VISION:
To help make Montgomery County a thriving multicultural community where every resident feels welcomed, participates civically, and contributes positively to the economy.

MISSION:
To be Montgomery County Government’s welcome center where the County’s diverse population can be connected to public and private services, volunteering, civic engagement, cross cultural activities, and economic empowerment.

WHAT IS THE GILCHRIST CENTER?
A WELCOME CENTER
A LEARNING CENTER
AN INFORMATION & RESOURCE CENTER
A CELEBRATION OF MULTICULTURALISM
A SPACE TO BUILD COMMUNITY
WE CONNECTED CLIENTS TO RESOURCES THROUGH DIRECT AND REFERRED SERVICES.

9,115

gained English as a Second Language (ESOL), Spanish or computer skills in volunteer-taught Gilchrist classes

8,490

referred to services by phone or in person

4,237

served through partners at Gilchrist Centers

118

number of classes taught this year

2015 HIGHLIGHTS

• Opened an East County Office

• Expanded partnership with Montgomery College in East County

• Strengthened partnership with MCPS International Admissions Office for summer outreach
  ◦ Assisted 794 minors and their families
  ◦ Connected 220 families directly to programs/services offered by government and NGOs

WE LINKED CLIENTS TO PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS TO MEET THEIR NEEDS

• 1,400+ colleagues provided with up-to-date information through Community News & Announcements.

• 3,000+ people served through partnerships with:
  ◦ Montgomery College,
  ◦ Literacy Council of Montgomery County,
  ◦ Montgomery County Bar Foundation, and
  ◦ Baltimore City Community College Citizenship Program

• Promoted immigrants’ needs and activism via Quarterly Network meetings with 40+ organizations.

• The Gilchrist Center participated in more than 12 events and informed the general public of services, for example:
  ◦ World of Montgomery Festival
  ◦ MCPS Back to School Fair
  ◦ Taste of Wheaton
  ◦ Ama Tu Vida Multicultural Health Festival
  ◦ World Refugee Day
  ◦ MCPS International Admissions

“Gilchrist [Center] has [a] good method to learn, [and is a] good place to study. [It] help[ed] me get citizenship and get me improve in English...Teachers and staff are good.”
– Student, Gilchrist Center 2015
Gilchrist Center [is a] pioneer that makes [an] unfamiliar person to give [an] initial ... boost-up.

– Student, Gilchrist Center 2015
The Gilchrist Center thanks all the volunteers who have given their time, enthusiasm, understanding and energy to our work. We have succeeded in all we have done thanks to you!

JOIN US IN OUR WORK!

Become an ambassador for your community and welcome our new neighbors! Contact 240.777.4940 for more information. Or download the application from from the Gilchrist Center’s website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist.

Contact Information:
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Nestor Alvarenga, Up-County Representative
Daniel Koroma, East County Representative

Main Number: 240.777.4940
Web: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist
E-mail: Gilchrist.Center@montgomerycountymd.gov
Facebook: GilchristCenterForCulturalDiversity

Locations:
Headquarters: Mid-County Regional Services Center
2424 Reede Drive, Suite 220, Wheaton, MD 20902
240.777.4940

Wheaton Library Site:
11701 Georgia Avenue, Wheaton, MD 20902
240.777.4950

Gaithersburg Library Site:
18330 Montgomery Village Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20879
240.777.4960

Upcounty Regional Services Center Site:
12900 Middlebrook Road, Germantown, MD 20874
240.777.6950

East County Regional Services Center Site
3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring MD 20904
240-777-8406

STUDENTS SAY, "THE GILCHRIST CENTER HELPED ME..."

• By providing information as well as a chance to enroll in classes which we need.
• So that I am no longer afraid of the English language.
• Know about services by Gilchrist Center. Then I choose the service I need.

• Improve as well as upgrade my ability for independence.
• Learn to write my resume and cover letter, and prepare for a successful interview.
• So that I was able to write this letter because of the class at the Gilchrist Center.

Credits:
Photos and Text: Heather Ritchie
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