

**CCVT End of Year 2012 Staff Luncheon
on Friday December 21, 2012!**



There was a Staff End of Year Luncheon at the Spring Rolls Restaurant downtown on Friday December 21, 2012. All staff from all the 3 CCVT locations came together to celebrate the end of the Year 2012.

The Executive Director, Mr. Mulugeta Abai, extended his appreciation to the staff for working as a team for the success of CCVT through the Year 2012 and he urged to all, to keep the same spirit in the Year 2013.

Mulugeta wished everybody a **HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2013!**

*By: Juliette Ntege, Volunteer Coordinator,
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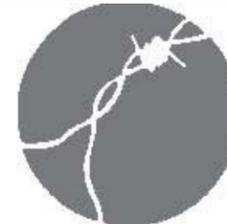
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The Connection

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A NEWSLETTER FOR ALL CCVT VOLUNTEERS

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Editors' Note:

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The U.N. Observed Dates in the Month of December



Some of the United Nations Observed Days in the Months of December every Year

Compiled by: **Zheng Wang, Volunteer at CCVT Scarborough Branch**

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery – December 2

The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, December 2, marks the date of the adoption, by the General Assembly, of the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others. The focus of this day is on eradicating contemporary forms of slavery, such as trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, the worst forms of child labour, forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict. Today, 21 million women, men and children are trapped in slavery all over the world. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has teamed up with prominent artists, athletes and advocates in its new campaign to End Slavery Now.

"Today, governments, civil society and the private sector must unite to eradicate all contemporary forms of slavery. ... Together, let us do our utmost for the millions of victims throughout the world who are held in slavery and deprived of their human rights and dignity."

International Day of Persons with Disabilities – December 3

In the wake of the 2013 high-level meeting on disability and development, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities provides an opportunity to bring global attention to the situation of persons with disabilities, to create a strategic vision and to plan for disability-inclusive development. Persons with disabilities are both agents and beneficiaries, who would also take the lead in development processes. The full and effective participation of persons with disabilities is a prerequisite for inclusive, sustainable and equitable development. In many parts of the world today, lack of awareness and understanding of accessibility as a cross-cutting development issue remains an obstacle to the achievement of progress and development through the Millennium Development Goals, as well as other internationally agreed outcomes for all. The commemoration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities in 2012 provides an opportunity to address this exclusion by focusing on promoting accessibility and removing all types of barriers in society.

"Our challenge is to provide all people with the equality of access they need and deserve. Ultimately, this will create a better world for all."

Human Rights Day – December 10

The Declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, consists of a preamble and 30 articles, setting out a broad range of fundamental human rights and freedoms to which all men and women, everywhere in the world, are entitled, without any distinction.

The Declaration was drafted by representatives of all regions and legal traditions. It has over time been accepted as a contract between governments and their peoples. Virtually all states have accepted it. The Declaration has also served as the foundation for an expanding system of human rights protection that today focuses also on vulnerable groups such as disabled persons, indigenous peoples and migrant workers.

"Everyone has the right to be heard and to shape the decisions that affect their community. Yet far too many groups and individuals face far too many obstacles. Women have the right to vote almost everywhere, but remain hugely under-represented in parliaments and peace processes, in senior government posts and corporate boardrooms, and in other decision-making positions. Indigenous people frequently face discrimination that denies them the opportunity to make full use of their guaranteed rights or fails to take account of their circumstances. Religious and ethnic minorities – as well as people with disabilities or those with a different sexual orientation or political opinion – are often hampered from taking part in key institutions and processes. Institutions and public discourse need to represent societies in all their diversity. No country has succeeded in ensuring that all its inhabitants are able to participate fully in public affairs, including the right to be elected to public office and to have equal access to public services. Enacting new rights or removing unjust laws is not always sufficient. Too often, discrimination persists in practice, creating barriers and mindsets that can be hard to overcome."

