



The Center for People of All Races

A voice and a hub for the Latino community
as we advocate on behalf of our people
and work to achieve social justice.

Autumn / Winter 2009

United Way Day of Caring Builds Community Step By Step

The United Way Day of Caring on September 11th brought together almost 200 volunteers, staff and community members at El Centro de la Raza. Volunteers from Ben Bridge Jewelers, Costco, Microsoft, Nordstrom, PACE Engineering, Peace Health, United Way of King County, and Governor Gregoire herself provided approximately 766 hours of service in one day! The Governor and all our generous volunteers were presented with small tokens of appreciation during a lunch ceremony. Through a project organized by United Way, new stairs are being built for the North, South, and West entrances. Mil gracias to Mortenson Construction, Architects W/O Borders, Engineers W/O Borders, and McKinstry for their generous pro-bono effort. Overall, the project will be saving El Centro de la Raza over \$180,000 in necessary repairs. Construction will finish early next year.



Mil gracias to Mortenson Construction, Architects Without Borders, Engineers Without Borders, and McKinstry for the brand new stairs!

Stimulus Funds Provide Much Needed Assistance

Luisa and her three children, ages fifteen, eight and seven, were staying with family and friends when they came to El Centro de la Raza's Crisis Advocate seeking help. Now a single mother, Luisa was a victim of domestic violence and had to sleep in her car one night with her children when help from family and friends ran out. She was working only 20-hours per week raising three children, and was refused by many shelters because her oldest child did not meet shelter age limits. El Centro de la Raza advocated on her behalf and was able to place Luisa and her children in a three-bedroom apartment. Luisa is currently working on increasing her wages and hours, and maintaining permanent housing. In addition, she is interested in improving her English and learning computer skills.

Within just the first quarter (February 17 - September 30, 2009) of services, our new Crisis Advocate position has served 1,140 individuals like Luisa and her family through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding made possible by the Washington State Community Action Partnership (CAP). Our Crisis Advocate provides comprehensive advocacy, translation, and information and referrals for community members seeking emergency services such as sexual assault/abuse support, substance abuse recovery, access to food, clothing and shelter, eviction money, rent assistance, legal assistance, child care, and other emergency needs. The Crisis Advocate position has provided a much needed link for families in crisis by increasing access to resources and community assistance.

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A.K. Guy, Latino Heritage, Change Maker and LCF Awards

On October 3rd, Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels and the City of Seattle Latino City Employees organization awarded Executive Director, Estela Ortega, the 2009 Latino Heritage Award at the 4th Annual Latino Heritage Celebration. The award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to the Seattle Latino community by displaying leadership, initiative, creativity and dedication. Through their contributions, award recipients inspire others to be involved in the Latino community and make a difference. State Rep. Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney nominated Ms. Ortega for her "exceptional dedication and desire to improve the conditions of not only the Latino community, but that of all people in our community. Through her work, Estela has made Seattle a better place to live."

On October 17th, Roberto Maestas was presented with the Latino Community Fund's Lifetime Achievement Award for his more than three decades advocating for and serving Seattle. And, on October 20th, Real Change presented Mr. Maestas with its annual Change Maker award.

The Seattle YMCA honored El Centro de la Raza founder and current Senior Adviser, Mr. Maes-



Congratulations to the Four Amigos, recipients of the A.K. Guy Award!

tas, by naming him as one of the recipients of the A.K. Guy Award on November 12th. The 2009 award was given collectively to Mr. Maestas, Larry Gossett, Bob Santos, and the late Bernie Whitebear, a group of long-time community leaders known as the Four Amigos.

We are humbled and honored by these outstanding awards. Congratulations to Estela, Roberto, El Centro de la Raza, and to all of our supporters, who make our work possible.

*Contributed by Elliott Jones, Lutheran Volunteer Corps and Connor Murphy, AmeriCorps*Vista*

Auction Banquet Raises Spirits and Funds in Tough Economy

El Centro de la Raza held its 2nd Annual Auction Banquet on Saturday, September 26, 2009 at the Seattle Design Center with the theme: *Celebrating las Américas: Meeting the Needs of Today - Building Hope for Tomorrow.*

This event honored the cultures and histories of indigenous and Latin American peoples and raised over \$145,000 to support our 25 human service and community building programs. *Gracias* to everyone who helped make this event possible! Your support has enabled us to defend the basic human, civil and survival rights by providing comprehensive services to the most vulnerable in our community in this time of economic crisis.

Mil gracias to our sponsors: Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Comcast, Eli Lilly, Vulcan, Washington Education Association, HomeStreet Bank, Bank of America, College Success Foundation, Kenneth & Marleen Alhadeff Foundation, Jones & Jones, Teamsters Local Union 760 Yakima, WA, Plaza Bank, and Seattle Sounders FC.



A special gracias to our youth and the Reel Grrls team who made an inspirational video about our youth programs that premiered at the auction.

Please save the date - **Saturday, September 25, 2010** - for our 3rd Annual Auction Banquet next year! For more information, please call 206.957.4649, email events@elcentrodelaraza.org or visit our new website at www.elcentrodelaraza.org.

