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## Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony hosts 16th annual potluck

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Anyone new to the greater Holland area can meet lots of new people at the 16th annual Community Potluck, hosted by members of the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony. The potluck is 1-4 p.m. Sunday at Dunton Park.

"We like to have people come out and see their old friends, but we also want to meet new people in the community, too," said Ann Weller, a long-time ACEH member. "If they know anyone new to the community or to the United States, invite them."

Founded in 1999 in Holland ACEH is a 501(c)3 nonprofit focused on cross-cultural understanding and diversity appreciations, as well as equal opportunity and justice issues. Members organize social events, outreach and other activities to further ACEH goals.

New residents, she said, "are always surprised there's an organization like ACEH. There's a wide variety of people in Holland," she said. Last year, the picnic drew several dozen people and quite a few Holland City Council candidates and city officials.

The potluck, set for Sunday afternoon at Dunton Park, offers a wealth of children's activities, from balloon animals and fun contests to arts and crafts. Admission is free, but organizers ask that each attendee bring some kind of dish to pass, preferably one that reflects the attendee's own culture. Part of the fun is learning the stories behind each shared dish.

The picnic is a rain-or-shine event. In addition to enjoying a laid-back afternoon in the park, the potluck is a chance for those curious about ACEH to learn more. It's a no-pressure deal. One of the newest members, Holland High student Maurice Brown, has just joined ACEH as a youth adviser. Weller said board members are elected each September and newcomers are welcome to step up for a decision-making role in the group.

Membership prices range from \$20 to \$75 and includes a weekly emails listing jobs, diversity and multicultural events in West Michigan.

Learn more at [harmonyalliance.org](http://harmonyalliance.org).

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Bin Lim talks about his organization, Alliance for Cultural & Ethnic Harmony, in 2011, while Blake Mclean, 6, colors. Katie Selden/The Holland Sentinel

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If You GoWHAT 16th annual Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony Potluck in the ParkWHEN 1-4 p.m. SundayWHERE Dunton Park, 290 Howard Ave. (off Douglas/Ottawa Beach Road, west of the River Avenue bridge)WHO Anyone in the communityDETAILS Bring a dish to pass from your cultural background and lawn chairs or blankets for extra seating. Beverages and table service provided. Music, children's activities, games, piñata, balloon animals, face painting, clay art, pie-eating contests, prizes, fun, fellowship — and great food. Invite your family, friends, co-workers and people who are new to the community. Learn more by calling (616) 392-1926 or (616) 392-5086 or visiting [harmonyalliance.org](http://harmonyalliance.org).

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