



August 2006

## LA VOZ

### La Alianza Hispana Newsletter



#### Message from the Team

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

I want to express our gratitude for the overwhelming support we received during the last few months. Our relentless efforts and heartfelt conviction that la Alianza has been and continues to be an important voice for Latinos and other communities of color has resulted in a number of exciting and positive changes. This is our first in a series of monthly newsletters entitled *La Voz* (*The Voice*); when our voices are heard we become a thriving, visible, and empowered Latino community! I hope that you share your voice with us in the form of any ideas, comments, or suggestions you might have about *La Voz* or our work.

I would like to share with you a number of exciting changes that have taken place. As some of you may know, I have served as Deputy Director of LAH for the past year. I was recently named interim Executive Director. William Rodriguez has transitioned to a new role and will be working closely with me. This change comes at very important time for LAH and is part of a new team management approach. Together we will co-lead a team of senior administrators and consultants working to build organizational capacity. Aptly named the Renaissance initiative, this effort will reorganize and rebuild LAH over the next few years. LAH's new Renaissance team will strengthen fiscal operations, development and other systemic infrastructures.

#### *Our Accomplishments*

In this issue of *La Voz*, we give you our victories and the strategies that have led us here. In this coming year, we will continue strengthening our community programs leading to increased health and education for Latino families in Boston.

I'm happy to report that LAH has come a long way! We have embarked on a number of capacity-building activities designed to significantly strengthen programs and services. As part of this effort, LAH has delineated a comprehensive development plan that will create financial sustainability for the organization. Since January we have raised \$160,000 dollars to support capacity-building activities. In addition to improving other aspects of our systemic infrastructure, we have revamped our financial and performance management systems and are in the process of implementing ETO, a new outcomes and measurement system. In February we conducted a surface evaluation of our programs and services and in September of this year we will begin an in-depth evaluation of each program in our repertoire. We expect that this information will dramatically impact the design, development and implementation of all programs and services.

LAH thanks you for caring about our community's future. We hope that you join us in this portion of our institution's journey, as we endeavor to create the systems and institutional capacity that allows LAH to fulfill our mission, respond to divergent needs, and ultimately, to contribute to an improved quality of life for Latinos in the Greater Boston area. We invite you to be part of a LAH's new beginning and welcome your thoughts and comments about this, our first issue of *La Voz*.

Sincerely,



Janet Collazo and the Renaissance Team

## **In the Spotlight**

**LAH's Education Department: An ESOL Student's Perspective.**

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"I feel grateful to have the opportunity to study here. It feels good to learn something every day and I'm looking forward to moving to the next level."  
Said Alberto Miguel, ESOL Student

For nearly 35 years LAH's English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program has been our flagship, playing a pivotal role in strengthening Boston's emerging Latino community. The ESOL program sprang from our community's need. Participants in the Mothers Tutoring Mothers program (ca. 1971-1975) – LAH's first home-based language instruction program, voiced the need to bring English language instruction to their broader community. Subsequently expanding, the program's mission became what it is today: To provide English language instruction designed to help all participants meet their educational and life goals. Since its inception, thousands of immigrants have made LAH and the ESOL program part of their first passage into the professional and bicultural world by using their newfound English language skills to become

active members in their personal and professional communities.

For fifty-six year old Alberto Miguel, a native from El Salvador and a current student in the program, learning English has opened a gateway of opportunity, serving as a critical step in his personal and professional development. "My wife and my children emigrated before me. After arriving here, I wanted to provide them with a better life," said Alberto, an electrician by training who found it difficult to transfer his skills without the necessary language skills. "I have been struggling to communicate all these years. Every time I want to talk to my clients, to my doctors, or even when I just need to talk to someone, it's difficult. I feel grateful to have the opportunity to study here. It feels good to learn something every day and I'm looking forward to moving to the next level." Alberto's motivation has inspired other members of his family to continue improving their English language skills at LAH.

LAH has embarked on a capacity-building initiative that aims to strengthen all programs and services. Building the capacity of the ESOL program is a major part of this larger effort. We have launched a new outreach and marketing plan that will focus on outreaching to individuals like Alberto: Immigrants in the workforce in need of additional language instruction to advance in their career and continue building their professional portfolio. Like Alberto, we look forward to moving to the next level!

## **La Alianza Hispana's 2006 Health Fair**

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Over 600 people and 25 community partners participated in LAH's 2006 Health Fair! Held in June, this year's fair helped to increase health awareness by providing participants with free screenings and activities. We would like to thank the following partners for providing free medical screenings: Dimock Community Health Center, the Family Van, the Prostate Van of the Dana Faber Cancer Institute, Small Smiles Dental Care and the Hispanic Dental Association at Tufts University.

## **New Beginnings Gala**

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La Alianza Hispana's New Beginnings Gala was held on June 16, 2006. Hundreds of supporters danced to the rhythm of Latin jazz and salsa while celebrating LAH's community contributions. The night of festivities included performances from some of the most notable Latin Jazz musicians in Boston, such as the renown Puerto Rican Grammy-winning percussionist Eguie Castrillo and orchestra and the Tempting Fate Revue, an eighteen-piece songwriting and performance ensemble.

## **Save The Date!**

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*The following are some places where you will be sure to find LAH marketing and outreach staff. Feel free to join us at any of these events. If you know of any event where you think we should be present or if you need more information about our programs and services please contact: Josiane Martínez, Community Relations Coordinator, at 617-427-7175 X 230*

- August 25, 2006-Table Booth at Jackson Square, Jamaica Plain.
- September 1, 2006-Table Booth at Columbia Rd., Dorchester.
- September 10, 2006-Jamaica Plain World Fair,
- September 20, 2006-New Bostonian's Day, Boston City Hall.

- September 28, 2006-Children's Hospital Health Fair.
- September 30, 2006-Martha Elliot Health Fair.
- October 8th, 2006-El Planeta Salud y Familia.

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