

**EL CENTRO DE LA RAZA**



# El Centro de la Raza

The Center for People of All Races



# 2008 Annual Report

"Because of organizations like El Centro, I went from poverty to graduating from college to now a thirty year teacher. Thank you for your work!"

-Juanita Segura, Donor



# A Message to Our "Beloved Community"

Dear Friends,

Something profound has happened in our country, and we feel the philosophical transformation taking place across the nation. The historic victory of President Obama has positively impacted the collective conscience and brings hope to our world. Barack Obama speaks like a genuine community organizer, and I truly believe that he will not let us down.

In 2008, we celebrated relationships with new friends and supporters at our first annual auction banquet, a new roof to replace the leaking one, the advancement of the light rail station at our door step set to open this July, and the beginning phase of an electrical project that will bring us up to code.

We honored the work of Dr. King in the 40<sup>th</sup> year since his assassination, demanded fair immigration policy, and continued to stand against the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Gaza. We have built up 36 years of child and youth development, human service programs, education, advocacy, community building and celebration of our culture.

Our families are overwhelmed with foreclosures, job loss, evictions, homelessness, feeding their families, and paying the bills. The pain and suffering of the economic crisis has resulted in tragedy and even loss of life for the most vulnerable. The horrific deportation raids and the inhumane immigration policies cannot continue.

The crisis of global climate change, three nightmarish wars and access to healthcare are still at the forefront of our concerns. Every sector of the economy, from local to global, is facing profound financial deficits and have tough decisions ahead as community needs increase daily.

El Centro de la Raza's 2009-13 Strategic Plan responds to the need to prepare for and expand such emergency and survival programs as food, emergency housing, childcare, employment, and senior services to meet the increased demand for these services during the economic downturn. Our strategic priorities also address the long-term needs of our communities including providing job training, employment assistance, financial literacy, and connecting people with other resources to meet their needs.

As El Centro de la Raza prepares to meet our strategic challenges and gear up to serve more people, especially to help families stay out of economic crisis and stabilize families in crisis, we must move forward with critical building renovations in 2009. Our electrical, plumbing and seismic systems will be improved to address safety issues and correct code deficiencies.

Please know that we are devoting a great deal of time to building new alliances and organizing at the city, state and national levels for funding for critical needs and progressive policies.

If we don't know you, we would love to meet you at our Café con El Centro, so please join us the first Thursday of each month for this community breakfast and tour. More information can be found on our webpage.

Please join us in 2009 as we celebrate *Cinco de Mayo* with a community event, hold our annual auction banquet at the Seattle Design Center with the theme *Meeting the Needs of Today – Building Hope for Tomorrow* in September, and honor those who have come before us during November with a *Día de los Muertos* exhibit.

As we turn to each other during this unprecedented economic crisis, we are optimistic that the strength and unity of our communities will bring hope and change to our nation and world as we work with our new leader.

We hope to work with you this year and beyond to address the challenging issues facing our communities as we build the "Beloved Community" together.

Lovingly,



Roberto Maestas  
Founder/Exec. Dir.



David Gasca  
Board President



# Un Mensaje a Nuestra "Querida Comunidad"

Estimadas Amigas y Amigos,

Algo profundo ha sucedido en nuestro país y creemos que la transformación filosófica está pasando a través de la nación. La histórica victoria de el Presidente Obama ha impactado positivamente la conciencia colectiva y trae esperanza a nuestro mundo. Barak Obama habla como un verdadero organizador de la comunidad y creo sinceramente que no nos dejará abajo.

En el 2008, celebramos relaciones con nuevos amigos y seguidores en nuestra primera subasta anual, un nuevo techo para reemplazar el actual, el adelanto de la estación de tren ligero en nuestra puerta avanza el cual se abrirá en Julio y el comienzo de una fase del proyecto eléctrico que nos pondrá hasta el código actual.