Youth Express Themselves Through *Calavera* Poetry

In Spanish, *calavera* means "skull," but each year in Mexico around Día de los Muertos, *calavera* takes on a different meaning. At this time, *calaveras* referred to imaginary obituaries, which appeared in newspapers all over Mexico. These poetic obituaries use satire to humorously criticize well-known individuals who are very much alive.

El Centro de la Raza's Hope for Youth program recently paired with middle school students in the Proyecto Saber program at Denny Middle School to create *Calavera* poetry to display and perform during our Día de los Muertos exhibition.

Calavera poetry takes many forms - whether in memory or praise of a loved one or admired icon, or expressions of the season or of serious issues affecting the student and the community. Below you will find a *Calavera* poem by a Hope for Youth program student. The Hope for Youth program provides accurate history, civil rights, and service-learning classes, as well as classes in poetry, hip-hop, and music, to students at Ballard, Chief Sealth, and Garfield high schools, the Secondary Bilingual Orientation Center, and Denny Middle School.

The program is run as a joint effort with Seattle Public Schools, and classes meet graduation requirements. Hope for Youth promotes positive self-expression, improves academic performance, devel-



El Centro de la Raza's Hope for Youth program recently paired with middle school students in the Proyecto Saber program at Denny Middle School to create Calavera poetry to display and perform during our Día de los Muertos exhibition.

ops and strengthens social skills and gives Latino youth and youth of color the opportunity to learn more about their community and the contributions their communities have made to the U.S. Well done, Hope for Youth participants!

By Elliott Jones, Development Assistant, Lutheran Volunteer Corps

La Tierra / Earth by Giovanni Barrios, Student

*La Tierra acabándose esta
A desastre y crisis Ella va
Nuestra raza nuestra gente no hace nada
Entonces pónganse listos para la helada
Advertencia cada rato recibimos
Y como no escuchamos consecuencias
Sufrimos poco a poco la tierra se calienta
Esto es para que usted lo sienta
Terremotos, inundaderas de agua, polución
Es lo que lleva a este mundo a destrucción
No hay necesidad de ser tonto
Mejor hagamos algo pronto o lo pagaremos caro
Tarde que temprano...*

*Earth is dying by very minute
To disaster and crisis it's approaching
Our race, our people don't do anything
Then just get ready for the ice age
Warnings we get every day
But since we don't listened we suffer consequences
We suffer little by little earth is warming up
This for your information
Earthquakes, floods, pollution
Is what takes this earth to an end
There's no need to be dumb
It's better if we do something fast or we will pay it
Sooner or later...*

El Centro Responds as Unemployment Rises

The objective of the Employment Program is to lower the unemployment rate and stimulate the economy by providing job opportunities for those in need. This program is open to any individual who is in need of employment assistance. The program's target population is the Latino community, but we mainly work with low-income individuals with families. The Employment Program is funded through the American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which was enacted by Congress to combat the economic and job crises sweeping the nation. Our employment services are divided into three primary areas:

1. Job List Board:

Our job list board in the Community Services Department is updated every two weeks with the new positions that the Employment Specialist has researched. In conjunction with the job list board we have provided a resource board which contains vital information to job seekers such as training and certification opportunities, job fairs and employment events, classes, workshops, computer training, legal support, ESL classes, and a variety of other announcements to assist individuals with their job search. The job list and resource boards are available Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM.

2. Employment Workshops:

We provide a series of workshops that are designed to educate individuals on the job search process. The workshops provide:

Session 1. Job search strategies, networking, reading a job announcement, filling out job applications and how to resign from a position.

Session 2. Setting up an e-mail account, creating a resume and cover letter, soft skills (includes distin-

guishing between professional and non-professional conduct, how to create good employee relations, and workplace culture) and conflict resolution.

Session 3. Worker's rights, workplace safety, sexual harassment and interview preparedness.

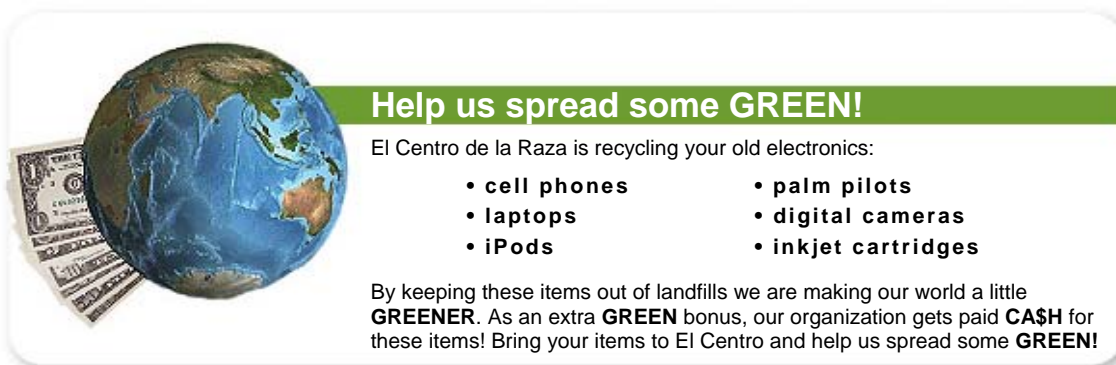
Session 4. Financial planning, budgeting and actual interview simulations.

