



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.

Primavera/Spring - Verano/Summer 2010

Gardening Project Reaps the Fruits of its Labor for Seniors

El Centro de la Raza's Senior Urban Gardening Project, made possible by United Way of King County, had a busy spring. Thanks to the contributions of various local companies, including a generous donation of soil by Cedar Grove Composting of Maple Valley, El Centro and community volunteers were able to build raised garden boxes for 40 low-income senior citizens in the Beacon Hill area. The rich composted soil allows seniors to grow flowers, fruits, vegetables and herbs in their own backyards and save on food expenses.

Madrea de la Cruz participated in the Urban Gardening Project last spring and is excited to have a garden bed that allows her to grow tomatoes, zucchini, and cucumbers. "It's a good program for us seniors", she said. The raised bed allows her to tend to the garden without compromising health or safety.



Señora Cruz says her Senior Urban Garden Box yielded a good crop this year because, "I think the soil is very rich," she smiles.

Join Us for our Auction Banquet on September 25th!

On September 25, 2010 El Centro de la Raza will hold its Annual Auction Banquet *Celebrating las Américas: Meeting the Needs of Today – Building Hope for Tomorrow*. We invite you to celebrate with us! This event will both honor the cultures and histories of indigenous and Latin American peoples and raise funds to support our 30 human service and community building programs. This year we will also celebrate 200 years of Mexico's independence and commemorate 100 years since the Mexican Revolution.

As the economic situation remains dire, your support is even more important and will enable us to continue providing comprehensive services to the most vulnerable in our community.

Saturday, September 25th

\$100 per person or \$1,000 for a table of 10

Seattle Design Center (free parking)
5701 6th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108
5:00 Reception & Silent Auction
7:00 Dinner & Live Auction
No-host bar and entertainment

Purchase tickets at www.elcentrodelaraza.org, call 206.957.4649 or email events@elcentrodelaraza.org.

We are still looking for auction items! If you have a gift certificate or a new item to donate please call 206.957.4630 or giving@elcentrodelaraza.org.

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United Way Free Tax Prep at El Centro

The 2010 tax season is officially over and here at El Centro de la Raza, through the support of United Way, volunteers prepared 489 returns for a total refund amount of \$740,691 at our site! Thanks to our volunteers trained by United Way, El Centro de la Raza was able to provide free tax preparation services three times a week beginning in January and ending April 15th.

We provided Spanish speaking interpreters to ensure that our community is able to effectively prepare their taxes and in many cases, receive a refund! One man, Braulio, recently moved to Seattle from New York and wants to start his own business. He heard about El Centro from a friend, and came to do his taxes here so that he could start learning the process of the business

side of opening up a restaurant. This free service allows low-income families to keep more of their income and avoid paying fees to have their taxes prepared commercially, which contributes to their financial stability and helps reduce the risk of becoming homeless.

The United Way Free Tax Prep program provides access to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to help working families maximize their refund, participants at El Centro de la Raza received \$163,758 through these credits this year.

Volunteer!

Here are some of our upcoming volunteer opportunities:

Annual Auction Banquet
September 25, 2010

**Día de los Muertos
Ceremony and Exhibit**
Begins November 1, 2010

Program Support
Please call for opportunities

Community Service Hours
Please call for opportunities

Call 206.957.4602 to
volunteer today!

Art and Social Change After School

El Centro de la Raza's Hope for Youth program kicked off a new youth art series call Art and Social Change After School Program. The program is open from 3:00-4:30 PM every Thursday and is free to youth. Students get to experience a variety of art forms including: sketch books, mural art, graffiti artistry, graphic & architecture design, print making and silk screening. Transportation home is provided to any student who needs it. The first class took a field trip to the Wing Luke Asian Museum to check out a great exhibit on display, currently on the theme of the *Immigrant Experience*.

The Hope for Youth program provides Chicano/Latino students and students of color with accurate history, civil rights, poetry,



Hope for Youth promotes positive self-expression, improves academic performance, strengthens social skills and gives Latino youth and youth of color the opportunity to learn more about their community and history.

and service-learning classes at some Seattle high schools. The program is run as a joint effort with Seattle Public Schools and classes meet graduation requirements.

Cinco de Mayo Celebration with the Seattle Sounders FC

El Centro de la Raza held its 5th Annual Cinco de Mayo celebration on May 2nd and celebrated with 350 people including the Sounders, Banda Vagos and elected officials. The wonderful entertainment, a cultural fashion show, traditional food, children's activities and vendor booths provided a festive and dynamic atmosphere.

Mil gracias to our sponsors Eli Lilly, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, Seattle Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, Sysco, Beacon Rocks, Beacon Arts and Community Health Plan of Washington. A special mil gracias to the North Beacon Hill Council and Asa Mercer Middle School.

