



TAXAN

Volume 4, Issue 2

May 2009 ★

The Somali News Link

The San Diego Refugee Forum Update

By Diana Ross, Vice Chair
The S.D. Refugee Forum

The San Diego Refugee Forum is a collaborative of community organizations, advocates, and individuals serving all people fleeing persecution and seeking refuge in San Diego. The Refugee Forum is a place to exchange information and advocate on issues of concern to the community of people displaced by war and violent conflict. The San Diego Refugee Forum meets the third Tuesday of each month from 10:30 am - 12 pm at the Community Meeting Room of San Diego Police Department's Multicultural Storefront, 5348 University Ave-

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The Generation of the Future

The Power of the Youth!

By Paige Newman, Communications Director/Youth Services, SFS

Diverse is defined as differing from one another, or composed of distant or unlike elements or qualities. Just take a casual stroll around San Diego's City Heights neighborhood and you will understand the definition of diversity, ethnically speaking. One culture frequently seen in City Heights is Somalis, and San Diego harbors one of the largest East African populations in the United States -- an estimated 30,000 refugees and immigrants.

To help address sophisticated issues faced by youth, Somali Family Service of San Diego and San Diego Police Department's Multi-

Cultural Community Relations Office started an East African Youth Organization (EAYO). The mentorship program helps youth ages 13-18 develop skills necessary to gain higher education and prevent crime and violence amongst East African youth.

"Over 400 youth members have benefitted from the program so far. This is one of the most successful public and private partnerships I have seen. We couldn't have done it without the support of the community," said Ahmed Sahid, Executive Director of Somali Family Service.

EAYO is a youth-run program under the supervision

We are proud to announce the reprinting of the only bilingual Somali publication in Southern California!

Taxan: The Somali News Link



of adult mentors, including Paige Newman, Communications Director/Youth Services at Somali Family Service. Every fall EAYO holds their Board of Directors elections, voting youth peers into office. From conducting their meetings to participating in community-oriented events, the youth are in charge! Events include everything from neighborhood cleanups to leadership development

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Taariikhda Qoraalka Afka Soomaaliga

By Ahmed Haybe

Qaybtii labaad



Qeybtii koowaad ee qoraalkan Sida aan horeyba u soo til-waxaanu si kooban ugu soo maaney, qarnigan horraantiisa qaadanay taariikhda far waxaa isku dayay in ay qoraal Soomaaliga ee ay allifeen dabooli kara baahida luuqada Soomaalidu. Qeybtan labaad Soomaaliga u sameeyaan waxaan iyana kaga hadli Soomaali badan iyo ajinebiba. doonaa qoraalka far Raggaas waxaa ka mid ahaa : Soomaaliga ee ku salleysan Sayid Maxamed Cadbille farta Carabiga. Xasan, Sheekh Uweys Ibn

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EAYO members marching at MLK Parade



EAYO members meeting with the President of Somali Family Service



Community members in Leadership Development Training

THE POWER OF YOUTH continued from p1

conferences, and field trips to the Museum of Tolerance, Universal Studios, Sea World and other places.

One event that has become customary for EAYO is the annual ceremony for the graduating senior class. EAYO celebrates in honor of those members whose dedication throughout high school is now propelling them to an advanced level of education in the universities and colleges they choose to attend. "I became a board member to show other girls it is possible to go to college," said one EAYO member.

In the spring of 2008, EAYO sent a few representatives to the 19th Annual Youth Crime Prevention Conference in Miami, Florida. There the San Diego youth met with other dedicated young people engaged in crime prevention all over the USA. This May, the group enjoyed a bowling field trip. EAYO is currently working on a number of summer events: the June 27 ceremony for this year's high school graduates, a talent show during the Somali Family Service Health Fair in Honor of World Refugee Day (see page 7), a trip to Disneyland, and more. "Our biggest accomplishments of the last five years were a lot of East African youth enrolling from high school directly into universities, and we have seen a tremendous reduction of crime among East African youth," said Police Service Officer Muktar Hirsi of San Diego Police Department.

The San Diego Police Department graciously

provides a safe environment for EAYO to meet the last Thursday of every month at 3 p.m. at the Mid-City Multi-Cultural Storefront at 5348 University Ave., Ste. 100. The community is very proud of and involved with this program. Guest speakers sometimes attend, sharing information about their professions, which inspires and provides career choices for EAYO members.

