



Board Briefing

December 15, 2010

Board News

¡Gracias!

Our staff holiday party just ended a few minutes ago. Athena and Miguel joined us. Thank you for your gifts and kind words. Rick, the lunch was delicious! Thank you.

Meeting

Mark your calendars! The next board meeting is scheduled for January 26, 5 – 7 pm, central time, in our Griggs office.

Programs

Proyecto Navidad

Our holiday project is in full swing. Thanks to donors—and especially White Bear Lake High School, South Campus—*Proyecto Navidad* provided gifts for 68 families. Last night was the holiday party at our *Refugio*. The holiday effort is a huge organizational feat—our compliments go to the staff who have once again managed a project that brings smiles to many faces!

Fuerza Unida

Josemy Morales, community engagement coordinator, has been working the past few months with East Side Neighborhood Development Company. He is a member of a subcommittee that is assisting the organization in developing a community engagement program. They are reviewing various models, including Casa de Esperanza's *Fuerza Unida*. Josemy is the only member of the subcommittee representing a community-based organization. Other members are funders or staff.

Volunteers

Alex Zoltai, volunteer coordinator, hosted 15 volunteers (from our information and resource centers) at his home, November 30. They enjoyed dinner (prepared by Alex) and the opportunity to meet one another and share experiences. They also discussed immigration issues—important information for their work at the centers.

Youth Peer Education

Hennepin County will be contracting with Casa de Esperanza to provide peer education workshops and leadership development trainings for youth through the Latino Youth Development Collaborative. The work will be done at three high schools—Jefferson and Kennedy in Bloomington and Cooper in the Robbinsdale school district. We began providing workshops/trainings this month and will continue through the end of April.

Lumarie Orozco, consultant, training and technical assistance, presented four workshops for adolescent moms at AGAPE school last Thursday as part of a Domestic Violence Awareness Day; a total of 74 young women participated in the event.

Alejandra Ortiz, one of our peer educators, presented workshops for two groups of young women at Como Park High School, December 2 (Alejandra also volunteers at our Griggs office for approximately 25 hours each week). We are in talks with the Teen Clinic at Como Park HS about possibly presenting workshops for Latina girls at three additional school sites in St. Paul.

External Relations

Marketing

Did you see us on TV? Liz Collins, WCCO reporter, did a story on Casa de Esperanza and *Proyecto Navidad* for their *Live Better* series. The piece aired December 4 during the 10 pm newscast. A video of the story can be found online on at <http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2010/12/04/casa-de-esperanza-domestic-violence/>.

More than 60 participants and friends of Casa de Esperanza enjoyed free tickets to *A Christmas Story* and tour the Children's Theater, Sunday, December 12. The Children's Theater is working to increase Latin@ participation in all of their programs.

Thanks to Athena Adkins for facilitating discussion with members of the Twin Cities Gay Mens' Chorus about possible opportunities for partnership. The chorus provided our staff with free tickets for their holiday concert, Sunday, December 12.

National Work

Family Violence Prevention Fund has contracted with us as a lead organization and partner with Asian Pacific Institute on a national initiative studying innovation and best practices in working with children and youth exposed to domestic violence. We have done two national focus groups and will be presenting findings at a national stakeholder meeting in January or February.

Amy Sánchez traveled to Atlanta last week for site visits with two organizations as part of our technical assistance (TA) work. She participated in a board retreat and a staff retreat for Caminar Latino, a Latino domestic violence organization. She also conducted a site visit with the staff of Raksha, an Asian domestic violence organization that is a CLSSP grantee (OVW's Culturally and Linguistically Specific Services Program, for which we are the TA provider).

While in Atlanta, Amy met with Julia Perilla, director of our research center at Georgia State University, and her students. One student is conducting a comprehensive evaluation of our *Líderes* program for her doctoral dissertation.

Policy

Great news! The Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA) passed both the House and Senate and now moves on for President Obama's signature. Senator Franken's office complimented Rosie Hidalgo on her guidance and advocacy during the FVPSA reauthorization process. Rosie reports that the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) draft is almost complete (at 400 pages) and that she hopes the draft will go to Senate staff soon.

Rosie returned to Washington, DC, to speak today and tomorrow at a training conference conducted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence; she is presenting on topics related to access to services for immigrant survivors of domestic violence.

Fundraising

Give to the Max Day, November 16, is an annual opportunity for Minnesotans to come together and raise as much money as possible for nonprofits in the state. Casa de Esperanza raised \$3,890 (including matching funds from F.R. Bigelow Foundation); last year we raised \$915—an increase of 325%!