



Centro Latino de Chelsea

NOVEDADES

Fall 2008

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Centro celebrates Hispanic Heritage



Thanks to the supporters of Hispanic Heritage

- Chelsea Cultural Council
- Bella Isla Restaurant
- Boston Red Dogs Inc.
- Café Meridian
- Curly's Restaurant
- CVS / pharmacy
- El Paisa Restaurant
- Monte Cristo Restaurant
- Pollo Loco
- Herrera Mexican Grill
- La Orquidea
- Sabor Latino
- Tito's Bakery
- Tropical Banana Company
- Tu Casa Restaurant

More than 250 people participated in Centro Latino's celebration of Hispanic Heritage and National Latino AIDS Awareness on October 10. Corporate executives, community leaders, city officials, and civic leaders from Boston joined Centro Latino's staff, volunteers, clients and constituents, to celebrate and share in the great and diverse traditions of Latin America. It was a happy experience of tasting varied authentic Latino cuisines and

listening to traditional Latin American music.

This year's Hispanic Heritage Day celebrated the common thread of the immigrant experience. A special feature of the event was the unveiling of a quilt project named *Chelsea, A City of New Americans: A Common Thread*, an artistic collaboration between Centro Latino, Temple Emmanuel, and the Jordan Boys and Girls Club. A joint initiative at the grassroots between older Chelsea Jewish residents and

the newer Chelsea Latino residents, it aims to transform community - equally, creatively, realistically, and with heart - by sharing stories, remembering home, and finding commonalities.

In addition, National Latino AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD) was conducted in collaboration with: ABCD Entre Nosotras, Project Shine, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, Concilio Hispano, and Chelsea ASAP. NLAAD was created to draw attention to the critical role

that HIV testing and prevention education play in stemming the spread of HIV/AIDS, an epidemic that continues to have a disproportionate and devastating impact on the Latino population in the U.S.

SAVE THE DATE

Centro Latino's 13th Annual COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON

November 26, 11 am—2 pm
Home cooked turkey with
A Latino flair



Centro Latino's Impact Statement

Centro Latino helps Latinos and immigrants in Chelsea and Eastern Massachusetts to build skills, knowledge, and capacity so they can:

- *learn about community resources and advocate for themselves,*
- *overcome barriers to sustainable employment,*
- *integrate into and contribute to their community.*

Client Profile: Iris Rivera



Photo Daisy Gonzalez

Fifty seven years young, Iris Rivera continues to reinvent herself, with a little help from Centro Latino. After raising 6 children, 15 grandchildren, and 6 great grandchildren as a single parent and running her own retail shop in Chelsea, Iris decided it's time to learn new things. Two years ago,

Iris came to Centro Latino to learn English as second language and gain computer skills. With drive and determination, she reached level 4 of the ESL program and level 3 in computer literacy program. In the meantime, she started volunteering at Centro putting her new found skills to work. Nine months later, with support from Operation A.B.L.E. that helps mature workers, Centro hired Iris to be part of the bilingual staff that handles the reception desk. At her new job as receptionist in Centro, Iris keys in student data into Centro's database and processes transactions. Always elegant, Iris greets Centro's clients with a warm smile, a generous heart, and chock full of information about community resources "I left Puerto Rico twenty years ago. Today, Chelsea is my new home and Centro Latino, my other family," Iris said.

Montage of Events: Three Months in Review

Juan Vega Awarded Barr Fellowship

Centro Latino's Executive Director was awarded a fellowship by the Barr Foundation for his work in the field of health and human services. The three-year fellowship includes international travel, retreats, peer learning, and executive coaching. Centro's staff and Board congratulate Juan on this significant recognition.



Ya es Hora Ve y Vota

Daisy Gonzalez, Centro Latino's Director of Immigration & Citizenship organizing to get out the vote at Faneuil Hall, posing here with Barack Obama's senior advisor on immigration.



Computer Workshops

Omar Preciado, Centro's other IT guru, will be conducting a new series of 4 workshops for students to learn how to use technology to search for and attain a job. They will be held on Saturdays in November from 9am-12pm at *Concilio Hispano* in Cambridge.



Photo: Robert Galeano

Con Todo Corazon

Robert Galeano, Centro Latino's new full time HIV Counselor and Tester, makes sure that people know their health status and the means to deal with HIV/AIDS.



It's a youth development equation at Centro Latino

- + Chelsea teens
- + Mentor teachers
- + Peer leaders
- + Culturally sensitive, bilingual director

= **Enrichment Learning**



Maribel Fardomo and her kids

We appreciate your comments, suggestions, and stories. Please send to: Betty King at bking@centrolatino.org

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