There is no charge to become a member of EAYO, but youth must be ages 13-18, come to three meetings in a row and work at one event. They also must have a parent or guardian sign a waiver form.

For more information about EAYO, please contact Paige Newman at Somali Family Service, 619-265-5821 or Email: pnewman@sfssd.org.

This program is generously funded and supported by Price Charities.

San Diego Refugee Forum Update Continued from p1

in San Diego.

The Forum hosts guest speakers and facilitates discussion on topics of interest. We also provide government agencies with an opportunity for gathering information and input on policy issues concerning the refugee community.

The Forum advocates for social and policy change on topics impacting the daily lives of refugees in San Diego. Membership includes VOLAGs (Voluntary Agencies), MAAs (Mutual Assistance Associations), employment services, government agencies, community-based groups, refugees, advocates, and supporting individuals. Active members become voting members by paying annual dues.

Successes include community education on gender and Somali culture. Last year Dr. Jesse Mills, Board Member of Somali Family Service and USD Professor, presented his work on the Somali community and ethnicity as part of our World Refugee Day Celebration 2007. Other accomplishments include developing a strong partnership with the County of San Diego Community Action Partnership to strengthen the leadership and capacity of Mutual Assistance Nonprofits in the Sudanese, Somali, and other refugee communities. This year the Forum is happy to announce strengthening our tradition of partnership through a California Endowment award to work on improving quality and access to care through dialogue. The dialogue seeks to increase the language/cultural competency of health providers.

The Forum is a welcoming environment for everyone. We encourage community participation and invite you to ask questions and attend our meetings. For more information, check out our website www.sdrefugeeforum.org.

Congratulations to the East African high school senior class of 2009!



You are all the best!





Shoes or Sambusa? Enjoy Yourself at the Safari Market!

By Paige Newman

Whether you need a haircut, some sambusa or a new pair of shoes, you are in luck every day of the week from 9 am to 8:30 pm at the Safari Market at 4348 54th Street in San Diego. The Somali community is very proud of the market which opened in 2006 and is overseen by Horn of Africa.

A San Diego organization providing culturally and linguistically relevant services to East African refugees and immigrants, Horn of Africa focuses on the Somali refugee community. For years, Horn of Africa worked toward the goal of opening the market, which serves not only as a shopping center but a place Somalis can socialize with others from their culture, feeling a sense of belonging so far from their homeland. While 90% of the customers are from Somalia, 10% of the shoppers come from other countries.

The local Somalis were involved in everything from finding the building to spending months renovating it. Today the market has grown to about 25 small businesses, showing the typical Somali entrepreneurial spirit. All the businesses are owned by Somalis, who are at least in their mid 30s in age. About 70% of the shops are owned by women and 30% are owned by men. Abdi Mohamoud, the Executive Director of Horn of Africa, said it can be challenging retaining businesses and maintaining the premises in order. With the current economic crisis, they have had four or five vendors go out of business. However, overall the market is doing well. "We are in our third year and the future looks bright. The community is becoming well connected to the Safari Market," said Mohamoud.

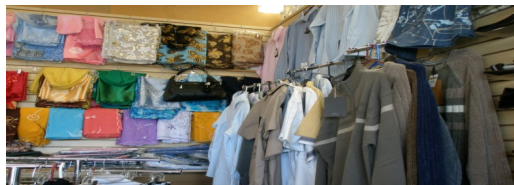
Since there are only a few Somali restaurants in

San Diego, it is exciting that Safari Market includes African Spice, where people can dine in or take out sambusa and other foods.

During these tough economic times people will appreciate the stores in the market with discounts on food, school backpacks and more. There are also many clothing stores, some just for women, and some for men, and others also selling other household items and home décor.

The market provides a place for a haircut and even has a few sites for wiring money, taking care of money orders, and other related services. In addition, the Safari Market is lucky to have a group helping East Africans called Haro, an international humanitarian organization that sends clothes, blankets and donated goods to orphans in Somalia.