Throughout the series of workshops provided we implement English vocabulary lessons of essentials words to recognize when searching or applying for jobs. We administer a pre and post exam to assess participant's learning and skill progression.

3. One-on-One Counseling:

We provide an initial 30-minute session for each individual that fills out a mock job application. Participants complete mock job applications to prepare them for similar questions that arise on job applications, but this application also helps speed up the process of creating a resume for each individual that meets with our Employment Specialist. After an initial session, each participant is scheduled for a one-hour session that walks through cover letter and resume writing, applying for jobs online and job search strategies. We also cover creating an e-mail account, using e-mail to apply for jobs, and how to check and respond to job-related correspondence. To learn more, please call 206.957.4624 or email empl_spec@elcentrodelaraza.org.

By Elisa Miranda, Employment Specialist



Help us spread some GREEN!

El Centro de la Raza is recycling your old electronics:

- cell phones
- palm pilots
- laptops
- digital cameras
- iPods
- inkjet cartridges

By keeping these items out of landfills we are making our world a little **GREENER**. As an extra **GREEN** bonus, our organization gets paid **CASH** for these items! Bring your items to El Centro and help us spread some **GREEN!**

El Centro de la Raza Principle No. 1, adopted in 1976: To share, disburse, and distribute our services, resources, knowledge and skills to our participants, community, visitors and broader human family with all due dignity for their individuality, needs and condition. To do so creatively with warmth, cultural sensitivity, fairness, enthusiasm, compassion, honesty and optimism in all areas of work.

Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Ceremony and Exhibit

The Día de los Muertos opening ceremony brought together people of all backgrounds and supporters of several social justice issues as we honored those who have come before us. Over 400 guests shared in a special brunch, music, dancing and presentations by our youth on November 1st. Hundreds more, including many school groups, toured the exhibit during the month.

Ofrendas are traditional altars displayed on the Day of the Dead and through the month of November, to celebrate and offer one's respects to those who have passed away, and to encourage their souls to visit us. The *ofrenda* has become one of the most impactful symbols of this ancient tradition that is one of the most important celebrations in Mexico and is celebrated throughout Latin America and the U.S.

The theme of the exhibit this year paid tribute to Juan Rulfo's *Pedro Paramo*, a short novel written in 1955, which tells the evocative story of a man who does not realize he is dead. *Pedro Paramo* has sold millions of copies around the world and been translated into many languages. Jorge Luis Borges called it "una de las mejores novelas... de la literatura" [one of the best novels... in all of literature].

Mil gracias to our sponsors: City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, Seattle 4culture, Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund, City of Seattle Arts and Cultural Affairs: Youth Arts.

Gracias to ofrenda creators: Amnesty Interna-



tional Group 4, ALAS, Beacon Hill International School, CD Forum, Denny Middle School, El Centro Afterschool Program, Equal Rights Washington, Friends of the Orphans, Guatemaltecos Unidos, Lutheran Volunteer Corp., Office of Multicultural Affairs Seattle University, Palestine Solidarity, People of Color Against Aids, Poetas del Monton, Rhonda Gossett & Family, SU Society of Feminists, Ten Thousand Villages, Washington CAN!, 206 ZULU!

Gracias to our in-kind donors: Costco, Sysco Corporation, Graciela Gonzalez, NW Film Forum, Muckleshoot Casino and Estela Ortega. A special mil gracias to all our volunteers: Governor Gregoire, Ben Bridge Jewelers, Lakeside School, and Peace Health.

Volunteer!

Here are some of our upcoming volunteer opportunities:

United Way and University of Washington MLK Day
January 18, 2010

Charity Poker Tournament
February 20, 2010

Program Support
Please call for opportunities

Community Service Hours
Please call for opportunities

Call 206.957.4602 to volunteer today!

Can you donate an auction item?

Here are some items we are looking to procure for our **Annual Auction Banquet on Saturday, September 25, 2010:**

Frequent Flyer Miles
Tickets to Sporting Events
San Juan Islands Vacation
Sailing Excursion
Parking Downtown for a Year
Select Wines
Certificates to Restaurants
Gift Certificate to Your Favorite Store
Gift Baskets

If you would like to volunteer to join our **Procurement Committee** or have an item to donate, please call 206.957.4649 or email events@elcentrodelaraza.org!

El Centro de la Raza en Acción



Gracias to Comcast, the youth team from Reel Grrls, and the team mentor who produced an inspirational four-minute fundraising video about our youth programs that premiered at our auction!



The Seattle Fandango Project and the Veracruz-based band Son de Madera held bi-weekly musical workshops with youth ages 11-17 for five weeks at El Centro de la Raza.



Veracruz-based band, Son de Madera, gave a concert to the children in the José Martí Child Development Center. Here the children learn how to move their feet in the Fandango-style dance.



Mil gracias to Mortenson Construction, Architects Without Borders, Engineers Without Borders, and McKinstry for their generous pro-bono stair renovation project, saving El Centro \$180,000.



