

## MOSAIC

NEWCOMER FAMILY  
RESOURCE NETWORK

### FAST FACTS

Mosaic offers  
parenting programs for  
newcomer  
parents all year long.

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### Contributors:

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- Val Cavers
- Stephanie Stetefeld
- Laura De la Rosa
- Muriel Chisholm
- Xin Bing Shen
- Jean Tinling
- Barbara Coombs

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# Mosaic Minder

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## My Short and Beautiful Time at Mosaic

**M**y family arrived in Canada (Winnipeg) in January 2014. It took more than a month to get a place as an EAL student at Mosaic after I took WELARC's English benchmark test because of unavailable childcare for my 2 year old son. However, as I later on discover, it was worth the wait.

I got a phone call from Stephanie that there is a space for me as well as for my son. After completing all formalities and registration, we talked things about my previous work experiences as kindergarten teacher and Stephanie suggested it will be a good idea to volunteer in the future to the childcare facility at Mosaic. I was really impressed and excited about the idea. Shortly, I started taking English classes in April 2014 and all the teachers were very nice to me. Their comments and encouragement helped me very much to improve my English language skills in short period of time.

I started volunteering as child care assistant at Mosaic in May 2014 for 2 days a week and got a very good feedback from the Mosaic staff. They were telling me that I am doing a very good job with the childcare program and that meant a lot to me. I also took most of the other programs offered at Mosaic such as Positive Discipline, Playback Theatre, Wiggle Giggle and Munch, Parent-child Mother Goose and many more. These programs have broadened my skills not only in my parent-child relationship but in facilitating programs as well.

Soon, I got a wonderful email from Kym that says she has heard a lot of good qualities about me from Mosaic staffs and offered a two week job to replace a worker and I was very happy.



*Menbere and Sandra (Top L-R) with some babies dressed up at our River Heights location.*

But a few days later, I signed a one year contract as a child care assistant at the Bethel location as of September 2014. Moreover, Melinda's and Shamail's excellent recommendations also gave me an opportunity to work as co-facilitator for the Wiggle Giggle and Munch program. I worked in Mosaic for three short but memorable months because of my family having to move to Steinbach.

I am leaving Mosaic with one eye crying and another laughing. I will never forget the treatments and hospitality of the Mosaic staff. As I said earlier, the long wait finally resulted as a dream come true. Thank you very much for making the beginning of my Canadian life easy and memorable. I know Mosaic will always remain a gateway to success for newcomers.

- Menbere Gezahegn Mengesha

## Mosaic to Double (Almost) in Size!

**T**his summer Mosaic was successful in negotiating an expansion with our main funder, Citizenship and Immigration Canada. The space next to our main location on Carlton Street is about 3,200 square feet, almost as big as our current space!

The renovations will be completed in January and will include an expanded childcare room and add a much needed baby room. This will allow us to take 6 more children ages 19 months – 5 years, and 4 children ages 6 months to 19 months. There is a very high need for more childcare spaces for parents studying English downtown, so we are very happy to be able to improve wait times for ESL students in this community. We will be able to take some students off of our ESL waitlist and get them into our ESL classes, and their children into our fantastic childcare program.

The new space will also improve our family programs by providing a large family room, with a window! We will have some additional office space, a staff lounge and more storage.

We are also very fortunate to have Avenue Living as the building owners. Avenue Living has been very supportive of Mosaic, and held the space for us until we were able to confirm with CIC, even though they had another offer at the same time.

Stay tuned for program updates, and a chance to celebrate with us in 2015!

- Val Cavers

## Basic Computer Training Offered!

**Date: Jan 14th – Feb 4th, 2015**

**When: Wednesday, 1:00 - 2:30 pm**

**Where: Entry Program, 259 Portage Avenue**

To register call **(204) 944-0133**

or **in person** at the address above

(Capacity is limited. Registration is on

first come first served basis.)

## Koats for Kids



*Koats for Kids volunteers from Great West Life.*

**E**very year, from October to February, the program distributes winter outerwear to families. Thanks to the Great West Life volunteers: Socorro Licarte, Joan Presto, Laura Wetton, Kelley Malowski for delivering a whole pile of winter clothes for our students! Hopefully we all will stay warm this winter!

- Stephanie Stetefeld

## Student Story

**H**ere is a story about a man who came from China. He came into this world on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 1970 and is the youngest of five children. He never thought that he would immigrate to another country. However, he dropped his career as a banker and came to Canada because he loves his son and wanted him to have the best life he could live and a good future.

It has been seven years since his wife and son arrived in Winnipeg. For a living, he is working in a restaurant and works so hard every day. Now and then, he likes to go fishing and take photos. He now changed his line of thinking about the fact that living in Canada was not as better as he had imagined.

Everything can be restarted; Everything has possibility. More and more he loves his life as a Canadian even though he is just a Permanent Resident. He also believes that he is the best father in this world. Let me tell you who he is. His full name is Xin Bing Shen and he is me.

- Xin Bing Shen is a student at Bethel.

CanadaHelps is a charitable organization dedicated to help other charities in Canada. Their website has a database of organizations that people can give donations to. You can now give to Mosaic through CanadaHelps. For more information, visit their website and search for Mosaic. [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org)



## Parent-Child Mother Goose

**P**arent-Child Mother Goose is the latest addition to Mosaic's continuously growing list of programs available to the community. Parent Child Mother Goose makes it possible for those parents with young children to have the opportunity to participate in a specially designed program that will help them build strong and healthy relationships with their little ones. Through this early literacy program parents and children can enhance bonding and establish the basis for mutual attachment.