Recordamos el trabajo de el Dr. King en el 40 aniversario de su asesinato, demandamos una poliza de inmigración justa y continuamos estando en contra de las guerras de Iraq, Afganistan y Gaza. Hemos construido 36 años de desarrollo infantil y juvenil, programas de servicios humanos, educación, promoción, construcción de la comunidad y la celebración de nuestra cultura.

Nuestras familias están abrumadas con hipotecas perdidas, pérdida de empleos, desalojos, falta de vivienda, la alimentación de sus familias y el pago de sus cuentas. El dolor y el sufrimiento de la crisis económica ha dado lugar a la tragedia y la pérdida de vidas para los más vulnerables. Las redadas horribles y las polizas de inmigración inhumanas no pueden continuar.

La crisis del cambio climático mundial, tres guerras de pesadilla y el acceso a la asistencia médica se encuentran todavía en la vanguardia de nuestras preocupaciones. Todos los sectores de la economía local y mundial se enfrentan a profundos déficits financieros y tienen decisiones difíciles por delante y las necesidades de la comunidad aumentan diariamente.

El Plan Estratégico de El Centro de la Raza 2009-13 responde a la necesidad de preparar y ampliar esos programas de emergencia y de supervivencia como alimentos, vivienda de emergencia, cuidado de niños, programas para la tercera edad y servicios de empleo, para satisfacer la creciente demanda de estos servicios durante la recesión económica. Nuestras prioridades en la estrategia también incluyen las necesidades de nuestras comunidades a largo plazo incluido el entrenamiento para trabajos, asistencia de empleo, la educación financiera y la conexión de las personas con otros recursos para satisfacer sus necesidades.

Al prepararse El Centro de la Raza para cumplir con nuestros retos estratégicos nos preparamos para atender a más personas, especialmente para ayudar a permanecer fuera de la crisis económica y estabilizar a familias en la crisis, tenemos que avanzar con las obras fundamentales de renovación del edificio en el 2009. Nuestros sistemas de electricidad, de plomería y sísmicos se mejorarán para tratar las cuestiones de seguridad y las deficiencias del código de seguridad.

Por favor, sepa que estamos dedicando mucho tiempo a la construcción de nuevas alianzas y organizaciones en la ciudad, estado y a nivel nacional para el financiamiento de las necesidades críticas y las políticas progresistas.

Si aún no lo conocemos nos gustaría conocerlo en nuestro Café con El Centro, así que por favor únase a nosotros el primer jueves de cada mes para el desayuno de la comunidad y un recorrido por El Centro. Puede encontrar más información en nuestra página web.

Por favor únase a nosotros en el 2009 al celebrar el Cinco de Mayo con un evento de la comunidad, a celebrar nuestra subasta anual en el Seattle Design Center con el tema Satisfaciendo las Necesidades de Hoy- Construyendo la Esperanza del Mañana en Septiembre y honrando a aquellos que han partido antes que nosotros durante el mes de Noviembre con la Exhibición de El Día de los Muertos.

Al pasar el uno al otro durante esta crisis económica sin precedentes, estamos optimistas de que la fuerza y la unidad de nuestras comunidades traerán esperanza y cambio en nuestra nación y el mundo en que trabajamos con nuestro nuevo líder.

Esperamos trabajar con Usted este año y más allá para hacer frente a los retos que enfrentan nuestras comunidades al mismo tiempo que construimos "Nuestra Querida Comunidad" juntos.

Cariñosamente,



Roberto Maestas  
Founder/Exec. Dir.



David Gasca  
Board President

# Participants Served in 2008

<b>Total Individuals</b>	<b>25,497</b>	<b>Total Families</b>	<b>12,282</b>
Male	8,045	1-2 Members	9,781
Female	14,803	3-4 Members	1,843
Unknown*	2,649	5-6 Members	519
		7+ Members	139
		Unknown*	0
Latina/Latino	19,425	Single Person	1,923
African American	399	Single Parent	578
Asian/Pacific Islander	1,040	Two Parent	1,184
Native/Alaskan	267	Other	611
White	1,884	Unknown*	7,986
Other	36		
Unknown*	2,446		
0-5 yrs	1,173	<b>% Income of the Poverty Threshold</b>	
6-11 yrs	1,457	0% to 50%	5,787
12-17 yrs	2,128	51% to 100%	3,579
18-23 yrs	2,039	101% to 150%	1,505
24-69 yrs	15,379	151% and over	504
70 and over	852	Unknown*	907
Unknown*	2,469		