We were honored to have Governor Gregoire volunteer alongside almost 200 staff and volunteers at El Centro on the United Way Day of Caring in September. Gracias to Ben Bridge Jewelers, Costco, Microsoft, Nordstrom, PACE Engineering, Peace Health, & United Way of King County.



The community ofrenda at our Día de los Muertos exhibit in November honors fallen youth, families and individuals in our community. The exhibit drew over 500 visitors.

El Centro de la Raza in Action



Seventh and eighth grade students from Lakeside School donate bilingual books to the child development center students at El Centro. The generous Lakeside students also volunteer throughout the year.



El Centro's Homeownership Center served over 50 families in October through workshops with topics on credit as part of the HomeStreet Bank and Freddie Mac Initiative.



Attorney, professor and El Centro board member, Brenda Williams, organizes a group of University of Washington law students to tour and learn more about El Centro's social justice work.



The Comadres prevention and support group celebrates the holiday season with a party at El Centro! The group meets bi-weekly to talk about family issues.



Gracias to AAA for their generous contributions of 735 toiletry items to our children, youth and families this holiday season through the "Soap for Hope" campaign.



In partnership with City Year, over 40 youth participated in volunteer projects at El Centro de la Raza in November. Gracias to all the wonderful youth and to City Year for their continued support!

¡Mil Gracias to Our Autumn Donors!

Gracias to our Aug-Nov donors:

Public Support

AmeriCorps*JustServe
AmeriCorps*Literacy
AmeriCorps*VISTA
Child Care Resources
City of Seattle Human Services
Department
Early Learning Network
Emergency Shelter Assistance
Food Resources
MLK County Housing & Community
Development
MLK County Department of
Community & Human Services
Seattle Housing Authority
Seattle MLK County Coalition on
Homelessness
Seattle Metro Ticket Book Program
Seattle Public Library
Seattle Step Ahead Preschools
Seattle & MLK County Public Health
State of Washington Office for
Community Development
U.S. Department of Health &
Human Services
U.S. Department of Housing &
Urban Development (HUD)
WA State Department of Commerce
Washington State Housing &
Finance Commission
Washington State Legislature

Voluntarios

Since January, approximately **923**
volunteers provided **14,028** hours of
service valued at **\$284,067**. Mil
gracias!

Please call 206.957.4602 to volun-
teer! We are a community service
and service-learning site.

Mil Gracias

A special mil gracias to the Paul G.
Allen Family Foundation for a three
year award of \$150,000!

Workplace Giving

Double or triple your gift through
Workplace Giving! Call
206.957.4652 for more information.

Benefactores \$10,000+

Paul G. Allen Family Foundation
United Way of King County
Seattle Foundation
Freddie Mac
Washington State Housing Finance
Commission

Socios \$5,000-9,999

Washington State Housing Finance
Commission
Youth Arts

Partidarios \$1,000-4,999

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Employee Matching Fund
CFC King County Employees
King County Employees Charitable
Campaign

Familia \$100-999

Ernesto Acosta Herrera
Brian Carey
Marieli Cestari
Brenda Courtade
Alice Doyel
Dr. Alexes Harris
Nancy Garcia
Hector Gonzalez
The Rhonda & Larry Gossett Family
Carlos Guangorena, Jr.
Phyllis Gutierrez
Robert M. Keefe
Roberto Maestas
Jeffery Middleton
Constance Proctor
Charles Reinsch
Grizelda Sarria
Lynn Stowell
Arturo Zamora
El Centro de la Raza Día de los
Muertos Attendees
El Centro de la Raza Latino Hot
Meal Participants
GoodSearch
Luis Alfonso Velasquez Flores After
School Program
Microsoft Giving Campaign
Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
Bank of America
WA State Combined Fund Drive
WA State Workforce Training

Amigos \$1-99

Anonymous (5)
Katherine Alfaro
Rebecca Allen
Enrique Alvarado
Timothy Bartle
Luis Benito
Marleina Binongcal
Alicia Braman
Hugh Brannon
Carol Brinster
George Bunch
Domitilo Calderon-Ontiver
Emily Chavez
Catherine Clemens
Patricia Coley
Deborah Cornell
Nancy Cortes
Steve Cortez
Keith W. Cowan
Charles Davis
Eddie Demmings-Canales
Charles Ferguson
Patricia Flores
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Rachel Imper
Arthur Kamell

Kerry Keefe
Michelle Kelly
Lawrence Kenney
Betty Kill
Dean KiloDavis
Pesha Klein
Adrian Laigo
Joanne Langlais
Patricia Lopez
Candida Lorenzana
Consuelo Mares
Natasha Martin
David McLanahan
German Moya, Jr.
Stephanie Murray
Sally Newton
Jane Nishita
Alejandro Novoa-Cardenas
Patricia O'Dwyer Flores
Shann Pattee
Daniel Prieto
Julio Quezada
Valerie Quince
Dolores Ramirez
Maria Ramirez
Maurillo Ramos
Dora Rodriguez
Hope Rose
Carlos Sanabria
Irene Sanchez
Maximilian Sanchez
Imelda Santana
Katherine Shozawa
Jason Simmons
Nora Smith
Anne Stadler
Nathan Tercero
Alan Torres
Walter Walkinshaw
Duane Welty
Charles Wilkinson
Brenda Williams
James Williams
Yvonne Williams
Suzan Zakhary
Violet Zakhary
Zaizaf Zakhary
Maria Elizabeth Zamora
Betty Zielinski
CFC of North Puget Sound
Employees
Costco Matching Gift Program
JPMorgan Chase Matching Giving
Lyon's Grocery
Polyclinic
Seattle Foundation
Skin Deep Dance Studio

