

IAC Mission



Indo-American Center staff and clients working together, planting flowers outside IAC.

The mission of the Indo-American Center is to promote the well being of South Asian Americans and immigrants through services that facilitate their adjustment, integration and friendship with the wider society, nurture their sense of community, and foster appreciation for their heritage and culture.

IAC Overview

The Indo-American Center was established in 1990 in response to the wide spectrum of needs in the South Asian immigrant community which included people from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. One of the fastest growing immigrant communities in the Chicago area, the South Asian immigrant population in Chicago and neighboring suburbs has doubled in the past several years. Many of its members are affluent professionals and business owners.

The Center has nearly 25,000 Client Service Contacts annually. Limited access to health care, education, employment opportunities and legal assistance are some of the many problems that low-income South Asian immigrants face in their communities. These are problems faced by many other low-income minority groups in Chicago, however a large number also lack vocational and language skills and struggle to make ends meet.

IAC Support

The Indo-American Center is supported and managed by a board of directors, staff and dedicated volunteers. Staff members coordinate the daily programs

and plan events. Volunteers ranging from young college students to retirees help conduct classes and assist staff members with special projects. Many of the Center's volunteers are from the surrounding communities and universities.

The Center operates with the help of generous donations from the community, private foundations, state grants, and active support from other community organizations. These resources, in addition to dedicated volunteers, allow the Center to offer many of the services free of charge.

IAC Involvement

The Indo-American Center is always looking for additional support and assistance from anyone that can spare time or offer donations. Volunteers are welcome to share their skills with the Center's clientele in various classes and programs. The experience is richly rewarding and often leads to long term friendships.



An ESL volunteer assists her students with English vocabulary and grammar during class.

Additionally, the newly created Leadership 21 (L21) Junior Board, consisting of young South Asian professionals, is a highly energized voluntary group that lends additional support to the Center's ongoing commitment to serving the community. The L21 Board is committed to helping the Center extend its outreach

services and assist with volunteer development opportunities.

For those short on time but still wanting to provide support, a tax-deductible donation can help sustain and improve the scope and quality of services the Center offers.

Programs and Services

Immigration & Citizenship Assistance

- Walk-in assistance with Immigration questions and forms
- Naturalization/Citizenship Application review and assistance

Adult Literacy Program

- English classes (4 levels)
- One-on-one tutoring
- Focus on reading, writing, speaking and listening skills
- Morning & evening classes available

Civics Program

- US history and government tutoring
- Mock citizenship interviews
- Meetings with local Representatives (by appointment only)
- Voter registration

Senior Citizens Program

- Senior Citizens exercise
- Arts and crafts
- Cultural information sessions and field trips
- Health seminars

Computer literacy classes

- Basic typing classes
- E-mail setup, Web browsing
- Microsoft Office tutorials

Cyriac D. Kappil Legal Aid Clinic

- Free monthly clinic for low income families
- Second Saturday of each month

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Programs and Services continued:

Youth Services

- After school academic tutoring and recreation
- Annual Summer Fun Program
- Youth Advisory Council (YAC)
- Inter-generational dialogue and forums

Public Benefits Assistance

- All-Kids Health Coverage Information
- Medicaid, Cash, Food Stamps Applications and Case Management
- Social Security/Medicare Benefits Assistance (SSI, Retirement Benefits)
- Disability Benefits Assistance
- Information and Referrals to support services

Outreach Programs

- Workshops on South Asia for education and public school classrooms
- Diversity training and facilitation
- Neighborhood Tours of Devon Avenue and West Ridge



Seniors and Youth Program students work together during an inter-generational event at the IAC in April 2007.

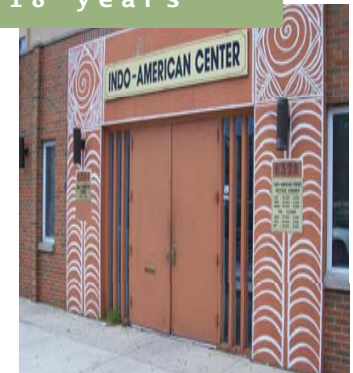


A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Community Service Organization serving the South Asian Community for over 18 years

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Hours

Monday-Saturday 10:00am-5:00pm

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