Gracias to Seattle Sounders FC players Fredy Montero and Jhon Kennedy Hurtado for signing



Fredy Montero and John Hurtado of the Seattle Sounders sign autographs at the Cinco de Mayo Celebration!

autographs at the event, which was made possible by the Seattle Sounders FC and Community Health Plan of Washington. Thank you to special guests U.S. Representative Jim McDermott, King County Executive Dow Constantine, King County Councilmembers Larry Gossett and Larry Phillips, and Seattle City Councilmember Sally Bagshaw.

Thank you to our entertainers and performers including Banda Vagos, Mariachi Seattle Azteca, Ameyaltonal Danza Azteca, Los Peques, the José Martí Child Development Center fashion show participants, Israel Chavez and all our wonderful ven-



Free Bilingual Legal Clinics

Presented by the Law Offices of Schroeter Goldmark & Bender and the Latino/a Bar Associate of Washington, El Centro de la Raza hosts free bilingual legal clinics the second Wednesday of each month from 6-8 PM from April-October. The remaining dates are June 9th, July 14th, August 11th, September 8th and October 13th.

For more information please call (206) 622-8000.

Upcoming Legal Clinic Dates:
6-8 PM at El Centro de la Raza

Wednesday, September 8th
Wednesday, October 13th

Support El Centro by Searching and Shopping Online!

Support El Centro by searching and shopping online! El Centro will get a penny for every search you perform through www.goodsearch.com. Shop online and through GoodShop and portion of your purchase will go to El Centro as well. Go to www.goodsearch.com every time you need to search or shop and select El Centro de la Raza in the "I'm supporting" box or make it your home page.

El Centro de la Raza en Acción



Over 50 El Centro youth, participants, staff and volunteers headed to Olympia in January for Latino/a Legislative Day. For some this was their first visit to the capitol. Participants were empowered to speak to their representatives about important community issues.



Students from Lakeside School complete two volunteer projects per year at El Centro. Gracias to all the students and teachers at Lakeside!



El Centro celebrated International Children's Day in April with a neighborhood event filled with entertainment, music, cultural foods, games and more in honor of our children!



El Centro participants, youth and Beacon Hill residents and workers testify in support of allowing the City zoning process to move forward.



Volunteers collected over XXX pounds of food for our food bank during a food drive for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of service organized by United Way and the University of Washington. Gracias!



Thousands rally in Seattle for immigration reform in April. Supporters came from as far away as Yakima and Walla Walla. The event was organized by the Washington Immigration Reform Coalition (WIRC).

El Centro de la Raza in Action



El Centro de la Raza is offers Tamale Making Classes each month. The classes are sold out for the year, but you can still order tamales each month! Please call (206) 957-4611 to place an order.



The Rivera family was in danger of losing their home as a result of the recession. "Thanks to the support of El Centro and their excellent preparation we've been able to keep our house!"



Thousands of people marched and rallied on May Day in support of comprehensive immigration reform and labor rights.



An El Centro participant graduates from the Medical Assistant Program at Everest College in the spring. Congratulations!



Poet Martín Espada visited Seattle in May! Dr. Espada held two evening of readings at El Centro de la Raza and the University of Washington.



Youth designed and painted two bus stop murals on Beacon Avenue between February and April. The project, made possible by King County Metro, empowered youth to use artistic expression to communicate positive social messages.

Coalition Leads Effort to Increase Police Accountability

A video posted online to YouTube, which eventually made its way onto Seattle-area news stations and eventually spread nationwide, has Latinos shocked and angry. The video shows a Latino youth suffering from what looks like racism and brutality at the hands of the Seattle Police Department.

The video, filmed on the night of April 17th, shows two SPD officers using racially charged language and assaulting a young, innocent Latino male. In response, El Centro, the ACLU of Washington, Seattle Urban League and other prominent faith, community, and advocacy organizations representing a variety of communities of color formed the Community Coalition for Law Enforcement Accountability.

The coalition held a press conference on May 18th at City Hall, demanding action from the City of Seattle. The coalition demanded the firing of the two guilty officers and an investigation into the actions of the supervisors and other officers who witnessed the incident but did not intervene. The coalition met with the Mayor and City Council members, and will continue to advocate for systemic change within the Seattle Police Department, the Police Guild, and Office of Preferential Accountability.



The Community Coalition for Law Enforcement Accountability held a press conference on May 18th at City Hall, demanding action from the City of Seattle.

ARRA Funding Helps Families Find Housing and Hope

Our Crisis Advocate position provides a unique resource for the Latino community residing in Seattle and King County. During the economic crisis we have seen an increased need for low-income families and a new urgency for moderate-income families whom, often for the first time, to access emergency resources. As a native Spanish speaker and with English fluency, our Advocate plays a pivotal role in reducing language barriers and serves as one stop resource for information.

Our Crisis Advocate was visited by Cunda Morales*, a single mother with a one-year-old son looking for work. Morales came to Seattle with \$100, no place to stay and limited English. At age 21, these circumstances did not allow her a safe and stable environment. Shortly after her arrival she became a victim of domestic violence. Donors like you helped connect Morales with stable housing, clothing and food. Morales has since reported the drastic turn-around her life has taken. Today, Morales has affordable housing and childcare, and a job that allows her to save up money to pursue a career in Culinary Arts.

