

Program Development on a Shoe-String Budget

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What Makes a Difference?

- Strength-Based Approach -- Resiliency
- Family Driven
- Community Engagement

Direct Services: Innovative Approaches

- Strategies with Children and Families
- Tutor/Mentors -- Volunteers
- Connection with Parents

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¡Mis Hijos y Yo!

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Family Time

Our families can participate in a variety of community programs and activities here in the Twin Cities. Exploring what is available at local theaters and museums is a great way to bond as a family and connect to what is happening in the community.

- **Museums** provide a variety of interactive learning opportunities on subjects about our world, ranging from immigration trends to the climate. Your family can learn about Minnesota natural habitats and wildlife through interactive exhibits at the Children's Museum, or they can play with oceanic waves or create tornadoes at the Science Museum. The Minneapolis Institute of Arts, the Minnesota Children's Museum (St. Paul) and the Science Museum of Minnesota (St. Paul) are some of the museums that have discounted days for families; passes are available at the library.
- **Community classes** (<http://www.exccotc.org>, <http://www.commedprograms.spps.org/>, <http://commed.mpls.k12.mn.us>) can teach us tools for life. Language, music, computer skills, yoga for children and parents, and art for parents and children are just some examples of the many classes available for all age groups.
- **Story-time** hours and **theater** enhance learning in many ways, such as literacy, love for reading, and exploring other realities and cultures. The Heart of the Beast Puppet Theatre presents a children's show most Saturdays during the winter. Public libraries have story-time circles in many languages.

Paper mâché masks

Paper mâché masks, "mascaras," are vital to our folklore and our traditions. With a little creativity and dedication, we can create fun for the whole family. You will need at least two people for the first part of the project, as well as the following items:

| | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------|
| Vaseline | Scissors | Sandpaper |
| Plaster bandage | Water | |
| White glue | Newspaper: to cover your work area and to cut into small strips for your mask | |

The mold. Cover your work area well, so it will be in great condition when you finish your mask. Generously cover the entire face with Vaseline, especially the eyes. Wet the plaster bandages one by one and lay them in different directions, covering the entire face, except the nostrils. Four or five layers are fine. Let the mold dry for at least 20 minutes before removing it from the face. A blow dryer can speed up the process. Let the mold harden for 24 hours before proceeding with your mask.

The mask. Now that you have a lovely mold, cover the interior of the mask completely with a thin layer of Vaseline. Tear many small strips of newspaper, approximately one by two inches in size. Make a mixture of ½ white glue, ½ water. Use the glue mixture to wet the paper strips, one by one, and place them inside your mold carefully, so no air gets trapped underneath them. You can smooth the paper down with your finger or small paint brush to eliminate air bubbles. Once you have 5-20 layers that are thoroughly dried, carefully lift your mask out of the mold. You can sand the surface to make it smooth, cut eye, nose and mouth holes, and decorate it with your favorite colors and objects!



Photos: Douglas Beasley@beasley.com

Voices of Our Community

We asked the program director of Powderhorn Theater Arts Kids program director, Kayte Norini, to share her thoughts about the impact of theater in the community.

"Tell us about your work with Theater Arts Kids."

This Minneapolis Parks Board program has been located at the Powderhorn Park Community Center since 1994. We provide theater arts activities to children in grades K-8 after school, during vacations, release days, and during the summer. The children design and present an original production with four performances at the end of each session.

Many children return year after year, developing their skills as artists and gaining self-confidence with each experience. The broad age range allows participants to take on leadership roles in the program. It is also a way for families to connect, as siblings can participate together. As high school students, many have continued their involvement, serving as program assistants, as well as writing, designing, and developing choreography and music for our productions.

Our Spring Mini-Camp is scheduled for March 29-31, 2010. During the summer we run two five-week sessions, Monday through Thursday. You can register and find more information on line at www.minneapolisparcs.org. 3400 15th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55407, Peter Jaeger, Center Director at 612-370-4960

What is New in the Community?

Community workshops

Learn about different topics (e.g., nutrition, discipline and education) through workshops in Minneapolis and Saint Paul. For more information call Cynthia Sanchez, 651-646-5553.

Volunteer opportunities

Centros de Información y Recursos (Information and Resource Centers)
The Information and Resource Centers exist to connect community members with diverse information so that they will have greater access to resources within the Twin Cities. Various shifts available, all volunteers must speak Spanish and English.

For more information, call: Alex Zoltai at 651-646-5553.

Heart of the Beast Puppet Theatre

Offers Saturday puppet shows for children. Small donations are accepted. For more information: 1500 E. Lake St., Mpls MN 55407
612-224-8806

Teatro del Pueblo

Promotes Latino culture through performance art. For more info:
209 Page Street West, Suite 208
St. Paul, MN
651-224-8806

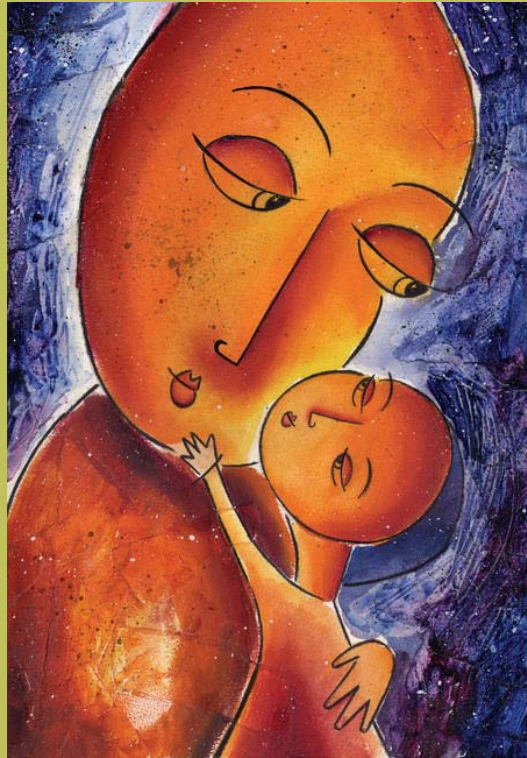
Recreation and Resource Centers

For information on locations and activities, call 651-266-6400 (St. Paul) and 612-230-6400 (Minneapolis).

Our mission is mobilize Latinas and Latino communities to end domestic violence.

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Connecting: Show Me Your Artistic Side!!!



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Directions

- In small groups, develop a one-page magazine, newsletter, or bulletin.
- Your one-page project should:
 - Target Latino parents, children, OR youth.
 - Have a clear message or objective.
 - Demonstrate signs of resiliency, strength, and the culture of your group.
 - Be attractive and fun for your audience!!!

Be prepared to report back!!

Thinking Outside the Box: What Does It Mean?



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Directions

- Topic: HOPE!!!
- Audience: Youth
- Develop an activity (e.g., art, music, literature, dialogue) that will send the message of HOPE!
Resources Available --- \$0

Directions (cont.)

- Keep in mind that your activity must:
 - Be culturally and age appropriate.
 - Be fun, engaging, and creative!
 - Be active -- participation of the youth.
 - Build resilience and strengths.

Be prepared to share with all the groups!

Next Steps!!

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