



Join us at our upcoming events!

THE ETHIOPIAN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF CHARLOTTE (ECAC) PRESENTS:
ETHIOPIAN NEW YEAR CELEBRATION
SOCCER game
 HARRISBURG SOCCER COMPLEX
 8045 HARRISBURG RD, CHARLOTTE, NC 28215
 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2023 | 7AM
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THE ETHIOPIAN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF CHARLOTTE (ECAC) PRESENTS:
ETHIOPIAN NEW YEAR CELEBRATION
 PROVIDENCE DAY SCHOOL
 5800 SARDIS RD, CHARLOTTE, NC 28270
 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2023 | 10AM
 መልካም አዲስ ዓመት!
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"አሁኑን ከእኛ ጋር"
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 ቡድን ተጋባኝ ነው!
 በየሳምንቱ እቃድ Freedom Park Tennis Courts
 5:00 - 7:30 PM እንገናኝ!
 ያዝንዳ ዳታግራም ኮንስትራክሽን ከሃ ጋር (Be with us on Sunday)*

Community Highlight - Robel Mamo

In this edition of our Newsletter, we feature Ato Robel Mamo, founder of Community Kitchen Program (CKP), a local non-profit organization that is making a very positive impact on our community



Q: Hello Robel. Please introduce yourself.

My name is Robel Mamo, and I have lived in the Charlotte area for 5 years. I moved here from the Maryland area, which is where I first moved to from my home country of Ethiopia.

I'm a passionate advocate for community development and empowerment. Over the years, wherever I've lived, I have been actively involved in various initiatives that strive to provide individuals information and resources that will ultimately enable them to grow and control their success in life.



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Newsletter

ETHIOPIAN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF CHARLOTTE & SURROUNDING AREAS (ECAC)

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August 2023

Community Highlight - Robel Mamo (Cont.)

Q: Can you also give a brief overview of CKP? What is its mission? How did you decide to start it? Who is eligible for the program?

The CKP, which stands for Community Kitchen Program, is a program with mission to provide free culinary certifications, skills, restaurant education, and workforce training to those in need of job placement.

This program creates job security and helps individuals build a career in cuisine. At Community Kitchen, we use food as a powerful tool to give each student the ability to craft their own unique culinary skills.

Our education program opens doors to those in need, providing jobs and building their careers. Our outreach is broad because we want to serve as many people in need as possible across the Charlotte community.

CKP provides meals to the homeless, senior citizens, refugees, youth programs, first responders, and others in need. As for eligibility, CKP is open to all members of the community, regardless of age or background. We strongly believe in the inclusive power of education.

Q: How many individuals have gone through the program to date? How have their lives been changed?

Since its inception, CKP has empowered over 28 individuals through its various programs. The impact has been significant, with participants gaining new skills, increased confidence, and a sense of belonging. Many have successfully transitioned to better employment opportunities or pursued further education as a result of their participation.

Q: What is your future vision for CKP?

Looking ahead, we envision CKP expanding its reach and impact. We plan to establish partnerships with local businesses and organizations to create more opportunities for practical training and job placement. Additionally, building a community training school.

Q: What are your thoughts about ECAC (The Ethiopian Community Association of Charlotte)? How long have you known about it? How are you connected to the organization?

I've known about ECAC for few years now and have always admired the organization's commitment to empowering the Ethiopian community. I became more closely connected after attending events focused on community development. Since then, I've been inspired by the work ECAC does and the positive change it brings to our community. That inspired me to join the ECAC board and join in serving the community.

Q: What can ECAC do to better serve our community? How will you assist?

ECAC has a strong foundation, but there's always room for growth. One suggestion would be to facilitate more networking opportunities for community members, fostering collaboration and the sharing of ideas. I would be more than willing to assist by organizing workshops or seminars focused on skill development and community engagement.

Get in Touch!

704-286-1332 

contact@ethiopiancommunityofcharlotte.com 

www.ethiopiancommunityofcharlotte.com 

www.instagram.com/ECAC_CLT 

www.facebook.com/ECACL T 

Q: Do you have any other messages for the local Ethiopian community?

To our vibrant Ethiopian community, I want to emphasize the power of unity and education. Together, we can uplift each other and overcome challenges. Let's continue supporting one another's dreams and aspirations, as every individual's success contributes to the growth of our entire community.

We would like to thank Ato Robel for his service to our community and for taking the time for this interview.

For more information: communitykitchenclt.org
www.instagram.com/ckppineapple