This program introduces stories, rhymes and songs in English and in their own language, so parents and children share together in a fun and friendly environment, encouraging their language and communication skills. Healthy snacks, crafts, games and active play time are all included in this amazing and positive experience.

As a PCMG program facilitator, I enjoy watching the interaction between parents and children when they let their imagination take them to their own magical world, strengthening their connections and bringing them even closer.

Thank you Mosaic for giving me the opportunity to witness the effects and benefits this program can have on our newcomer families.



*Laura (centre) with her participants in one of her PCMG sessions.*

*- Laura De la Rosa, Family Room Coordinator*

## Volunteer Profile: Eh Wah



**E**h Wah was born in Burma. She came to Canada in June 2007. Her first 2 years were spent in Toronto, but when her husband got a job in Winnipeg, they moved here in 2009.

Eh Wah says that, in the beginning, she learned English by listening.

Her daughter Juslina was born in 2011 and she began to take part in some of the Mosaic family programs: "Nobody's Perfect" and "Wiggle Giggle Munch", which were a lot of fun and a good way to meet new people. When she took "Bounce Back and Thrive" and met Jean, she was introduced to the other side of Mosaic – the English Language Classes.

Eh Wah started classes in 2013 and finds that her English is improving all the time, and she finds it easier to communicate with people.

Eh Wah is now a volunteer in one of the family programs, Wiggle Giggle Munch at John M King School, and says that she finds Mosaic to be such an interesting place, full of friendly people, with staff from all over the world.

*- Muriel Chisholm.*



# Positive Discipline Training in Dadaab Refugee Camp, Kenya



I have just returned from my fourth trip to East Africa to train facilitators in Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting. This trip was back to Kenya to reconnect with the group from Dadaab Refugee Camp. It was made possible through the support of Save the Children Sweden, Save the Children Kenya, and a grant from Grand Challenges Canada. The training was in the city of Garissa, located about 90 kilometers from the camp. With a population of approximately 500,000 people, Dadaab is the largest refugee camp in the world and has been in existence for over 20 years.

When I return from these trips to Kenya, Ethiopia and Tanzania I am asked by many to describe my experiences. I can show photos and talk about the training but can never find words to share how my heart is touched by the people I meet. One of the participants in the Garissa training offered to share his story. I think perhaps Ojulu's words will touch everyone.



*Jean with the Positive Discipline Training group in Dadaab Refugee Camp.*

My full Name: Ojulu Obang Cham  
My wife Name: Chadi Okony Obad  
My Child name: Kwayilea Ojulu Obang

I was born in Elia village in Gambella Region, located in south western part of Ethiopia. In 1990, I joined my primary class in Itang district and completed my secondary education in the year 2001. I joined Nursing collage the same year and graduated from Gambella Nursing College on November 2002 and I have been awarded with nursing certificate.

On January 2003, I was employed in the government hospital and I worked there till December 2003 because of the mass killing on our tribe by the Government of Ethiopia. In 2003, me and my wife and brother fled the country crossing southern Sudan to Kenya, where I am currently living. Life was so difficult in the refugee camp and we have started building houses where we can live and we managed to do it.

In 2007, we got our baby boy; me and my wife became very happy for our new born baby. However, taking care of the baby was not easy for us since it was our first time to have the baby. So we just tried our best.

Food was a challenge for us because the ration we use to receive from World Food Program/WFP was not enough for feeding. It is only three kilogram of maize, white flour and beans given for fifteen days. Due to lack of food, the child used to cry everyday and he does not understand what is going on and when he cries we use to react. It also became so difficult for us when my older brother died in 2012 in the camp due to the sickness.

Since I joined positive Discipline in everyday Parenting program, my family life has changed, Me and my wife understood how to respond to the child positively with a happy face. Our child is now happy and used to us talking positively.

I am so pleased with this program and I will continue to share with the others so that they can achieve their children's Long-term goals.

My dream is to be a doctor in the future and to help my people who are still suffering from different diseases. I also want my wife to be a Doctor too and my son to be a pilot.

Thanks,

Ojulu Obang Cham (IFO, Dadaab refugee camp, Kenya )



Ojulu Obang Cham's family.



The daily task of gathering water from the camp water tap.



## Fall Mingle '14

**Y**ou should have been there! Bethel Mennonite Church was overrun with our students and their families on the morning of October 24<sup>th</sup>. On this Friday morning when the public schools were closed, Mosaic ESL and Family Programs staff organized a jam-packed morning of mingling and fun.

At the Fall Mingle, our students are able to learn with their children while meeting students from other Mosaic sites. Participants busily moved through the learning stations playing games, making crafts, doing puzzles, eating snacks, and sharing smiles.

Thank you to our volunteers for their tireless work that morning. Our special thanks, too, to Frontier College for generously donating books, volunteers, and materials. And finally, thank you to the staff at Bethel Mennonite Church for allowing us the space to play in.

*Student quote: When looking at the family tree, "It was just like I was up there on the tree with everyone"*

- Barbara Coombs



*Family Hand Tree (photo taken by B. Coombs)*



*Flag Making (photo taken by S. McDougall)*



*Yoga (photo taken by H. Xie)*





Matching Cards



Children's Parachute



Puzzles



Big Floor Games

- photos taken by S. McDougall





**Potluck Party for Flo at Immanuel**

**Welcome Baby Amira**



**Pumpkin Carving at Fort Garry**

**Hon. Peter Bjornson visiting Family Programs**



**Wedding Shower for Marie at ERA Bistro**

*Thank you!*

**THE WINNIPEG FOUNDATION**



for generously supporting  
Mosaic's Family Programs

# ***Mosaic Fall Photos***