Fun things can be found in the market too, like music and movies from East Africa at a



store that also tapes and DJs for special occasions like weddings, birthdays and showers. Those interested in leasing a space can pick up an application and speak to Manager Abdullahi Amir at the Safari Market Rental Office between 9 am and 5 pm Monday-Friday. His number is 619-817-7048. The spaces are usually about 200 square feet, and cost \$600 a month, with a one year lease.

Have you thought of placing an ad in the TAXAN newsletter?

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Bahda San Diego SomaliTV

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Maxamed, C/salaam & Abukar



EDITORIAL

Has the Economy Hit Bottom Yet? *By Ali Artan, Taxan Editor-in-Chief*

Is capitalism relevant anymore? Adam Smith's concept called the invisible hand -- the self-regulating nature of the marketplace -- is in the limelight once again. It would be helpful to have Smith's assessment on this economic mess we find ourselves in. Nevertheless, this recent global economic meltdown is best explained by today's economists and financial analysts. As world economies become inseparable, the collapse of huge financial institutions such as Lehman Brothers and the likes has had a global effect, and more importantly, has placed our country in a situation second to that of the Great Depression.

The dire economy has caused great anxiety, and increased the uncertainty in the marketplace, forcing consumers to emphasize savings. Noticeably such a scenario is a recipe for economic stagnation. In March alone, as many as 694,000 people in the U.S. lost their jobs, not to mention the continuing freefall of real estate and other industries. Overall, the purchasing power of the masses is shrinking

while the economy is contracting. This is clearly a manifestation of a bleak situation.

Irrespective of one's position, whether a proponent or critic, one thing is for certain -- globalization is a reality to be reckoned with. We are becoming more interconnected than ever as far as our communication and business transactions are concerned. Needless to say, the playing field has been leveled, as Thomas Friedman explained comprehensively in his book The World is Flat. He extensively describes what he termed "the ten flatteners," including but not limited to: outsourcing, offshoring, uploading, supply-chaining, insourcing, informing and others. In a nutshell, Friedman states that the days of "their problem is not ours" are long gone and irreversible. He proposes adapting, managing and embracing this economic evolution as the way to move forward.

Apparently, these trying times are so crucial to everyone and even worse for **new immigrants** who are striving day-in, day-out like

everyone else to make ends meet. A few issues make new arrivals' situation grimmer: their proficiency of the language is limited, as is their knowledge of how the system and economic principles work. Plus, many lack the professional skills that could make them more competitive in the workplace. With all that said, immigrants have the opportunity to be more creative and resilient and to harness their potential in these hard times if they only prioritize. They need to review their spending and budgeting respectively, return to schools for career advancement -- whether vocational or formal schools -- and enhance their job search strategies. Obviously the rules of the game have changed, so immigrants have to.

In particular, new immigrants must do more than the rest of us in regards to financial planning, budgeting and savings to ride smoothly through these troubled times. Being aware of purchasing power, income, and expenditures is helpful for making reasonable projections for budgeting. Also peo-

ple need to minimize all extravagant expenditures and work toward going into a saving mode. People should also be better informed by regularly tuning into the public radios and national TV, and becoming avid readers of periodical economic journals. Doing so will definitely enable any individual to make rational decisions in regards to financial planning, budgeting, and saving.

Finally, the Secretary of the Treasurer Geithner hinted in a press conference held in Washington D.C. last month that the so called "bail-out" has the potential to turn things around if and only if all parties involved honor its holistic intentions. If people do not follow the guidelines set forth, they will have the prospect of déjà vu all over again. However, to the masses, in particular new immigrants, the major issue is not whether our economy has already hit bottom or not. The lingering question is how long will it take before the economy bounces back so the many unemployed in our nation go back to work so they can afford paying their bills?

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Taariikhda Afka Soomaaliga *continued from p1*

Maxamed Al-Baraawi, Maxamed Cabdille Mayal (Berbara), Cusmaan Yuusuf Kenediid (Hoby), Sheekh Cabdiraxmaan Qaadi (Boorame), Muuse Xaaji Ismaaciil Galaal (Togdheer) iyo Dhamme J.S. King oo ahaa sarkaalka ka tirsan ciidamadii Ingiriiska.