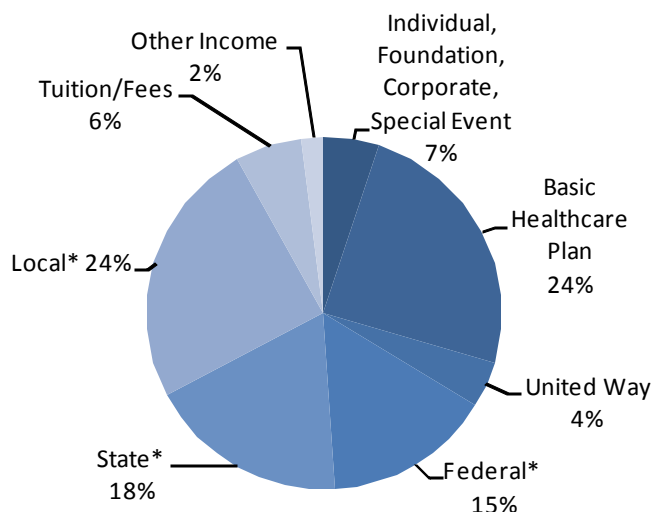
The numbers at left include participants in El Centro de la Raza's 24 programs and services, individuals and families that received membership support for the Basic Healthcare Plan, and individuals and families that attended free legal clinics, tax day or cultural events such as Cinco de Mayo and Día de los Muertos.

*\*The unknown category represents participants for whom complete demographic information was unable to be collected for legal clinics, tax day, free mammography day and cultural events.*

## Geographic Reach of Services

El Centro de la Raza is located on Beacon Hill in Seattle. We provide Basic Healthcare Plan enrollment services in Tacoma, which serves participants in MLK, Pierce, Snohomish, Skagit, Whatcom, Clark, Thurston, and Grays Harbor counties. The majority of our participants come from the Seattle and Martin Luther King, Jr. County area.

## 2009 Projected Funding



\*Capital improvement funds from these sources total \$984,349

SOURCE	AMOUNT	PERCENT
Individual, Foundation, Corporate, Special Event	\$373,883	7%
Basic Healthcare Plan Funds	\$1,268,496	24%
United Way	\$229,410	4%
Federal*	\$811,041	15%
State*	\$977,451	18%
Local*	\$1,271,232	24%
Tuition/Fees	\$304,979	6%
Other Income (rent, etc.)	\$111,988	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,348,480</b>	<b>100%</b>

# 2008 Successes and Highlights

## Annual Auction Banquet

- ... Gracias to everyone who helped make our 2008 Auction Banquet a success by raising almost \$180,000 for our programs!
- ... Mil gracias to our auction sponsors: presenting sponsor Vulcan, presenting sponsor Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Eli Lilly, The Seattle PI, Washington Education Association, BECU, Boeing, Comcast, HomeStreet Bank, Best Buy, The Nielsen Company, Safeco Insurance Foundation, Seattle City Light, Seattle Seahawks, Jones & Jones, Plaza Bank and Regence Blueshield.
- ... Save the date for our 2009 Annual Auction Banquet on Saturday, September 26th!



Students performed poetry and a cultural procession during the auction. Photo by Sorella Photos.

## Awards and Recognition

- ... A Family Strengthening Award from the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) and the Annie E. Casey Foundation for exemplary community work and measurable impact in strengthening Latino families was received by the José Martí Child Development Center. The award included a \$16,500 cash prize and a showcase of our best practices to other community-based organizations as a national model.
- ... José Martí CDC achieved its National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) re-accreditation and received top marks with over 100% in the Program Standard areas of health, teachers, families, community relationships and leadership management. The Luis Alfonso Velasquez Flores After School program was re-accredited by the National After School Association.

