



## Multicultural performances, food, and games featured at Hillcrest event

By OYA Communications  
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African drumming, Mexican street tacos, and international education booths were a few of the items featured Aug. 27 at Hillcrest Youth Correctional Facility’s annual Multicultural Celebration.

Nearly 150 youth from Hillcrest, MaLaren, Camp Riverbend, and Camp Florence participated in the event, along with 66 family visitors. Youth, their families, and staff enjoyed a festive day together while learning about other cultures.

About 15 community members performed at the event, including Obo Addy Legacy Project African drummers, Chinelo dancers from the Comparsa Orgullo Morelense Cemiatic heritage group, and an Irish pipe musician. Ten Hillcrest and MaLaren youth also performed a Maori haka dance.

Cultural food included street tacos, Pacific Islander cuisine, Native American fry bread, Korean spicy noodles, shaved ice, corn on the cob, chicharrones con cueritos (a traditional snack served at Mexican fairs), and Spam musubi (a traditional Hawaiian snack). Attendees also participated in a spicy food eating contest, sack race, and water balloon toss competition; and had the opportunity to visit educational booths about Puerto Rico, Korea, Germany, Portland Community College, and the OYA Family Advisory Council.



*Chinelo dancers from Comparsa Orgullo Morelense Cemiatic perform with Obo Addy African dancer Bernard Okuley Tetteh (with flag), who was inspired to join their dance after hearing the music.*



*Maria Chavez-Haroldson (left), manager of OIIR, and OYA director Fariborz Pakseresht pose with Falia Pineda, who made tacos at the event. Pineda, the mother of a former OYA youth, offered her restaurant services for the event at a low cost. The event was on her granddaughter’s birthday, but she wanted to be at the celebration because “it’s not every day the youth have tacos.”*