Raggaasu dhammaantood waxay markii hore isku dayeen in qoraalka af Soomaaliga ay u adeegsadaan xarfaha af Carabiga. Laakiin dhammaantood kuma aysan guuleysan. Arrinta farsamo ee raggaas la soo deristey waxaa ugu muhiimsanaa cillad kaga timi dhinaca Shaqalada Carabiga oo dabooli kari waayay baahida luuqada Soomaaliga. Si arrintaas xal loogu helo ayaa Sheekh Maxamed Cabdi Makaahiil waxaa uu allifay qaab cusub oo shaqallo ah oo kaabaya shaqaladii farta Carabiga. Waxaa uu dhibco ku daray shaqaladii Carabiga si tusaale ahaan loo wada qori karo shaqalada gaagaaban iyo kuwa dhaadheer ee af Soomaaliga. Farta Carabiga

sida caadiga ah waxaa loo qori karaa iyada oo laga reebo xarakada. Shaqalada gaagaaban ee af Carabiga waxaa sida qaaliibka ah lagu muujiyaa xarakooyinka (vowel points). Qoraalka xarakooyinka leh ee luuqada Carabiga waxaad inta badan ku arkaysaa oo keliya kutubta diiniga ah, buuggaagta dugsiyada iyo qoraaladii waayo hore la daabacay. Laguma qoro wargesyada, buuggaagta caadiga ah iyo qoraalada ay dadku ku wada xidhiidhaan. Xarakooyinka af Carabiga waa afar nooc: kuwaas oo korka ama hoosta laga saaro si ay u muujiyaan dhawaaqa shaqalada gaaban ee **a, i, u** oo keliya. Farta Carabiga ma laha shaqalada gaaban ee **o iyo e**. Waxaa intaas dheer in aanay afka Carabiga lahayn saddexda shaqal ee dhaadheer ee kala ah: **aa, ii iyo uu**. Sidaas darteed, af Soomaaliga wey adkaaneysaa in far Carabi lagu qoro, haddii isticmaalka xarakooyinka laga reebo. Waxaa ay noqoneysaa inuu qofku ka fahmo macnaha sida weedhu u qoran tahay. Taas oo aan marar badan suu-

rogal ahayn. Dhinaca kale haddii mar walba qoraalada la raaciyo xarakooyinka iyana isticmaalkeeda ayaa adkaanaya, iyadoo weliba uu af Soomaaligu u baahan yahay in lagu daro ugu yaraan laba xarako oo dheeraad ah.

Raggii sida aadka ah ugu doodi jirey in af Soomaaliga lagu qoro farta Carabiga waxaa ka mid ahaa Sheekh Maxamed Cabdi Makaahiil. Sheekh Maxamed Cabdi Makaahiil wuxuu qoray buug la odhan jirey “The Institution of modern correspondence in Somali language.” Buugaas wuxuu hordhiciisaa ugu doodday sida ay u habboon tahay in farta Carabiga loo isticmaalo qoraalka af Soomaaliga. Sidoo kale waxaa isna doodaas oo kale soo bandhigay Dr. Ibraahim Xaashi Maxamuud oo isna qorey buug la yidhaahdo “Al Suamliyah bi Lughat al Qur’an”, kaas oo la daabacay sannadkii 1963 dii. Waxaa ay soo bandhigeen far middeysan (standard orthography) iyo qoraalo kale oo tusalooyin ah sida af Soomaaliga

ugu qormayo farta Carabiga. Waxaa intaas ka soo horjeeday culimada diinta oo u arkayay in qoraalka af Soomaaligu hoos u dhigi doono barashada af Carabiga iyo diinta Islaamka.

Maqaal uu qorey Muuse X. Ismaaciil Galaal 1954 tii ayuu isna ku soo bandhigay far ku salleysan Carabiga oo lagu qori karo af Soomaaliga. Fartaas oo uu ku kordhiyey xarfo cusub oo uu sameeyey, kuwaas oo dabooli kara baahida luuqada Soomaaliga ee shaqalada aan ku jirin farta Carabiga. Afar nooc oo loo qori karo Soomaaliga oo dhammaantood ku salleysan farta Carabiga ayaa la soo horbandhigay Guddigii Luuqada ee 1961 dii. Afartaas nooc raggii soo bandhigay iyo wakhtigii la soo saaray waxay kala ahaayeen sidatan:

1. Ibraahim Xaashi iyo Saaxiibadii 1960
2. Muuse Galaal 1952
3. Sheekh Axmed Cismaan 1960
4. Maxamed Cabdi Kheyreh 1960

Guddigii luuqada dhammaan afartaas nooc ee ku qornaa farta Carabiga midna ma aysan qaadan. Waxayna u arkeen in lagaga habboonaa qoraalka far Soomaaliga. Taariikhda iyo aqoon intan ka ballaadhan oo farahaas ku saabsan waxaad ka heli kartaa qoraal ay qoreen Andrzejewski, B.W.; Strelcyn, S. and Tubiana, J., Somalia, The writing of Somali, Paris, 1966.