All quotations by the U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Volunteers' Testimonials

My First Annual General Meeting and Holiday Party On December 16, 2012

By: **Rosemary Namuyomba, Volunteer, CCVT Scarborough Location**



Attending my first Annual General Meeting (AGM) as a volunteer with Canadian Center for Victims of Torture (CCVT) was amazingly pleasant and enjoyable. Upon invitation, I thought how my first AGM would unfold. To be honest, one question that kept popping up was: "How long would the AGM event?" I had pictured people with serious faces sitting on hard-cushioned banquet hall chairs in front of round tables without a sound but only that of the presenter at the podium "anyone who has ever attended an AGM can attest to this. Nonetheless; my imaginations proved to be short-lived because it was more interesting than I thought.

I arrived at 11:30 a.m., slightly before the AGM commenced which gave opportunity to help out with the decorations and venue arrangement. The setup of room was good and sitting arrangement made it easy for everyone to be part of what was happening. It was so thrilling to watch children happily running around, having fun together with families and friends and everyone come together yet with lots of hugs. It was a time to meet up with friends, families and colleagues in a different setting. Everyone was easy to talk to which made all to feel welcome. I loved playing with children by the children's corner, making necklaces and bracelets, such a time to be away from the routine office work but share with others.

Before long, the Executive Director facilitated the opening of the meeting with cordial salutations.

With the help of translators in six different languages, the audience was kept in the know of what was happening as he gave highlights of CCVT's activities for the year. The highlights of the proceedings included approval of previous minutes, report from the Board Chair, approval of audited financial statement, report from nomination committee, election of Board of Directors for the next coming year and finally the key note speakers. As the formalities went by, I found myself lost in the lingo of voting the nominated Board of Directors for the coming year. With lots of information availed to us, in less than two hours I learnt a lot from this AGM about the organization and got valuable insight as regards to future plans for the organization.

The keynote delivered by Delsile Nohle and Zamin Sharar was excellent. It is certainly about time, when we should all be proud of what the organization is doing and has accomplished. Nonetheless, as a volunteer, there is so much to offer. The AGM challenged and gave me momentum to dedicate even more hours towards the organization. I will always be grateful to CCVT to have given me this opportunity to contribute and support individuals and their families who were affected by war and torture.

All together, I have one word for the day, AMAZING! What a marvelous way to end the year with the CCVT family let alone with lots of food and drinks. We appreciate the entire CCVT fraternity that made this event possible. I believe lots of time went into preparation.



Clients' Events and Activities

The Main Support Group



CCVT Scarborough Support Group had a wonderful end of Year 2012 Party! It was all fun dancing together and time of sharing gifts and food!. They demonstrated the reading and conversation skills that they achieved from the ESL Class and from the English Conversation Practice Circle by reading and sharing stories before the gathering.

ESL Class Holiday Party December 2012!

The ESL/LINC Class



The ESL Class Students extended their appreciation to their dedicated Teacher Yaya who has been very patient with them as they learnt the Second Language. Also they were grateful to Angela, the Volunteer who donated the gifts that gave them a moment of fun during their Party!

By: **Thilaga Jeganathan, Trauma Settlement Counselor/Branch Coordinator, CCVT Scarborough Branch**

Clients' Events and Activities

CPR Training for the Youth at CCVT Scarborough on December 7, 2012



A free CPR course was arranged through CCVT and offered by St. John's Ambulance to youth clients from the Scarborough and Downtown offices. Many clients showed interest in this training and it was well attended. It provided the youth with useful and important skills which they could put on their resumes and apply to their professional and personal lives.

By: **Mbalu Wembo, Child/Youth Trauma Settlement Counselor**



The Homework Club Holiday Party 2012!

On December 13 the homework club had their annual Holiday party. We served snacks and birthday cake to celebrate those who have a birthday in December. The youth volunteers did a great job in helping out. Everyone played games, practiced the play for the CCVT holiday party/AGM and enjoyed time together before the winter break. It was a great year of homework help, socializing and educational activities and we're looking forward to continuing that in the new year.



CCVT GIVES HOPE AFTER THE HORROR!