

Gulfton Neighbors

Welcome to Gulfton Neighbors!

Gulfton is an exciting place, filled with sights and sounds of people from around the world.

Gulfton is a place to live. A place to work. A place to call home.

Neighborhood Centers Inc. is proud to be part of Gulfton. We've been here for 25 years, helping build and strengthen the community through the services we provide.

And we have plans to do even more in the years to come, as Gulfton continues to grow and prosper. That's why we created this newsletter. It will serve as a resource for the people of Gulfton, helping to share the news and stories of our community, our people and our lives.

Welcome to the first issue of Gulfton Neighbors, your neighborhood newsletter.

Alliance offers valuable support for Gulfton residents

The Alliance for Multicultural Community Services is one of Gulfton's most valuable resources.

The Alliance helps improve the quality of life for refugees, immigrants and low-income residents of our neighborhood by providing family and social services.

Since its founding in 1986, the Alliance has helped more than 75,000 people, many of them recent arrivals to Gulfton, with services such as employment assistance, health screenings, social orientation, school enrollment, economic development tools, family enrichment programs and more.

One of the Alliance's most popular programs is its English as a Second Language class, which is offered throughout the day free of charge.

For more information, call 713-776-4700.

Changing the world by building a better neighborhood

Hamid Razavi left his native Iran at age 18, moving to the United States to continue his education.

Like many immigrants, he faced a world that was completely different from the one he left behind.

But he eventually overcame the language and cultural barriers to earn three degrees – including a PhD in political science – and develop successful businesses.

He never returned to Iran, as originally planned. But he hasn't forgotten what it was like to be a new American.

Today, Razavi and his wife, Dr. Forough Farzani, serve thousands of new immigrants each year through their medical practice, Hillcroft Physicians, located in the center of the Gulfton community.

"This is a neighborhood of hard-working people who have come here for a better life," says Razavi. "It's a thriving population that has tremendous appreciation for what they have and what the country offers."

"But they sometimes don't have the means to care for health problems, and it's not just a financial issue. It's culture, language ... a range of obstacles. That's where we can help. We provide the services they need all in one place, from pediatricians to elder care, dentistry, X-rays, a pharmacy. It's easy to access and convenient."

When Hillcroft Physicians opened in 1994, doctors there saw 16 patients the first week – about three a day.

In 2004, more than 100,000 Gulfton-area residents came to the facility for treatment. In total, they represented nearly 50 different nationalities. Those numbers are the result of the community's trust in the doctors and staff.

Razavi says his goal is to expand the services offered to Gulfton residents by collaborating with agencies such as Neighborhood Centers Inc. He plans to continue working toward that goal over the next few years.

It's about giving back, he says.

"My goal was always to go back to Iran and become a political leader," he remembers. "But life taught me a lesson here. In order to change the world, you have to start with your neighborhood – your family, your friends, your neighbors, the area where you live and work. Let's change the world by building a better community ... that's what we're trying to do here."



Razavi



OYE! We want to hear from you

Do you have a suggestion or idea for Gulfton Neighbors? Or a question about Neighborhood Centers Inc.? We want to hear from you!

Your input will make Gulfton Neighbors an even stronger resource for the community. Call Oriana Garcia at 713-669-5228. We're listening!



Upcoming Events

The BRIDGE/EL PUENTE events:

Napoleon Square Apartments, 6114 Renwick Drive, Apt 199B, 713-592-0288

ESL (English as a second language) classes	8:30 - 11am or 6 - 9pm	M-Th
El Civic classes (English literacy and civics education)	11 - Noon	M-W
Computer classes	or 6 - 9pm Noon - 1:30pm or 6 - 7:30pm	Tues T or Th Tues
PACT (Parent and child time together classes)	12:30 - 2pm	Wed
Early Childhood education classes (ages 0 to 7 years)	8:30am - 2pm	M-Th
Parenting classes (ESCAPE Family Resource Center)	9 - 11am	Fri

Other events:

Head Start and Early Head Start enrollment
Accepting applications - To locate the center closest to you, call 713-273-3211
Service Providers Meeting 11:30am Wed 5/25/05
4500 Bissonnet, Suite 200,
Call Ramiro Guzman, 713-314-3551

City of Houston event:

Campo del Sol summer camp program (free for eligible youth)
Burnett Bayland Park
Call Jessie Gutierrez, 713-314-3554
June 6, 1st session
July 11, 2nd session

Houston Police Department event:

PIP: Positive Interaction Program
4th Tues every month
5980 Renwick/HPD storefront, Contact Officer Parker, 713-668-4141

Gulfton Area Healthcare Service Providers:

CHRISTUS SW Community Health Center

6441 High Star, 713-779-6400

Hillcroft Physicians, P.A.

6400 Hillcroft, 713-771-7373

MHMRA Early Childhood Intervention Program

6125 Hillcroft, 713-970-4800

Planned Parenthood of Houston in SE Texas

6121 Hillcroft, Suite O, 713-541-5372

People's Health Center, Harris Co Hosp Dist

6630 DeMoss Dr., 713-272-2600

Texas Children's Pediatric Associates - Gulfton

5900 Chimney Rock, Suite Y, 713-661-2951

WIC - University Clinic, Programa de Nutricion

6565 DeMoss Dr., Suite 111, 713-779-5846

GANO/CARECEN, A Shining Star

The Gulfton Area Neighborhood Association/Central American Refugee Center (GANO/CARECEN) is a shining star in our community. This non-profit organization offers a variety of immigration legal services, plus a host of others focused on youth development, education and family services. GANO/CARECEN also has a day laborer site in conjunction with The City of Houston. If you'd like to learn more about this group and the many services it provides to the Gulfton community, please call 713-665-1284.



NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS INC.
LIFTING HEARTS. BUILDING FUTURES.