



December 2006

LA VOZ

La Alianza Hispana's Newsletter



Dear Friends and Colleagues:

I hope you had a great Thanksgiving with family, friends and loved ones. In the "La Alianza Family" we are thankful to be part of a wonderful and enthusiastic team of co-workers who day in and day out show their commitment to our community. They are a great team who have worked hard to enhance La Alianza's programs and services

We are also grateful for the support we have received from our funders who are helping to strengthen La Alianza's operations and supporting us in building

our organizational infrastructure. These include the Boston Foundation, United Way, Roxbury Trust, Citizens Bank, Clippership Foundation, Eastern Bank and Verizon.

The English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), a literacy education program, which serves over 300 students a year and provides English language instruction to help all participants meet their educational and life goals, has been revitalized after an intense marketing, outreach and retention campaign and now has a waiting list over 500 individuals.

The Latino Family Counseling Center (LFCC): our licensed Latino Mental Health Clinic continues to provide quality bilingual/bicultural clinical and supportive services to approximately 127

clients and short-term services to over 600 clients per year.

Lastly, I want to thank the wonderful group of people that day to day believe in what we do and are always ready to support our work in many ways. La Alianza thanks you for caring about our community's future. Please feel free to forward this newsletter and help us to grow the community of people committed to improving the quality of life for Latinos in the Greater Boston area.

With gratitude and solidarity,



Janet Collazo

Thanksgiving, La Alianza Hispana style



Feliz Accion de Gracias or Thanksgiving is an opportunity to give thanks, share food, and connect with others. At La Alianza Hispana we had the opportunity to share in the spirit of Thanksgiving with those who helped pave the way for future generations of Latinos in Boston, our seniors; and our adult education students, all of whom approach their work and learning with perseverance.

A Special Celebration for La Alianza's Seniors on November 21st



Thanks to the generous support of The Hispanic Liquor Retailers Association, along with El Planeta Newspaper and Central Boston Elder Services, La Alianza Hispana hosted a Thanksgiving Dinner for the 50 seniors who receive services at our Adult Day Health Program in Mission Hill. In true Latin/Caribbean fashion, traditional Spanish foods were provided by Amory Restaurant and the seniors were serenaded with authentic Latin music performed by Gian Carlo Buscaglia. Fourteen community volunteers, who served the Thanksgiving feast, were quickly coaxed to the dance floor by many of the seniors. Mariosol Amaya, Program Director for La Alianza's Adult Day Health Program remarked, "The seniors

were so touched by the generosity of the donors and volunteers. This kind of celebration has

never happened for them before. It made a huge difference in their lives to be honored and celebrated in this way."

Theatrics in the Education Department—"A Family Gathering"



Thanksgiving continued the next day in La Alianza's ESOL department where more than 50 students gathered to share a feast and reflect on the opportunities and support they have received this past year. Janice Bigelow, a Level 1 ESOL teacher, directed her students in a play about the first Thanksgiving gathering. While preparing the play, this activity helped students understand American History, explore social and political issues and built confidence in public speaking in English. After the play, students and community members joined in a feast provided by the teachers. The teachers wanted to recognize their students for their dedication and hard work over the past semester. Patria Santana, Director of the Education Department, explained "We are so proud of our students. In most cases, our students are working more than one job and/or have demanding family responsibilities. They show up everyday, ready to learn, ready to improve their lives, and most importantly, ready to support each other like a family."

Third year student Jesus Cabral, currently enrolled in the English program, said "today made me feel like I have a big family here. This was wonderful; activities like this really show the connections between La Alianza Hispana and the community. This was my first Thanksgiving at La Alianza—it really made me think about all the things I am grateful for in my new life in Boston." Jesus has been diligently developing his English skills and aspires to enroll in college next year.

Juguetes para los pequeños

Can you help La Alianza Hispana provide toys to children this holiday season?

La Alianza will celebrate its 15th year of presenting a Fiesta del Día de los Reyes or Three Kings Day in the community on January 5, 2007. A typical Hispanic tradition, Three Kings Day signifies the day Three Wise Men followed the Star of Bethlehem and arrived with gifts for the newborn King, Jesus. Children from Mexico, Santo Domingo, Puerto Rico, Cuba and various other Hispanic countries celebrate this joyous occasion by receiving gifts from the Three Kings.

La Alianza Hispana's Fiesta del Día de los Reyes will feature music, classic Latino food and gifts for all the children. In past years we have been able to provide toys to an average of 300 needy children in the community. This year we hope to put smiles on the faces of over 300 children. If you are interesting in helping us by donating a new, unwrapped toy, please contact us!

For more information please contact Hanoi Reyes, Toy Campaign Coordinator at 617-427-7175 X 277 or hreyes@laalianza.org. You can also feel free to drop off toys at 409 Dudley St. Roxbury, MA during our office hours.



SAVE THE DATE!

Preliminary results of the Puerto Rican Epidemiologic Study

The Boston Puerto Rican Center on Population Health and Health Disparities at Tufts University, along with La Alianza Hispana and Northeastern University invite you to a light breakfast and presentation.



This breakfast will highlight the preliminary results of the health and nutritional status from more than 900 participants in a Puerto Rican Epidemiologic Study. This is the first time this research data will be available to the community.

When: Monday December 4, 2006

Time: 8:30 am to 10:30 am

**Where: Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University
711 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02111**



Speakers:

Katherine L. Tucker, PhD, Director of the Boston Puerto Rican Center on Population Health and Health Disparities

Luis M. Falcon, PhD, Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Northeastern University

Jose Ordovas, PhD, Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University

William Rodríguez, La Alianza Hispana

Dr. Francisco Trillas, Director of Atreva Clinic

Invited Guests:

Representative Jeffrey Sánchez

Senator Jarrett Barrios
City Councilor Félix Arroyo

Don't miss this exiting opportunity to learn about the health and nutritional status of the Puerto Rican Community.

Sponsors,



email: jmartinez@laalianza.org
phone: 617-427-7175 X230
web: <http://laalianza.org>



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La Alianza Hispana | 409 Dudley St. | Roxbury | MA | 02119