## Capital Improvements

- ... Gracias to Governor Gregoire and the Washington State Legislature for allocating \$821,000 to replace and seismically upgrade our leaking roof. The roof along with our new windows and boiler will help save on maintenance and increase energy efficiency.
- ... We would like to thank the legislative supporters of our request: Representatives Hans Dunshee, Sharon Santos, Eric Pettigrew, Bob Hasegawa, Felipa Gutierrez Kenney, Zack Hudgins, Speaker of the House Frank Chopp, and Senators Margarita Prentice and Adam Kline. Gracias to MLK County Council and Ron Sims for allotting \$200,000 for our roof.
- ... Gracias to Sen. Patty Murray, Rep. Jim McDermott and Sen. Maria Cantwell who helped secure \$300,000 for our electrical and seismic projects. The electrical project is underway!



Built in early 1900, the former Beacon Hill School was abandoned in 1968 and became El Centro de la Raza on October 11, 1972 after a peaceful three-month community occupation.

## Cultural, Social Justice and Community Events

- ... Over 700 community members joined us at Jefferson Community Center for our third annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration, presented by Macy's and Sound Transit.
- ... Over 1,700 visitors viewed the Día de los Muertos Exhibit and attended the opening ceremony at El Centro de la Raza in November. Over twenty community-based, social justice, and multicultural organizations displayed *ofrendas* to honor and remember those who have passed.
- ... El Centro de la Raza was honored to be part of the organizing surrounding the 5-day Seeds of Compassion event with His Holiness the Dalai Lama, which included organizing 1,200 people to attend a speaking event at Qwest Field. El Centro and a coalition of local Latino leaders asked His Holiness to direct his attention to the U.S.-Mexico border humanitarian crisis.

## Building Use

- ... In 2008, building usage totaled approximately 4,028 hours with events ranging from undoing institutionalized racism workshops to graduation celebrations. We have space available for meetings, weddings, birthday parties and community activities, including rooms with wireless Internet capability.
- ... Please call 206.957.4603 to inquire about leasing or reserving space.



Children lead the cultural fashion show on Cinco de Mayo.

# Outcomes and Measurable Results

Between July 2007 and June 2008, 99% of our program participants achieved their personal outcomes. Each program listed below has established an outcomes framework involving quantifiable evaluation tools and immediate and intermediate milestones that help participants progress toward one of the listed Twelve Core Outcomes:

## Child & Youth Programs

Investing in our children and their future, El Centro provides an array of bilingual, multicultural child and youth services to the local community.

- Infants/young children meet development milestones.
- Young children are prepared to enter kindergarten.
- Students develop/strengthen skills and/or habits that support academic success.
- Educationally at-risk students make academic progress.
- Parents/guardians participate in children's learning.
- Latina/o teens will become self-reliant as teen parents caring for their children.
- Identify, alleviate, and meet the needs of at-risk pregnant women.

Additional services: *NEW!* College Readiness Program and Child Literacy and Family Education

## Human Services

Seeking to address immediate aspects of human suffering such as hunger, healthcare and homelessness, our Frances Martinez Community Service Center provides diverse, bilingual human and emergency services.

- People meet their basic food needs.
- People transitioning out of homelessness secure permanent housing.
- Older adults maintain the highest possible quality of life.

Additional services: Basic Healthcare Plan Sponsorship, Susan G. Komen Foundation Free Mammography Event and Senior Home Garden Box Program

## Education & Skill Building Programs

El Centro seeks to promote self-sufficiency and empowerment through bilingual education and skill building initiatives.

- Low/moderate income people are able to purchase a home.
- People acquire/improve English language and literacy skills.