Inkind Support

Anonymous
The Guiding Lights Network
Census Bureau

Día de los Muertos

Sponsors

City of Seattle Department of
Neighborhoods
Seattle 4culture
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund
City of Seattle Arts and Cultural

Affairs: Youth Arts

Día de los Muertos Supporters

Amnesty International Group 4
ALAS
Beacon Hill International School
CD Forum
Denny Middle School
El Centro Afterschool Program
Equal Rights Washington
Friends of the Orphans
Guatemaltecos Unidos
Lutheran Volunteer Corp
Seattle University Office of
Multicultural Affairs
Palestine Solidarity
People of Color Against Aids
Poetas del Monton
Rhonda Gossett & Family
Seattle University Society of
Feminists
Ten Thousand Villages
Washington CAN!
206 ZULU
Costco
Sysco Corporation
Graciela Gonzalez
NW Film Forum
Muckleshoot Casino
Estela Ortega

¡A special mil gracias to all our vol-
unteers who made the event possi-
ble including Governor Gregoire,
Ben Bridge Jewelers, Lakeside
School, and Peace Health!

Auction Sponsors

Muckleshoot
Comcast
Vulcan
Lilly
Washington Education Associate
HomeStreet Bank
Bank of America
College Success Foundation
Jones & Jones
Kenneth & Marleen Alhadeff Founda-
tion
Teamsters Local Union 760 Yakima
Plaza Bank
Seattle Sounders FC

Auction Table Captains

Eric Barber
Michael Brogman
Pedro Celis
First Place School
David Fracer
Dave Gandara
Rhonda & Larry Gossett
Rob Keefe
Latino Community Fund
Manny Lee

(Continued on next page)

We apologize if we have left your name off this list. Please call 206.957.4611 and we will promptly correct this error.

(Continued from page 5)

Eric Liu
Jimmy Matta
Lakeside Middle School
Linda Mullen
Martin Padilla
Pepsi Bottling Group
SeaMar Community Health Clinic
Steve Robinson, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Schroder, Goldmark & Bender
Sprague Israel Giles
Cindi Shiota
Mike Sotelo
Turner Construction
Vanderberg, Johnson & Gandara
El Centro Board Members:
Roxana Amaral
David Gasca
Victoria Kill
Brenda Williams
El Centro Staff:
Frances Martinez Community Services Department
Heather Hudson
Hilda Magaña
Susan Maisel
Roberto Maestas
Estela Ortega

Auction Item Donors

5th Avenue Theater
8 Limbs Yoga Center
A Dog's Dream
Ada-Reva Franklin
Adriana Maestas
Agua Verde Cafe and Paddle Club
Aim to be Fit

Alejandro Encarnación
Analia Castanos-Burgueno
Andrea LaVare
Ann Elisabeth Wendell
Anthony Jon Hicks
Anthony's Restaurant
Apollo Activities, Inc.
Appropriate Technology Group
Ashley Haugen & Brandon Lehnerz
Astrid Cerny
Barbara Iverson
Bellevue Collection
Belo Hair Design
Best Buy
Betsy Talbot
Better World Club
Blame it on Rios
Body Shop
Brannon Benefit Auctions
Cactus
Carl Smool
Carol Walter
Carole and Luke Route
Cathy Allen
Cavu Cellars
Century Ballroom
Churchmouse Yarn and Teas
Cindi Shiota
Colliers International
Columbia Tower Club
Communichi
Connor Murphy
Continental Airliens
Cristina Jimenez
Crystal Seas Kayaking
Delia Armendariz & Victor L. Peters
Denise Marinacci
Dick's Drive-in
Diva Espresso
DMP Media
Donna Yerman
Dr. David Herrera
Duke's Chowder House
Dulces Latin Bistro
Earl Richardson
East West Bookshop
Edmonds Center for the Arts
Edna Shim
Egan's Ballard Jam Club
El Farol
Elise Belusa
Elisha Thorne
Elizabeth Valenzuela
Elliott Jones
Emerald Downs
Erik & Denise Krownbell
Ernst
Estela Mendez
Estela Ortega
Evolution Dog Training
Excelsior Travel Agency
Farris Law
FlyRight Productions
Fort Walla Walla Cellars
Frank Chopp
Frito Lay
Full Circle Studio, Inc.
Gabriela Gutierrez y Muhs
Geraldine's Counter
Global Visionaries
Governor Gregoire
Hamilton Sheetmetal
Hanna Petros, Home Realty
Greenlake
Hasegawa Dentistry
Heather Hudson
Heidi Blocker
Hot House Spa & Suana

