

Inside this
issue:

KOSD 3 Year
Anniversary 1

KOSD Retreat
with Board, Staff,
and Leaders 1

Karen New Year
2015 2

Holiday Toy Drive
and Year End
Campaign 2

KOSD 's Event
Calendar
(December 2014) 2

KOSD 3 Year Anniversary

November 11, 2014



First of all, we are pleased to announce that KOSD has been awarded the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)'s Ethnic Community Self Help Grant for another three years! With an increased overall budget, KOSD nearly doubled its original office space and has started some new programs for women's empowerment, senior engagement, and economic self-sufficiency.

KOSD was first awarded the Ethnic Community Self-Help Grant three years ago. Since then KOSD has provided more than 500 individuals with essential case management services, 200 youth with a wide variety of youth-focused programs, and a job development program to 150 individuals. Also, during the past 3 years, there were more than 15,000 office visits for individual case management issues and job development programs alone.

To celebrate these successes and look forward to the next year of organizational growth, more than 300 community members and supporters gathered on November 11, 2014 to celebrate KOSD's 3 Year Anniversary. Community leaders and

youth leaders gave all of us encouragement to keep moving forward as a community- and everybody enjoyed home-made traditional foods from Burma. Thank you so much everybody for your continuous support. Your support, thoughtfulness, encouragement, positive energy, and smile means a lot to KOSD. KOSD will keep moving forward with all of you in this beautiful community!



KOSD Retreat with Board, Staff, and Leaders

September 28, 2014

KOSD hosted a retreat on September 28, 2014 to plan for our continued growth. Board members, staff, community leaders, and youth leaders gathered in Jamul, where KOSD has received a donation of 2.5 arable acres of land for use as a culturally appropriate job development program (G.R.O.W.I.N.G Program). With a wonderful facilitator, Liz Shear from the University of San Diego, our group clarified our vision for the future.

Youth focused on how to deepen ties with their parents, improve their

education, and improve the whole community. Community Leaders focused on how they can work together to create even better self-help system in the community. And, KOSD board and staff discussed how we can all work together to improve and even expand various KOSD programs. All of us had the same wish; we want to keep KOSD running in coming years.

As you can see in our retreat, KOSD is a community organizations where board, staff, community leaders, and youth leaders have been

working together to bring better programs and visions for the community. This is exactly why KOSD is unique, and why KOSD has been such an important part of the community of refugees from Burma in San Diego.



KOSD's Event Calendar

Now through December 22:

KOSD Holiday Toy Drive
(Please drop off toy/gifts at KOSD 9-5 pm, Monday-Friday)

December 12:

Women's Empowerment group field trip to Women's Museum of California

December 17:

Last Day of After School Tutoring Program for 2014 and Volunteer Appreciation Party (2:00-3:00 PM)

December 20:

Karen New Year Sports Tournament at Colina Del Sol Park (8:00 - 4:00 PM)

December 21:

Community Leaders Committee and Youth Leaders Joint Meeting (5:00 - 7:00 PM)

December 23:

KOSD Holiday Toy/ Gift Distribution (All Day)

First Generation Youth Program: Canta! Timor, movie (screening (12-3PM)

Karen New Year 2015

Date: Saturday, January 10, 2015
Time: 10am—2pm
Location: Colina Del Sol Park
Address: 5319 Orange Avenue, San Diego, CA 92115

In the Karen state of Burma, this is the most important celebration of the year, and is meant to preserve tradition and the culture inherited from Karen ancestors. The Karen New Year celebration includes Don Dance and other traditional dances, music, and fashion shows. We welcome all San Diegans to join our community members from Burma to preserve this beautiful

culture in a new land! If you would like to see photos from our previous Karen New Year events, you can check out the archive on the KOSD website for an array of inspirational images.

Interested in being a sponsor? Even \$100 can sponsor a Karen dance group to perform at the Karen New Year event.

Contact: nao@karensandiego.org



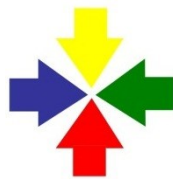
Holiday Toy Drive and Year End Campaign

Now through December 22, 2014, KOSD is hosting the Holiday Toy Drive. Please help us spread the holiday cheer for refugee youth from Burma in San Diego (12 years or younger). Please drop off new or gently used toys or gifts to our office during the business hours. Gift distribution day is December 23, 2014.

This giving season, also consider a tax-deductible donation to the Karen Organization of San

Diego. Your support helps our community thrive. If you'd like to learn more about giving opportunities, please contact Nao Kabashima. You can make a donation at our website, www.karensandiego.org or send a check to the Karen Organization of San Diego, 5354 University Ave #1, San Diego CA 92105. We would be happy to personally meet with you to discuss the impact we are having in San Diego.

All of us at KOSD wish you heartfelt joy this holiday season and a new year full of love, health and happiness! Thank you for your support!



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The Karen Organization of San Diego was established in 2009 to meet the needs of Karen and other ethnic minority groups from Burma who reside in San Diego. Karen Organization of San Diego is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our primary purpose is to provide social services and opportunities for culture preservation for the Karen and other ethnic minority groups from Burma who reside in San Diego to improve their quality of life.

If you would like to know more about KOSD, or are interested in partnering with us, feel free to give us a call, or e-mail us at info@karensandiego.org.