Additional services: Citizenship, Financial Literacy for Women & Families, Foreclosure Alternatives and Investment Maintenance, Tax Preparation and Legal Clinics

## Community Building & Development

El Centro believes that only through civic involvement, grassroots organizing, and political and social activism will our community be able to effectively address the profound contradictions facing our world. We unite communities of all races, genders, ages and classes to fight for civil and human rights both locally and globally.

Additional services: Low-Income & Transitional Housing, Bilingual Legal Referrals, Commercial & Tenant Space, Immigration & Civil Rights Advocacy, Volunteerism, Global Relations, Cultural Events, and Community Meeting & Event Space



Investing in our children and their future, El Centro de la Raza provides strong child and youth programs with a holistic approach that builds self-sufficiency in a bilingual, multicultural environment.

## Volunteering

If you would like to learn how you can volunteer in one of our 24 programs and services, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at [206.957.4602](tel:206.957.4602) or [volunteer@elcentrodelaraza.org](mailto:volunteer@elcentrodelaraza.org). We have opportunities for student service-learning hours, corporate volunteer groups and we are a community service site. Check us out on Facebook, MySpace and Ning by visiting [www.elcentrodelaraza.org](http://www.elcentrodelaraza.org)!

# Programs, Services and Social Justice

As a voice and hub of the Latino community, El Centro de la Raza provides a unique blend of services and advocacy that together result in stronger, more effective programs.



*“The work being done at El Centro de la Raza assists all people of our state in fulfilling the dreams we have for our community, our families and ourselves.”*

-State Representative Felipa Gutierrez Kenney,  
46th Legislative District

*“The José Martí Child Development Center is an exemplary learning program that fosters the learning potential of children and provides a vital service for children to help strengthen Latino families.”*

-Janet Murguía, President/CEO,  
National Council of La Raza



*“El Centro de la Raza is nurturing the hopes and aspirations of the Latino community and all races of people and the future of our children for generations to come. The physical attributes of the building should support that and be sacred ground for those who seek refuge and help, and inspire all of us to continue to improve the human condition.”*

-Official, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban  
Development, Migrant/Farm Worker Initiative, ODOC

# The Year in Pictures



Participants in the Senior Nutrition & Wellness program exercise three times per week and students from the early learning program joined them on this occasion!



Citizenship program participants study for the naturalization test twice per week at classes during the day or in the evening.



Youth celebrate at an El Centro de la Raza community graduation ceremony honoring graduates from Chief Sealth, Garfield, Cleveland and Ballard high schools and Denny Middle School.



Seeds of Compassion coalition and Roberto Maestas welcome the Dalai Lama to Martin Luther King, Jr. County in April. Photo courtesy of Seeds of Compassion.



Ready to perform for 700 guests at our annual Cinco de Mayo celebration. Photo by Victor Pascual.



Participants, volunteers, staff and supporters march and rally for immigration and worker rights on May Day.

# El Año en Fotografías



54 children in our early learning program celebrated moving on to kindergarten at a graduation ceremony organized by parents and teachers.



As a Family Strengthening Award winner, the child development center hosted National Council of La Raza affiliates from around the country to showcase their best practices as a national model.



Over 130 volunteers participated in volunteer projects at El Centro for the United Way Day of Caring, including four groups from Nordstrom!



The Infant Mortality Prevention program provides advocacy, access and assistance through outreach and workshops to reduce the risk of infant mortality and increase the health of both woman and child.



1,700 students, families and community members viewed the ofrendas/altars at our Día de los Muertos exhibit and opening ceremony at El Centro de la Raza.

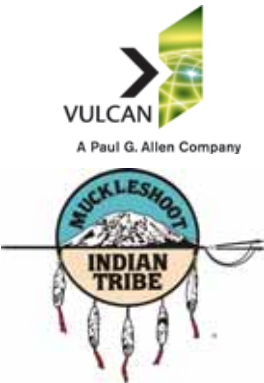


Mil gracias to Governor Christine Gregoire and State Representative Felipa Gutierrez Kenney for their profound commitment to communities of color and support of El Centro de la Raza.