Hotel Dos Lunas
Irene Route
Irene Sanchez
Isernio's Sausage Company
Jacqueline Brulotte
Jalisco Mexican Restaurants
Jan Seeley
Janine Vaughn
Jason Mikers
Java Love
Jazz Alley
Jeff Middleton
Jim Coley
John Hoffman
Jose Tapia
Judy Scheinuk
Julia's Indonesian Kitchen
Kate Cudney
Kathleen Mullins
Kenneth & Marleen Alhadeff
Foundation
Keo Capestrany
La Hacienda
Larry & Rhonda Gossett
Laura Austin
Laura Dodson,
Blue Stone Accounting, LLC
Lester Broom
Leticia Lopez
Liam Scanlan
Lucky Strike Entertainment
Lynore Route
Mae's Phinney Ridge Cafe
Mallory Erickson
Maria Elena
Mark Dunne
Mark Hudak
Marshall Eaton

(Continued on page 10)

How Can You Make a Difference?

Please consider giving to El Centro de la Raza this year. As a voice and hub of the Latino community for services and advocacy, we provide strong child and youth programs and comprehensive services to help families gain the skills and access the resources to lead fulfilled lives and achieve a greater degree of economic self-sufficiency. Every gift makes a difference in the lives of a child, youth, family or elder.

Ways you can help:

1. Attend a Café con El Centro on the first Thursday of every month. RSVP to 206.957.4652.
2. Join us on Facebook, MySpace and Ning by visiting www.elcentrodelaraza.org.
3. Send a check to: El Centro de la Raza, 2524 16th Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98144.
4. Donate online at www.elcentrodelaraza.org.
5. Give in memory or honor of someone you love or a social justice issue close to you.
6. Purchase a seat at our Annual Auction Banquet on September 26, 2009; call 206.957.4649 or email events@elcentrodelaraza.org to be sure you receive an invitation.
7. Ask your workplace Human Resources department about matching your gift to El Centro.
8. Make an in-kind donation to our Wishlist at www.elcentrodelaraza.org/giving/wishlist.htm.
9. Volunteer to help one of our 24 programs and services! Call 206.957.4602.
10. Sign up online to receive our eNewsletter so we can keep in touch!
11. GoodSearch and GoodShop for El Centro de la Raza at www.GoodSearch.com.

El Centro de la Raza is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Tax ID# 91-0899927. Donations are tax deductible.

¡Mil Gracias to Our Action Supporters!

(Continued from page 9)

Martha Diaz
Maya's Restaurant
Mexico Lindo
Michel Alvarez
Microsoft
Miguel Maestas
Mike Holberg
Mike Moore
MOHAI
Montlake Bicycle Shop
Mt. Baker Ski Area
Muckleshoot Indian Casino
Nancy LaMont
Office Depot
Parent Map
Passages NW
Patricia O'Dwyer Flores
PCC Natural Markets
Peggy Washburn
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Pete Disantis
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Pole for the Soul
Quinn's Pub
Ray Kato
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Richard Geasey
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Rosamaria Rosales
Ruth Moen
Sal's Mechanic
Sandra Medina
Sarah Haywood
Seattle Aquarium
Seattle Art Museum
Seattle Custom Framing
Seattle Holistic Center
Seattle Mariners
Seattle Opera
Seattle Repertory Theatre
Seattle Seahawks
Seattle Sounders FC
Seattle Symphony
Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles
SEVEN
Skin Deep Dance Studio
Starbucks Coffee Hora del Café
Starbucks Coffee Company Pier 55
Stash Tea Company
Stephanie Curry
Steve Phillips
Sue Blocker
Susan Maisel
Taco Del Mar
Terra Paley
The Last Supper Club
The Pike Brewing Company
The Samarya Center
The Vera Project
Therapeutic Health Services
Torero's Restaurant
Trevino Skin Care
United Airlines
University Book Store
Vera Ing
Victrola Coffee Roasters
Vyve Salon and Boutique

Western Prince Whale & Wildlife
Tours
WheelMaker Inc
Wolf Haven International
World Affairs Council
YMCA of Greater Seattle
Yoga on Beacon (YoBe)

Auction Donors

Antonio Skilton
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Bonnie Glenn
Bruce Bentley
Carlos Guangorena, Jr.
Charlene Aguilar
Château Ste Michelle
Cindi Shiota
Connie Alvarado
Daniel Landes
Daniels Catering
Eric Barber
Estela Ortega
Evelyn Chapman
Fred Meyer
Frito Lay
Geraldine Rodriguez
Glenn Bafia
Grocery Outlet
Jean Hernandez
Jeanette Rodriguez
Jesse McDaniel
Jesus Sanchez
John Abplanalp
Jose Esparza
Juan Miranda
Karen Cowan
Kathie Hopkins
Kathleen Toguchi
Ken Colling
Kip Lange
Kris Alcaide
Laura McAlister
Lauren Guzauskas
Linda Bremer
Lindsay Hallm
Lisa Kodama
Lorena Gonzales
Lynda Vassar
Marcie Maxwell
Mark Burke
Mark Okazaki
Mary Lindquist
Michelle Marie Font
Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
Mike McNett
Mike Ragan
Patricia Coley
Patricia Loera
Patrick Burns
QFC
Raquel Garcia
Red Apple
Red Hook Ale Brewery
Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos
Campaign
Rhonda Gossett
Rita Zawaideh
Roberta Jacobs
Rogelio Riojas
Rosario Carrol