...Waa socotaa!!

Contact person:
Abdulkadir Hersi
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 San Diego, CA 92115
 Tel: 619-265-2411
 www.iftincharter.org

IFTIN Charter School





The Latest News at Somali Family Service *By Paige Newman*

Things are blooming this spring at SFS! It is a busy time, with our main focuses being our programs in health services, youth and family, and economic development.

SFS has become an important force in the community, addressing gaps in healthcare and collaborating with other stakeholders and residents. The health services program, in its second year, is actively doing community assessments on health issues in the Somali senior community in cooperation with San Diego State University's Graduate School of Public Health program. This program is centered on improving access to quality health care for an underserved population suffering from language barriers, while nurturing leadership development and community advocacy.

East African Youth Organization (EAYO) is a youth-run empowerment program in which SFS has collaborated with the San Diego Police Department for several years. The mission of EAYO is to direct youth toward positive activities such as leadership training, financial education, community services and many more opportunities. Being actively engaged in the community, youth are less likely to engage in drugs and alcohol, crime and other negative

activities. **See page 1-2 for more information on EAYO.**

SFS has long worked on self-sufficiency and has implemented a number of successful projects addressing economic development, including microenterprise and employment services. Currently, our Economic Development program focuses on financial literacy, targeting underserved populations by assisting individuals and small businesses with banking, money management and savings. SFS also improves access to affordable housing among Somalis in the central region of San Diego County. Future plans include outreach and expanding the program to reach a larger audience.

Besides the three main programs mentioned and the *Taxan* newsletter, SFS is also well-known for partnering with private and public agencies to leverage resources and better serve the community. We regularly attend the San Diego Refugee Forum, Mid-City CAN Networking Council, San Diego City Schools' Somali District Meeting, and serve on the East African Advisory Board.

We are excitedly planning a Health Fair in Honor of World Refugee Day on Saturday, June 20 from 1-5 p.m. **See pg. 7 for more info.**

We could not accomplish so much without the support of the following volunteers (and many others):

- Aden Muhumed, SFS office
- Dr. Charles Bell, grant development
- Ali Artan, Editor-in-Chief for *Taxan*
- Hassan Abdirahman, technical assistance
- Rahmo Abdi, health services
- Nimo Gure, health services intern
- Nathan Bauer, resource development intern

We are grateful for our generous funders: California Endowment, Price Charities and the Parker Foundation.

If you would like any information on any of our programs, please contact Somali Family Service at **619-265-5821** or see www.somalifamilyservice.org



Taxan is sponsored by the **Somali Family Service of San Diego**
6035 University Ave., Ste. 6
San Diego, CA 92115
Tel: 619-265-5821
Email: taxan@sfssd.org

Events Calendar

Somali Family Service Health Fair in Honor of World Refugee Day.

When: Saturday, June 20, 2009 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

Where: City Heights Community Park, south of the City Heights/Weingart Branch Library 3795 Fairmount Ave., San Diego, CA 92105. For more info see page 7.

The 2009 East African Youth Annual Ceremony for high school graduates is on Sat, June 27.

Somali Youth United and Jacobs Center International Outreach Team are hosting Somali Independence Day July 18 from 2-6 p.m. at Market Creek Plaza, 310 Euclid Ave., San Diego, CA 92114. They will have food, a fashion show, live entertainment and poetry. Contact Rahmo Abdi at 619-527-6161, ext. 190 or email abdi72@yahoo.com.

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Somali Family Service Health Fair

In Honor of World Refugee Day



When: Saturday, June 20, 2009
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Where: City Heights Community Park
South of the City Heights/Weingart Branch Library
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