

The True Meaning of Christmas



ISSofBC Tri-Cities ELSA Program students, Instructional Coordinator Claire Pinkett (in red), Instructor Diana Ospina (in beige)

The SHARE Food Bank in Port Moody ran dangerously low on food in the days leading up to Christmas. A plea went out to the community to increase donations and the ELSA students at ISS in the Tri-cities answered this call by filling 24 boxes with non-perishable food items for SHARE.

Instructional Coordinator Claire Pinkett awarded the winning class with a Tim Horton's gift certificate so that the students could buy some treats for their class Christmas Party and a good time was had by all. With so many newcomers celebrating their first Christmas in Canada, this was the best way to demonstrate what the season is really all about.

The students' generosity and giving to those of our community that were in need (some of them classmates) touched all of the staff in the Tri-Cities ELSA Program. We are now planning some field trips to the SHARE Food Bank so that students can see the good work being done with their donations!

Host Program celebrates the New Year with the Hmong Community!

January 2011

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Without you, there would be no way

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Reducing your footprint is the perfect way to start 2011. Our planet has been put through so much abuse in the past year, and it's time we all did a little more to make up for it.

- Start conserving water by purchasing a water meter monitor
- Begin reducing your electricity consumption by designating a time for lights out every evening.
- If you're going to start recycling, trying doing it in steps. Recycle all items that have a recycling symbol for one week then by the second week educate yourself on more difficult items like batteries and add those types of items to your routine.

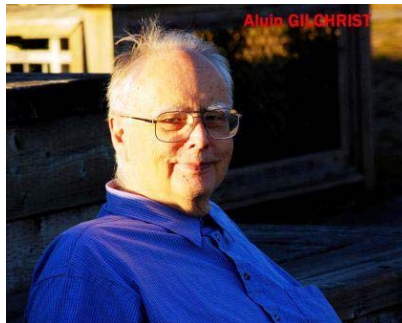


On Dec 11, 2010 Host Program staff, Dorcas Mendez and Libo Kong joined the Hmong New Year Celebration at Golden Ears Winter Club in Maple Ridge. The event was sponsored by the United Hmong Community Support Association of British Columbia (UHCSA of BC) who provide Hmong interpreters to assist newly arrived Hmong families at Welcome House.

Dorcas and Libo had the opportunity to promote the program, recruit Host volunteers, enjoy traditional food and dance performances, and learn more about the Hmong culture.

If you want to learn more about the Hmong people from Laos the Host Program will be hosting an educational event in the new year.

In Recognition and Remembrance - Aluin Gilchrist, ISSoBC Volunteer



Aluin Gilchrist joined the ISSoBC Host Program in 1992 to provide English tutoring assistance to newcomers in the hopes this would help them do well in Canada. Aluin remained a Host volunteer for 18 years and befriended more than 25 newcomer individuals and families and volunteered more than 16,000 hours.

Several of Aluin's friends and former students provide a glimpse of who Aluin was and the difference Aluin made ...

My son came to Canada one year after me when he was 12 years old, he had to study English from ABC. Aluin gave him a lot of support and inspiration. My son became the Valedictorian when he graduated from elementary school one and half year after, which I believe it is partially because of Aluin.

In December 2010 the Host Program received the news that Aluin passed away in late November. Aluin Gilchrist encouraged and inspired others and his contributions live on in the successes of the Canadian families he befriended.

We are ever so thankful for the difference he has made in the lives of

Computer Tips

6 Ways to Keep Your Documents Organized in Word

1. Use Unique File Names
2. File Document in Folders
3. Update Document Properties
4. Include Document Previews
5. Take Advantage of Word's Versioning Feature
6. Specify the File Path in a Header or Footer

Read the full article [here](#).

Staff & Program Updates

Freda Fernandes has been seconded to CareerAxis as Manager

Lynne Lin returns to ISSoBC as Assistant Manager of the JobOptionsBC program

Jonathan Lowe has been appointed Assistant Manager of the Skills Connect program (SCI).

Rui Hua (Alison) Deng has recently been hired as Program Assistant for the Multilingual Case Management Program.

Did You Know??

The 2011 Census and the National Household Survey (NHS) will take place starting in May 2011.

The 2011 Census is staffing 35,000 jobs across Canada. If you are over 18 years old and can commit to at least 20 hours per week including evenings,

new Canadians and for the opportunity we had to work with him.

Read the full article [here](#).

BC wide ShakeOut

On January 26, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. the first province wide earthquake drill organized by the BC Earthquake Alliance Society will take place.

The drill is to increase public awareness and enhance earthquake preparedness in BC. We have registered as a participant, and it is an opportunity for us to take part in the ShakeOut drill.

When the announcement is made to begin the drill, everyone is required to:

- **DROP** to the floor
- Take **COVER** under a desk or any sturdy furniture
- **HOLD ON** to the piece of furniture (stay down for at least 60 seconds)

You will be notified when the drill is over.

Teachers are encouraged to inform/practice with their students ahead of time.

A reminder will be sent out in mid January.

If you have any questions please contact Veronica Lee: ext. 1102 or veronica.lee@issbc.org.

Without you, there would be no way



The total of the funds raised in this year's United Way Campaign was \$4812.50, for which we received a certificate for reaching the Gold Level (a framed copy is hung on the Settlement office reception area wall and another at Head Office.)

Thanks to our Campaign Leaders, **Helen Aqua** and **Hillary Taylor** for organising this fundraiser, we look forward to continued success in future United Way campaigns.

Funds raised by ISSofBC staff **directly** impacts the clients we serve on a regular basis. To learn more about how your funds are used in the local communities click [here](#).

weekends and holidays, apply now.

Rates of pay (\$14.72 to \$18.04 an hour) vary by assignment. The work period is early March to the end of July 2011, depending on assignment.

Please tell friends and family about opportunities to work on the census. Visit the 2011 Census website for more information.

To download and submit an online application, visit the website at

www.census2011.gc.ca.

Check us out on:

[ISSofBC News Blog](#) 

or

www.issbc.org

Please send your email newsletter submissions or suggestions to:

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