



Centro Latino de Chelsea

NOVEDADES

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Centro celebrates 19 years of dedicated service

Centro Latino's wide circle of friends, corporate and community philanthropists converged at Anthony's of Malden on May 9, 2008 to celebrate Centro's nineteen extraordinary years of service to the community in an annual dinner dance and auction. Besides being a joyous occasion it proved to be a very successful fundraiser. All proceeds will augment the vital community services that Centro Latino provides to more than 5,000 individuals every year.

The Chelsea Record editorial described the occasion as "a great party" with an "enormously diverse crowd" of great and fun celebrants, fabulous auction prizes, fantastic door prizes, delicious food, foot-tapping live music and hip-shaking dancing.

State Street Corporation's Sabine St. Lot and Jose Garcia



(L to R) State Rep. Eugene O'Flaherty, Centro Latino Executive Director Juan Vega, Eastern Salt owner Shelagh Mahoney, WBO heavyweight champion John Ruiz, State Senator Anthony Galluccio (story below)

were recognized for outstanding commitment and dedication to building stronger communities. Celebrity guest John Ruiz was fully occupied signing autographs and posing for op-ed shots with his countless fans. The photo appeared in the Boston Globe's celebrity page.

The event unquestionably set a precedent for next year. The Board, staff, and Centro stakeholders fully expect to see many more old and new friends next year when Cento attains its milestone 20th anniversary. To quote the Chelsea Record "And what a great party that (will) be!"

WBO heavyweight champion John Ruiz leverages his celebrity to help Latino community in Chelsea

Latino legendary sports personality, two-time world heavyweight boxing champion John, "the Quietman" Ruiz used his celebrity status to help the Chelsea community where he grew up. The beloved local hero flew in from Las Vegas where he lives with his wife Mirabelle and their son, to attend Centro's gala and fundraising event. Ruiz donated

a rare black robe he used in his last fight in Cancun, Mexico. Community leader Angel Bermudez made a winning bid for \$1,500 in a highly charged live auction conducted by State Senator Anthony Galluccio. In an equally exhilarating live auction conducted by State Rep. Eugene O'Flaherty, Eastern Salt's Shelagh Mahoney won signed red

boxing gloves for \$ 1,050, also donated by Ruiz. The following day, Ruiz unexpectedly dropped in at Centro to give a generous donation of \$3,225. He also made a surprise visit to the Chelsea home of a lady who wrote him a letter sent through Centro expressing how huge a Ruiz fan her late husband was.

To a valiant fighter with a big heart, mil gracias!

Our deepest appreciation to our Gala Sponsors

Lider

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Partner Profile: Massachusetts General Hospital

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.



Barbara Chase (center) with CHC nurse and patient.

Barbara Chase, a nurse practitioner at MGH Chelsea Health Center (CHC) oversees the Diabetes Management Program. Its philosophy is to provide good information and knowledge that patients need, so as to enlighten and empower them to take care of themselves. 'We at CHC believe that treatment of chronic disease such as diabetes is more effective through patient self-management, not prescriptive medicine.' CHC uses a multidisciplinary approach to health management, taking into account barriers to health care such as poverty, immigration, and a simple lack of knowledge. Its educational program educates 100 people every year. 'We are very proud to be Centro's partner in health education. Centro's compassionate health team makes every client feel safe and respected—like part of an extended family,' Barbara notes.

Centro Latino's Family Health Fair a smashing success

Centro Latino's 1st Annual Family Health Fair held on June 24, 2008 at Centro's parking lot exceeded all expectations. Upwards of 400 people, entire families crowded in, learning much even as they enjoyed themselves.

Held in observance of National HIV Counseling and Testing Day, the event gave free health information, free health screenings for blood pressure and diabetes and conducted free HIV testing and counseling. The goals of the event included increasing the public awareness and knowledge about AIDS/HIV, encouraging at-risk individuals to receive voluntary HIV counseling and testing and providing information about various community health resources.

Massachusetts General Hospital, Chelsea (MGHC), conducted 105 blood and diabetes tests on the spot, of which 8 were tested positive and immediately referred to MGH's diabetes clinic. Nineteen HIV tests were also conducted.

The event was fun as well as educational. Braving the thunderstorms, the crowd kept coming to fully occupy the 6 tents set up with stacks of free health informational materials provided by participating agencies - East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, MGHC, BMC, ABCD, Project Cope, Neighborhood Health Plan, Chelsea ASAP, LHI, Roca, Kool Smiles, Rape Crisis Center, WIC, and Chelsea Collaborative.

sodas, donated by Chelsea Wholesale and Tropical Banana Company, were extremely popular with the crowd. Live entertainment with a DJ and a clown spreading colorful paint on children's faces made a real fiesta of the Health Fair.

News about the Fair spread far and wide. One person came from Rhode Islands to be tested for HIV after hearing about the Health Fair on Univision.

This highly successful initiative was made possible by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and with the cooperation of Centro's valuable community partners and generous local sponsors.

Congratulations to Centro's dynamic health service team for a job very well done! To everyone who took part in the milestone of an event - a huge thank you!

Working together, we can overcome all sorts of barriers to help build healthier and stronger communities.



Photo Omar Preciado

400 people enjoyed the festivities while learning about community health resources.

Kayem Foods set up a tent where the Kayem 'Holy Grill' team provided gratis juicy hotdogs in toasted buns. Kayem CEO Ray Monkiewicz unexpectedly dropped in and quickly made an emergency refill for additional hotdogs and buns. Green 'Save the Earth' shopping bags, donated by Joe Manganaro of Stop & Shop were handed out. Fresh bananas, apples, and oranges as well as bottled water and

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