

Immigration Advocacy Workshop

Saturday, February 28, 2009

10:00 a.m. – 3 p.m.

King Avenue Church, 299 King Ave., Columbus

Descriptions of Co-Sponsoring Organizations

The American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio is a non-profit, non-partisan membership organization dedicated to defending and expanding the civil liberties of all Americans. Dealing with issues, such as freedom of speech, privacy rights, discrimination, religious liberty, rights of immigrants, voting rights, and others, the ACLU of Ohio works daily in the courts and in communities to defend the individual rights guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States. The national ACLU includes more than 500,000 members, and the ACLU of Ohio has nearly 30,000 members and supporters statewide.

Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS) is an independent non-profit agency, serving refugees, asylees, and immigrants in central Ohio. Among local community-based organizations, CRIS is the largest agency providing services to immigrants in Central Ohio.

Those services include immigration legal services and interpretation and translation. CRIS has extensive experience in working with refugees of all national origins, and a tradition of delivering services fairly and impartially. With a staff of over 70 workers fluent in 26 languages, CRIS has served customers from 119 countries of origin.

The Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center is a coalition of faith-based organizations and individuals who work together to educate around justice issues, take collaborative action and do public witness. They address local, national and international concerns focusing on economic justice, women's issues, human rights, racial equality, peace and the environment. Founded in 1985, their goals continue to be: to deepen awareness of justice as integral, not optional, to our faith response, to network participating organizations and to collaborate with other concerned groups for stronger public witness and impact on justice and peace issues, and to plan and carry out programs of education and action which affect structural injustice.

Hispanas Organizadas de Lake y Ashtabula (HOLA), or the Organization of Hispanic Women of Lake and Ashtabula, is an education and advocacy organization dedicated to awareness of Hispanic cultures and support for the rights of Hispanic communities. The organization produces a bi-monthly publication, *The HOLA Journal* or *El Periódico HOLA*, in two separate, complementary editions, one in Spanish and one in English. The English edition informs the public about issues important to Hispanics in Lake and Ashtabula County, educates about Hispanic culture, and publicizes the contributions of the Hispanic community to northeast Ohio. The Spanish edition disseminates information to the Hispanic community and provides a forum for Hispanic voices.

The American Friends Service Committee carries out service, development, social justice, and peace programs throughout the world. Founded by Quakers in 1917 to provide conscientious objectors with an opportunity to aid civilian war victims, AFSC's work attracts the support and partnership of people of many races, religions, and cultures. AFSC's work is based on the Quaker belief in the worth of every person and faith in the power of love to overcome violence and injustice.