

## WFWP Ohio partners for All Together Cultural Fair in Columbus

Nadya Hinson  
May 4, 2019



The central city of activity for WFWP in Ohio is the Columbus area near the middle of the state. Columbus has a long history of welcoming diverse cultures, races and religions. International Voluntary Organizations (IVO) is a nonprofit that started in 1992, the same year as WFWP, to honor and recognize the richness of the diversity in Columbus starting with an event which created a Peace Garden in the city's central park, Franklin Park. Over the years, various national groups joined in the vision of planting a flowering tree representing their original homelands.

WFWP and IVO have initiated a new endeavor to address the current environmental crisis which calls for many trees to be planted and replaced in areas that are devoid of vegetation. Trees are necessary for the planet, Mother Earth, to be able to breathe. If trees and plants don't absorb carbon dioxide and give back oxygen, all organic life will not be able to live, including human beings. The United Nations initiated the Billion Tree Campaign with this same message.

When Licking Heights School District invited us to participate in their cultural awareness fair, "[All Together Cultural Fair](#)", at the High School on May 4th, 2019, WFWP and IVO decided to introduce the One Billion Tree campaign in keeping with the tradition of the Peace Garden in Columbus. In our minds, every tree planted is an expression of peace: peace starts with me! We had little trees, pots and soil for families to plant a tree to take home or put in a place that needs a tree.

Another project we are doing in the community is to share the art of quilting as a way to join together and to create a story through the use of fabric. Stay tuned to hear more about our upcoming events!

## Licking Heights comes 'All Together' for culture, diversity celebration

Craig McDonald, Newark Advocate  
May 22, 2019

**Newark Advocate.**



Licking Heights students (seated from left) Katelyn Scites, Abigail Nicol, Tori King and Ellie Lewis were offering balloon animals and Chinese character writing at the May 4 event. (Photo: Craig McDonald/The Standard)



Fair attendees had the opportunity to sample an array of foods and desserts from various cultures. (Photo: Craig McDonald/The Standard)



Licking Heights Schools celebrated diversity within the district with its annual "All Together Cultural Fair" on May 4.

Touted as a celebration of "One day; one world; one community," participants from the district's diverse student and parent population gathered at Licking Heights High School to savor a buffet of ethnic foods and desserts from the Latino, Nepali and Somali cultures and more, as well as to play games and observe cultural exhibits.

The event, sponsored by the district and the Licking County Foundation, also included bounce houses, games and food trucks in the school parking lot.

Lisa Kraemer, director of people services for Licking Heights Local Schools, said there would also be face- and henna-painting and a performance by the OSU Chinese Folk Music Orchestra.

There were also a number of tables set up where current students could talk with fellow students about joining the "Global Scholars Diploma Program," which focuses on "teaching cultural appreciation, learning about conflicting cultures, building communication skills," and "learning about global careers."

Other organizations were offering introductions to their programming as well, including the International Voluntary Organizations, "A Consortium of Voluntary Organizations with Global Perspectives Seeking to Improve the Quality of Life in Local Communities."



*Randi Bradley, Anjana Poudyel, Bipana Basnet and Christina Mickelson were promoting the Global Scholars Diploma Program. (Photo: Craig McDonald/The Standard)*

Others were using the event as an opportunity to try and promote creation of a community garden, and giving away free trees, including Rose-of-Sharon and Buckeye trees.

"The day," Kraemer said, "Is just a great way to bring the community together."

Tina Pierce, who is with "Worth," with whom Licking Heights and other central Ohio School districts consult on diversity matters, agreed, "We wanted to acknowledge the diversity in our community and this global community." She called the event, very "encouraging."