Sandra Walker, M.D.
Seattle Design Center
Seattle Public Library
Sharon Parkman
Sheena Mangicap
Taco del Mar in Belltown
Target
Todd Martin
U.S. Census Bureau
Urban Press
Vicki Weeks
Victoria Olcott
Yuh-Line Niou

Auction Volunteers

Ada Franklin
Alondra Angel
America Alvarado
Ashley Haugen
Ashley Palar
Becky Fish
Colleen Lee
Connor Murphy
Cristina Jimenez
Diana Mena
Ebony Peterson
Edna SADBERRY
Elisha Thorne
Ellen Barrett
Elliott Jones
Emily Murphy
Eriberto Michel
Erin Scherer
Gabriella Holguin
Gema Ebanks
Gina Barteletti
Graciela Gonzalez
Gustavo Angel
Heather Hudson
Irene Routté
Irene Trantham
Javier Cruz
Jenise Silva
Jose Jimenez Jr
June Alexander
Kimy Foster
Kirsten Blume
Lauren Mcelroy
Leah Baugh
Lindsay Dygert
Lindsey Etheridge
Lisa Brooks
Luisa Mercado
Malika Amos
Maria Tursi
Mark Eaton
Mary Cusati
Max Sanchez
Melissa Greene
Michael Lee Craig
Miguel Maestas
Molly Jacobson
Nicole Keenan
Nina Sundsten
Paula Gobbi
Peter Chi
Rachel Hanisch
Raquel Garcia
Rebecca Allen
Richard Luong

Robert Yi
Rosalba Pinch
Sara Sanford
Sarah Brady
Sarah Harris
Sarah Haywood
Seattle Pacific University Volun-
teers from the CityQuest Program
Tara Adolphi
Tisa Escobar
Victor Pascual
VOICE Volunteers
Yessenia Medrano
Yessica Andiputri

**A special gracias to our
Auction Procurement
Committee for all their
hard work and continued
support:**

Evelyn Brom
Kate Cudney
Patricia O'Dwyer Flores
Jan Gokami
Colleen Lee
Ada Mares
Cindi Shiota
Rebecca Allen
Virginia Culbertson
Mallory Erickson
Graciela Gonzalez
Nicole Keenan
Hilda Magaña
Mirabella Mendiola
Mike Moore
Tish Johnson

Save-the-Date

Join us next year on
September 25, 2010
for El Centro de la
Raza's 3rd Annual
Auction Banquet

We apologize if we have left your name off this list. Please call 206.957.4611 and we will promptly correct this error.

Parent Involvement in Education Inspires Parents

Our Parent Involvement Program strives to support our families in becoming more involved in their children's education and helping them increase their knowledge about the school system. Our goal is for our students to succeed academically with the parental support and guidance that they need.

The program offers monthly workshops in Spanish for parents on various topics regarding the school system. This month we will be collaborating with the College Readiness Program in bringing together a workshop on "Steps to Higher Education," which will inform both parents and students on the process of applying to post high school education. Dinner, childcare and door prizes are provided at each workshop. *By Janet Guzman, Parent Involvement Coordinator*



Socorro Alvarez and her two daughters April and America have been active participants of our program since February 2009. Newly enrolled, Maria Ortiz and her son Carlos Romano are set to engage with other families in our program.

Food Bank Lines Getting Longer

The El Centro de la Raza Food Bank has recently expanded from being open two to now three days during the week. We provide emergency and supplemental food to low income individuals, families, and seniors in our neighborhood and beyond.

The food bank line is always moving as efficiently as possible with the high volume of food bank participants that come to visit each week. There are those folks with whom we rest and chat, those we see regularly every week and have the pleasure of sharing our lives. Many participants utilize other programs at El Centro. As they work toward economic or familial stability, they also receive free grocery bags for the week. We are able to meet an immediate need and support their journey toward stability.

One woman we met last month suddenly found herself in hard times as she had lost her job. She is responsible for both of her daughters who were also pregnant at the time. In the excitement of expanding their family she was burdened by the reality of financial instability. She came seeking food, but she also found financial and job search assistance. We saw her almost each week last month but not too many weeks this month. Though we're sad to not see her joyous smile as often, we are thankful that she has left behind the hopelessness she had when she

first arrived.

As the holiday season approaches, we look forward to distributing seasonal items to our customers, including chicken and turkey, sweet potatoes, oranges, and pumpkin. Also, in the upcoming weeks there will be a group of Nursing students from Seattle University hosting a free clinic outside of the Food Bank. Their clinic is focused on flu prevention and education but will also target general health and nutrition topics. This will be a great way for families to not only access vital health preparedness information but also general preventative information in a familiar setting.

By Molly Jacobson, Food Bank Coordinator



The Food Bank recently expanded from being open two to now three days during the week.

