



December 2006

LA VOZ

La Alianza Hispana's December Newsletter



Dear Friends and Family,

2006 was a year of change and transformation for La Alianza Hispana. We changed the way we did business, we changed locations for one of our longstanding programs, and we changed the way we reached out to the community for support. As we talked to people in the community this year, we heard heartwarming tributes as to how La Alianza had changed their lives. Here is what they said, *"La Alianza helped me 20 years ago when I arrived in Boston—I am forever grateful," "La Alianza has always provided important services in the community, it's a given that it will be an open door for Spanish speakers and others in the neighborhood" and "my neighbor received support from La Alianza*

and it made a world of difference." We heard that people like you value our presence in the community and appreciate our service to those most in need.

Our "Alianza" is **your** "Alianza". And today, we need your support. We ask you to consider investing in us by making a financial contribution. We are headed in the right direction building stability and growth—but we have more work ahead. We are serving 1,600 people a year—these are young mothers, children, teenagers, working adults, families and senior citizens.

Investing in La Alianza now will, in turn, strengthen our community in concrete and measurable ways. For example, your support will enable La Alianza to:

- Provide English classes to over 500 immigrants and help prepare them for employment;
- Serve over 600 families with short-term clinical and supportive services and over 120 families with intensive long-term services;
- Support over 100 prospective teen mothers to ensure that their babies are born healthy and have a head start in life; and,
- Provide essential services that helps over 200 Latino seniors per year to stay healthy and independent.

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. I thank you for caring about our community's future and hope that you will join us in this portion of our institution's journey, as we endeavor to create the systems and institutional capacity that allows La Alianza 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 La Alianza's community of supporters in 2007. **¡Feliz Navidad y Próspero Año Nuevo!**

In Solidarity,



Janet Collazo

To make a financial contribution, please send your tax-deductible gift to:

La Alianza Hispana 409 Dudley St. Roxbury, MA 02119

La Alianza Hispana is organized under IRS Code 501(c)(3) and gifts are tax-deductible as provided by the law.

2006 Program Highlights:

La Alianza Receives National Recognition for Excellence in Adult Day Health Services
La Alianza's Adult Day Health Program won second prize for a national contest sponsored by

the National Adult Day Health Service Association. This accolade is for La Alianza's unique services and activities offered to elders. State Senator Dianne Wilkerson, State Representative Jeffrey Sanchez, Councilor Felix Arroyo and Candidate for the State Senate, Sonia Chang Díaz, were in attendance at our Kick-Off Breakfast for National Adult Day Health Week in September. Senator Dianne Wilkerson recognized the importance of adult day health services at La Alianza Hispana and said she is committed to supporting the program in many different ways. "This is a wonderful way to begin the day! I represent a very diverse yet similar district at the same time. They are people who need work; who need resources; they want to send their children to the best schools, and they want to live in safer communities. Just like you, they want an effective health system and as they grow older, they want to be respected for their work and their contributions to the community," Wilkerson said.



La Alianza's participates in a National Institute of Health Research Project

The Puerto Rican Epidemiologic Study, a partnership between Tufts University, Northeastern University and La Alianza Hispana, is a statewide study on the nutritional needs of Puerto Rican seniors. La Alianza has assisted in the investigation and recruitment of over 1,200 participants, outlining health disparities and issues affecting the nutrition of seniors. The preliminary findings of the study were presented on December 4th at Tufts University. The Boston Globe covered the story on December 5th headlined as: Depression engulfs area's Puerto Ricans: "Puerto Ricans in Greater Boston are in the midst of an epidemic of depression, researchers reported yesterday, with 58 percent of middle-aged women and 38 percent of middle-aged men diagnosed with the condition." Today, La Alianza continues to help bring attention and visibility to the needs of its seniors and more importantly, the results of the studies will help the agency design intervention strategies that will help build the elders program to uniquely address nutritional and mental health issues in the Latino community.

Latino Family Counseling Center Awarded New Contract for Family Stabilization

In May, La Alianza received a new contract from the Department of Social Services under the Family Network System. La Alianza's Family Stabilization Services are provided to youth who are abused, neglected and in distress. An intensive intervention, clinicians and case managers implement a short-term crisis model by providing intensive case management designed to diffuse crisis and stabilize families. In Roxbury, where 26.7% of families live below the poverty level, the vicissitudes of poverty and chaotic living conditions compromise the

positive socio-emotional development of youth. The risk is 22 times greater for abused and neglected youth living in families with annual incomes below \$15,000 than for children living in families with incomes greater than \$30,000; the human cost of not addressing their needs is compelling. These youth are more likely than others to: have chronic low self-esteem; experience problems forming relationships; exhibit behavioral problems, have learning disorders; suffer from mental illness including depression, post-traumatic stress or conduct disorders; have low academic achievement; experience substance abuse or teen pregnancy; and demonstrate juvenile delinquency and adult criminality.

Adult Education Program at Full Capacity and Reaching Out to the Workplace

La Alianza's new Director of Education and Workforce, Patria Santana, has re-structured this department which is now growing rapidly. The program is fully staffed, its classes are full and it has a waiting list of over 200 people. In 2006, La Alianza partnered with Morgan Linen, a commercial laundry company, to provide needed vocational English language instruction to its employees and to help them access career ladders at the company.