Spanish Classes

Learn and improve your Spanish while you support El Centro de la Raza! Class fees help support our 30 Human Service and Community Building Programs.

Adult Beginner to Intermediate Level Classes Available

2010 Class Schedule and Location:

Tuesday and Thursday ~ 6:00pm-7:30pm

Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter Quarter Classes Available at El Centro de la Raza 2524 16th Ave

Classes are instructed by professional native Spanish speakers in an interactive community-based setting.

Sign up now! Class fee is \$300.

To register, please call (206) 957-4605 or email execasst@elcentrodelaraza.org.

Tamale Sales

El Centro de la Raza is selling authentic, handmade tamales to support our Senior Wellness Program!

Tamales are for sale for \$12 per dozen on a pre-sales basis for pick-up. Please call (206) 957-4611 or email development@elcentrodelaraza.org for details.

¡Mil Gracias to Our Winter and Spring Donors!

Gracias to our January-June 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

From January-June, approximately 592 volunteers provided 13,194 hours of service valued at \$275,094. Mil gracias!

Please call 206.957.4602 to volunteer! 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!

Gracias to Mortenson Construction and McKinstry Construction Corporation for their pro bono contributions on the new stairs project!

Workplace Giving

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

Grant Awards

Paul G. Allen Family Foundation
United Way of King County
Housing Finance Commission
Taproot Foundation
Washington State Housing and Finance Commission
National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders

Harvest Foundation
Executive Service Corps
City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods
Emergency Food and Shelter Program (Formerly FEMA)
King County 4 Culture
Neighborhood and Community Arts Program
Eli Lilly and Company

Partidarios \$1,000-4,999

Anonymous (2)

Familia \$100-999

Ernesto Acosta
Katherine Alfaro
Sally Bagshaw
Allan Bonney
Hugh Brannon
Herb Bridge
Brian Carey
Brenda Courtade
Alice Doyel
Larry Fontaine
Maria Gonzales
Rhonda Gossett
Alice Gregory
Carlos Guangorena, Jr.
Abe Johnny
Joshua Kavanagh
Michelle Kelly
Betty Kill
Nancy Lucero
Mike Moore
Olav Nossom
Estela Ortega
Grizelda Sarria
Maximilian Sanchez
Ruben Salazar
Beau Schilz
Amaya Souarez
Anne Stadler
Janet Staub
Dennis Tiffany
Amy Thomson
Meenoo Yashar
El Centro de la Raza - Latino Hot Meal Participant Donations
El Centro de la Raza - Cinco de Mayo Attendee Donations
El Centro de la Raza - Food Bank Participant Donations
Anonymous
El Centro de la Raza - Senior Program Participant Donations
Anonymous
REI Workplace Giving Campaign
King County Employees Charitable Campaign
Washington State Combined Fund Drive
Enterprise Rent-A-Car
Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
CFC King County Employees

Amigos \$1-99

Abdallah N'Diaye
Adrian Laigo
Alan Torres

Alejandro Novoa-Cardenas
Alicia Braman
Anonymous (6)
Arturo Zamora
Ashley Haugen
Barbara Lampert
Barefoot Books
Bethany Gipson
Betty Zielinski
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound
Brice Maryman
Candida Lorenzana
Carissa Allen
Carlos Sanabria
Carmen Palomera
Carolyn Walden
Charles Ferguson
City of Seattle Combined Charities
Costco Matching Gifts Program
Daniel Prieto
Danielle Rafferty
Dawna De Stasio
Dean KiloDavis
Deborah Cornell
Dedrick Sprick
Dolores Ramirez
Domitilo Calderon-Ontiver
Duane Welty
Elizabeth Morado
Ellen Freeman
Emily Chavez
Enrique Alvarado
Erin Mullins-Rivera
German Moya Jr.
Hannah Love
Hector Gonzalez
Hope Rose
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Irene Lyle
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Kelly Glenn
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King County Democratic Central Committee
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Maria Garcia
Maria Gonzales
Maria Ramirez
Maria Valdivia
Mark Waggoner
Marleina Binongcal
Martin Haskins
Maurillo Ramos

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



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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.

If you do not wish to continue receiving our newsletter, would like to receive our newsletter by email only, or if you have an address correction, please call 206.957.4652 or email donor@elcentrodelaraza.org with your name, correct contact information, and your request.

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:
September 2nd
October 7th
November 4th

Space is limited. Please RSVP to
206.957.4652 or
donor@elcentrodelaraza.org

Save-the-date

Annual Auction Banquet
Saturday, September 25, 2010
Seattle Design Center

*Celebrating las Américas:
Meeting the Needs of Today - Creando
una Esperanza para un Mejor Mañana*

Purchase your ticket today at
www.elcentrodelaraza.org/auction.htm

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