El Centro de la Raza Principle No. 7, adopted in 1976: To struggle against all forms of racism, sexism, individualism, ageism, and violence in our work and our community center.

Checkout Our New Website!

Mil gracias to the Taproot Foundation for the award of a Basic Website Service Grant! The award provided a team of experienced professionals including a web designer, web developer, marketing manager, writer/copy-editor and project manager to build a new 15-page website for El Centro de la Raza. The grant is valued at \$50,000. The new website was launched at the end of September, so please check it out and let us know what you think: www.elcentrodelaraza.org.

Parent Curriculum Night

A lot has been happening in the José Martí Child Development Center (JMCD). Last month, the JMCD celebrated *Fiestas Patrias*, a joint cultural event celebrating the independence days of various Latin American countries. Seattle has for the last 17 years hosted an annual *Fiestas Patrias* celebration including musical entertainment, booths from local Latino organizations, and a float parade and competition, which the JMCD participated in and won! The theme for this year's float parade was *La Mujer*, and the teachers and students of the JMCD created a beautiful float that featured multicultural women who are leaders and help make a positive difference in their communities.

On September 22nd, the Seattle Fandango Project and the Veracruz-based band Son de Madera began their bi-weekly musical workshops with youth ages 11-17. The ongoing workshops focused on the *son jarocho* style and include instruction on traditional instruments, singing, and *zapateado* dance. The five week workshop culminated in a performance at our opening event for Día de Los Muertos on November 1st.

The JMCD hosted a parent meeting on October 28th to discuss the current year's curriculum, the assessment methods teachers use for each child's progress, and monthly themes for the school year. Also, information about the "Raising a Reader" literacy project, in conjunction with the Seattle Public Library, was presented. Information is directed toward parents of JMCD children, but anyone interested in the engaging, creative, bilingual and multi-cultural education that children at José Martí receive is welcome to attend next time! Dinner and childcare are provided.

Bienvenidos New Staff Members!

El Centro de la Raza welcomes the following new staff members:

Iran Barba, Teacher

Luisa Citlaly Beltran, Teacher

Jorge Gonzalez, ESL/Citizenship Coordinator, Work Study Student

Molly Jacobson, Food Bank Coordinator, Lutheran Volunteer Corps

Maria James, Family Support Specialist

Elliott Jones, Development Assistant, Lutheran Volunteer Corps

Connor Murphy, Events Coordinator, AmeriCorps*VISTA

Yessenia Madrano-Vossler, Volunteer Assistant, Work Study Student

Miguel Maestas, Associate Administrator

Elisa Miranda, Employment Specialist

Michi Robinson, Teacher

Eva Ruiz, Crisis Advocate

Board Members

Executive Committee:

David Gasca, President
Vice President Manager
Frontier Bank

Ramon Soliz, Vice President
Senior Human Resources Analyst
Martin Luther King, Jr. County

Rita Zawaideh, Secretary
Travel Express/Caravan Serai

Jeff Middleton, Treasurer
Architect
Integrus Architecture

Members:

Roxana Amaral
Teacher
Denny Middle School

Ricardo Garcia
Retired, Yakima Valley

Christina Garcia-Valdez
Student
Chief Sealth High School

Norma Guerrero
Belltown Inn Housekeeping

Victoria Kill
Adjunct Professor
Seattle University Dept. of English

Gloria Marin
Newspaper Carrier
The Seattle Times

Madrienne Salgado
Public Affairs Support Specialist
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe

Urbano Santos
Founder, Guatemaltecos Unidos
Contractor, Ceramic Marble &
Granite Masonry

William Smith
Volunteer, AARP

Brenda Williams
Attorney
University of Washington
Tulalip Tribe

Pablo Mendoza
IT Support, City of Seattle

El Centro de la Raza can earn a donation every time you search the Internet and shop online!!!

GoodSearch & GoodShop



Search the web with Yahoo-powered **GoodSearch.com** and they'll donate about a penny to your cause each time you search!

Shop at more than 600 **GoodShop.com** merchants including Amazon, Best Buy, Toys R Us, and others, and a percentage of each purchase will go to your cause!

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Mission Statement

As an organization grounded in the Latino community, our mission is to build unity across all racial and economic sectors, to organize, empower, and defend our most vulnerable and marginalized populations and to bring justice, dignity, equality, and freedom to all the peoples of the world.

Please place address label here.

Café con El Centro Breakfast & Tour

Join us from 8:00-9:00 am the first
Thursday of every month for a
brief introduction and tour of
El Centro de la Raza

Upcoming Cafés:
January 7th
February 4th
March 4th

Space is limited, so please RSVP
to 206.957.4652 or
donor@elcentrodelaraza.org

Save-the-date

Charity Poker Tournament

Saturday, February 20, 2010
El Centro de la Raza
Call 206.957.4649 to register today!

Annual Auction Banquet

Saturday, September 25, 2010
Seattle Design Center
*Celebrating las Américas: Meeting the Needs of
Today - Building Hope for Tomorrow*

Cinco de Mayo

May 2010. Details to come!
Free Admission

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