Club Latino Awarded Two Special Grants to Integrate Math, Science and Technology and Improve Family Engagement

La Alianza's program, Club Latino, is onsite at the Lilla Fredericks Pilot Middle School in Dorchester. Staff and volunteers provide comprehensive services to middle school students as well as parent led workshop for the student's families. The program is in its third year and is an innovative approach to serve underserved youth. Today, la Alianza Hispana continues to

provide a whole brain learning approach to twenty students which identify youths' skill strengths and learning styles, and build these skills through academic and vocational programming to stem poverty, school drop out rates, violence and hopelessness in the local Latino community. As part of a grant from the National Science Foundation, Club Latino served as a pilot site for The Intercultural Center for Research in Education (INCRE) to integrate math and science with technology in an after school setting. A generous grant from the Grand Circle Foundation allowed La Alianza to provide additional parent workshops and support services.



LASI youth at the Museum of Science

PACE: The Partnership for Automotive Career Education Training and placing automotive technicians and supporting them in their careers.



PACE candidates in an orientation & training session at La Alianza Hispana

The Partnership for Automotive Career Education (PACE) is a collaboration involving La Alianza Hispana, the Asian American Civic Association, the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts, Sullivan Tire, Bridgestone Firestone, the Massachusetts State Automobile Dealers Association, Village Automotive Group, Madison Park Vocational High School and Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology, with funding provided by SkillWorks, a consortium of foundations, the city of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Improvements to our Facilities



New Facilities in Mission Hill Allow La Alianza to Increase Services for Seniors

A hallmark program in La Alianza's repertoire, the Adult Day Health program has been in existence for over 25 years and is meeting a dire need for Boston's aging Latino population. In 2003 Latinos comprised nearly 6% of all people 65 and older in the U.S., and by 2050 they will increase to 17.5%. Additionally, according to the 2000 U.S. Census

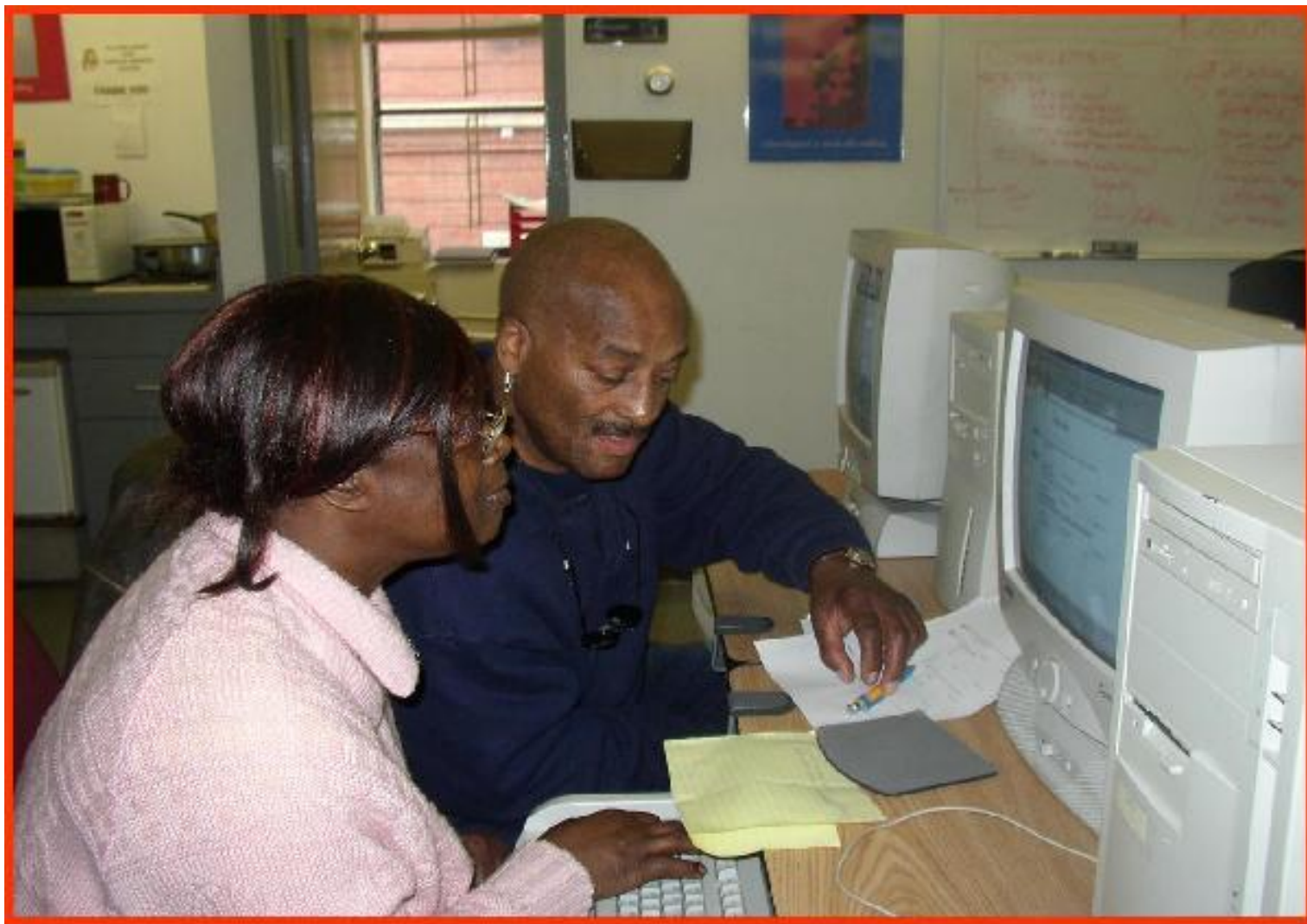
Report, nearly a quarter of all Latino elders between the ages of 65 and 74 live alone. That percentage increases more than 40% for Latino elders over the age of 74. The Adult Day Health Program is meeting an increased need for these services. In fact, the increased need led La Alianza to move the program to a larger and more visible site in the Landmark building, in the heart of the Longwood Medical Area and adjacent to some of the nation's premier hospitals and healthcare institutions. The new facilities are located at 66 Parker Hill Avenue, in the heart of Mission Hill.

