

A picture expresses more than a thousand words

Chief Guest Dr. Usha George, Dr. Kazi Hoque, ED, Board Chair Mr. Asghar Naqvi and Vice-Chair Ms. Sudha Verma seated on the dais on Asian Heritage Day

Staff members with the Board of Directors on Asian Heritage Day

Fashion show by LINC Morningside Centre

Chinese Dance on Asian Day Celebration

Seniors celebrating Seniors and Volunteers Day

Seniors fashion show for Seniors Day

Seniors fashion show on Asian Heritage Day

Volunteers on Volunteer Appreciation Day