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The Path Between

culture and news that connect us



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Join Culture Connect's [Facebook fanpage](#) to stay up to date with current legislation, news pertaining to immigrants and refugees, and updates about our programs!

A Special Welcome

We are pleased to introduce the newest member of the Culture Connect team!

Caitlin O'Donnell will be taking over as Development Coordinator from Caroline Lefavre, who completed her one year AmeriCorps*VISTA commitment in June and is now our Development Manager. Caitlin was born in Carrollton, Texas, and moved to the Atlanta area in 1999. She attended the University of Georgia in Athens where she served as President of the International Affairs Honor Society and graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelors of Arts in International Affairs and a minor in African Studies focused in Swahili. Caitlin has lived in England and volunteered time working with AIDS-affected youth in Kenya. Her desire to serve her community and

Welcome To The Path Between!

Culture Connect Program Highlights

Culture Connect is thrilled to announce that we are the recipients of the [Success for All Students \(SFAS\) grant](#) to implement the Go-Betweener™ Mentoring Program in Cobb County Schools! With this award, at least 100 immigrant kids in Cobb will benefit from a mentor over the next year. Thank you SFAS!



[Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services \(BRYCS\)](#) has included the Go-Betweener™ Mentoring Program as Promising Practice. To be featured as a Promising Practice, a program must 1) be recommended as "successful" by other service providers, 2) be based on principles drawn from current research on risk and protective factors for refugee and immigrant youth, and 3) be results-oriented, demonstrating the ways in which newcomer children and youth benefited from the program. The Go-Betweener Mentoring Program, with its unique model, is growing and reaching more immigrant and refugee youth in need of a positive role model, guide,

work with a non-profit whose mission was local and global culminated into a desire to join AmeriCorps*VISTA and Culture Connect.

If you would like to learn about how to become a donor or sponsor, please contact Caitlin at 404-292-8457 x3.

Cultural Spotlight: Vietnamese Culture

Did you know the Vietnam has a famous fall festival?:

"Tết Trung Thu", the colorful and bright holiday that is as ancient as the country itself is also known as "Moon Festival", "Harvest Festival" or "Autumn Festival" by people outside of Vietnam. As these names indicate, this cultural holiday is celebrated on the 15th day of the 8th Lunar Month to mark the end of the harvest season. The actual date of celebration always took place under a full moon to represents fullness and prosperity after the harvest season; therefore the date this holiday falls on changes from year to year.

This holiday has several mythological versions on how it became to be adopted by the Vietnamese people. But over the years, the celebration has become a symbol of honoring children and making them feel special. Traditionally, families worked hard in the fields throughout the year, leaving little fun time for their children. So the one day celebration was a time set aside to savor "resting" time from harvesting to spend it children, eating "Bánh trung thu" and drinking tea with families and neighbors, while the children play and carry their brightly lit lanterns made into different animal shapes and sizes. These children carry their handmade lanterns made from cellophane colored paper and other see-through materials and lit them with candles in neighborhood parades organized after dusk. Dances are also traditional at these celebrations that include the dragon

and friend. Check our next newsletter to learn more about our growth!



In The Community

Become a Culture Connect Language Advocacy volunteer. Did you know that each person in the U.S. has a federally protected right to receiving the services of an interpreter from anywhere that receives federal funding, regardless of national origin? Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Presidential Executive Order 13166 of 2000, "Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency;" and the "No Child Left Behind" regulations, establish, protect, and reinforce this right.

Culture Connect's Language Advocacy program seeks to educate individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP) about this essential right. We are proud that our Language Advocacy volunteers have presented to over 600 individuals with LEP and are eager to reach our goal of 1,500.

Advocacy volunteers present to English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, immigrant computer classes, citizenship classes, and anywhere else where this service would be of value. If you would like to learn more about how to schedule a presentation at your organization or how to become an Advocacy volunteer, contact the Education & Advocacy Coordinator at: (404) 292-8457 x5 or program.coordinator@cultureconnectinc.org.

Please join Culture Connect in celebrating these wonderful community events in September and October:

September 11th - All day - [Dragonboat Festival](#)

September 15th - October 15th - [Hispanic Heritage Month](#)

October 9th - 9am to 1pm - [TEA \(Together Empowering Asians\) Walk](#)

In The News

In response to many states, including Georgia, failing to comply with Title VI under the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by neglecting to provide appropriate Language Services in the court system Assistant Attorney General Perez issued letters to each state Chief Justice on August 16, 2010. [These letters](#) very firmly elucidate the requirements, how states have been

dance and youngster dress in their áo dài and dance methodically to folklore music. The luminous parade is beautiful under the full moon sky!

A special thank you to Culture Connect's Language Services Manager, Christine Nguyen, for sharing her culture with us!

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out of compliance with federal law, and explanations of how they should provide language services to Limited English Proficient (LEP) clients. Some of the highlights include:

- DOJ views access to ALL court proceedings as critical, not just criminal, domestic violence, and parental rights proceedings. Competent interpretation should be provided at ALL hearings, trials, and motions, regardless of whether it is a civil, criminal, or administrative court proceeding.
- In order insure that meaningful access to the justice system is available, interpretation must be provided FREE of cost to those involved.
- DOJ expects courts to provide meaningful access for LEP persons to court operated or managed points of contact inside and outside the courtroom, including information, intake/filing, cashiers, records rooms; sheriffs offices; probation and parole offices; alternative dispute resolution programs; pro se clinics; criminal diversion programs; anger management classes; detention facilities; and other similar offices, operations, and programs.
- Criminal defense counsel, child advocates or guardians ad litem, court psychologists, probation officers, doctors, trustees, and other such individuals who are employed, paid, or supervised by the courts, and who are required to communicate with LEP parties or other individuals as part of their case-related functions, must possess demonstrated bilingual skills or have support from professional interpreters.
- Language services expenses should be treated as a basic and essential operating expense, not as an ancillary cost.

This is a major win for LEPs in America toward gaining meaningful access to the justice system.

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