Fidelity, the United Way and Neighborhood Redevelopment Corporation Beautify La Alianza's Building

La Alianza received a special grant this summer to make much needed improvements to our facilities located in the Dudley Street Neighborhood. With generous support from the Neighborhood Redevelopment Corporation, the United Way's Community Cares Day, and a

hardworking, “roll-up your sleeves” team from Fidelity Investments, our buildings have been beautified. They were able to renovate our reception area, paint all common areas and provide new carpets. These changes bring great dignity and pride to our space and were symbolic of our positive changes as we launched a New Beginnings Campaign.

Increased Access to the Timothy Smith Career and Technology Center



With support from the renovations, La Alianza was able to relocate its Timothy Smith Career and Technology Center. Its new location is in our 409 Dudley Street Building, which is more accessible to people with mobility issues and is a facility with greater capability to offer extended hours of operation. The Timothy Smith Career and Technology Center is an open access community computer lab with 25 workstations sponsored by a Timothy Smith Technology Grant. La Alianza offers free computer technology classes open to the community with bilingual instruction.

Events:

La Alianza's New Beginnings Gala

La Alianza Hispana's New Beginnings Gala was held on June 16th. Hundreds of supporters danced to the rhythm of Latin jazz and salsa while celebrating La Alianza'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. This event was generously sponsored by Verizon Communications and raised over \$18,000 to support La Alianza's vital programs.

La Alianza's Annual Latino Public Health Fair Reaches More Than 600 Community Residents

Over 600 people and 25 community partners participated in La Alianza'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.

Hispanic Business Community Sponsors a Feliz Accion de Gracias or Thanksgiving Celebration



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."

Capacity Building Initiatives

In 2006, we have embarked on a number of capacity-building activities designed to significantly strengthen programs and services. We are happy to report that The Boston Foundation awarded La Alianza with a generous grant of \$100K to support capacity building activities. We also have received funding from other generous partners --- Roxbury Trust, Citizens Bank, Clippership Foundation and Eastern Bank to support a comprehensive development plan that will strengthen fiscal operations, development and other systemic infrastructure. Harbinger Partners will support La Alianza by helping to increase technology capacity, including redesigning our website in 2007.

The Gifts of the Three Kings



Roxbury, MA - 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.

To continue with our tradition, La Alianza Hispana, together with El Mundo Newspaper, will celebrate its popular Fiesta del Día de los Reyes, with music, exquisite food and gifts for all the children.

This year we expect to receive approximately 300 Boston area children.

When: **Friday January 5, from 3:00-6:00 PM at Vine St Community Center, 339 Dudley St. Roxbury, MA 02119**

Please join us! This year we are honored to have **City Councilor Félix Arroyo, Chelsea City Councilor Roy Avellaneda** and **Omar Cabrera, host of Univision News**, representing the Three Kings. Each local leader/celebrity will be fashioned in robes and crowns and will be

bearing gifts for all the smiling children!

The Tradition

Three Kings Day is celebrated on January 6th, twelve days after Christmas. It is often viewed as the last day of the Christmas season (the end of the 12 days of Christmas.) Also known as The Epiphany, Three Kings Day (Día de los Reyes) is a Christian celebration that commemorates the Biblical story of the three kings who followed the star of Bethlehem to bring gifts to the Christ child. According to the Biblical story, the Three Kings – named Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar – presented the Baby Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

La Alianza Hispana

Since 1971, La Alianza Hispana has been an icon of Latino leadership and has consistently served as a portal to hope for well over 30,000 Bostonians. As a hub of social service delivery, advocacy, and education, our organization has changed the landscape of community resources and has changed lives. Woven into our core values of empowerment and supporting social justice, La Alianza has a rich history of incubating ideas that have evolved into powerful models of community.



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