# Mil Gracias to Our 2008 Donors

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AmeriCorps\*Literacy  
AmeriCorps\*VISTA  
Child Care Resources  
City of Seattle Human Services

Department  
Early Learning Network  
Emergency Shelter Assistance  
State Program  
Federal Funding  
Food Resources  
MLK County Housing &  
Community Development  
MLK County Department of  
Community & Human Services  
McKinney Vento Seattle / MLK Co.  
Seattle Housing Authority  
Seattle Public Library  
Seattle Urban League  
Seattle Step Ahead Preschools  
Seattle & MLK County Public Health  
Department  
State of Washington Office for  
Community Development  
U.S. Department of Health &  
Human Services  
U.S. Department of Housing &  
Urban Development (HUD)  
WA State Department of  
Communication, Trade &  
Economic Development  
Washington State Legislature

#### **Voluntarios**

Mil gracias to our **418** volunteers  
who donated **21,704** hours in 2008!  
This time is valued at **\$423,455** as  
estimate by Independent Sector.  
Please call 206.957.4602 to be-  
come a volunteer.

#### **Mil Gracias**

A special mil gracias to the Paul G.  
Allen Family Foundation for the  
second year of a three year award  
of \$150,000!

Gracias to Safeco for a surprise  
donation of \$5,000 to our Food  
Bank!

#### **Giving Circle Members**

The El Centro de la Raza Giving  
Circle is a community of individual  
and family donors giving a minimum  
of \$1,000 a year to ensure the  
health and future of El Centro de la  
Raza as a hub of both services and  
advocacy for the Latino community.  
To join our Giving Circle, please call  
206.957.4652.

#### **2008 Inaugural Members:**

David Bauch  
David y Ellen Gasca  
Rhonda Gossett  
Victoria Kill y Henry McGee, Jr.  
Amalia Maestas y John Daniels, Jr.  
Roberto Maestas  
Jeff Middelton  
Estela Ortega  
Michele y Stan Rosen  
Rita Zawaideh

#### **In Honor or Memory of**

Ki Danielson  
Andrea Fullerton  
Antonio Munoz-King  
John Graham  
Janice Turner  
William Wilkinson  
Katie Vick

#### **Benefactores \$10,000+**

Consejo  
Harvest Foundation  
Microsoft (Zunes for programs)  
National Council of la Raza  
Paul G. Allen Foundation  
Safeco Foundation (student bus)  
Sams Club (inkind food)  
Seattle MLK County Coalition on  
Homelessness  
United Way of King County  
Washington Mutual Foundation  
Washington State Dept of CTED  
Washington State Housing and  
Finance Commission

#### **Socios \$5,000-9,999**

City of Seattle Office of Arts &  
Cultural Affairs  
Costco Wholesale  
Freddie Mac Foundation  
Key Foundation  
Norcliffe Foundation  
Qwest Foundation  
State Farm Insurance  
Wells Fargo Housing Foundation

#### **Partidarios \$1,000-4,999**

Anonymous  
Crockett Family Foundation  
CFC King County Employees  
Macy's  
Microsoft Employee Giving  
Microsoft Matching Gifts Program  
Norcliffe Foundation  
Plaza Bank  
Seattle People's Fund  
MacDonald Miller Facility Solutions

#### **Familia \$100-999**

Anonymous (4)  
Ernesto Acosta Herrera  
Shirley Aguilera  
Sara Ainsworth y Matthew Shoudy  
Katherine Alfaro  
Enrique Alvarado  
Angel Arevalo  
Margie y James Azares-Burns  
Agustin Banda  
Timothy Bartle  
Alex y Jamie Bautista  
Susan Berry  
Edgar y Elisabeth Bottler  
Alicia Braman  
Tom Byers and M. Carol Lewis  
Adrian Calderon  
Brian Carey  
Catherine Clemens y Daniel Speth  
Michelle Copeland  
Eddie Demmings-Canales Family  
Alice Doyel  
Delia y Larry Fontaine  
Nancy Ford  
Dave y Laura Gandara  
Nancy Garcia  
Valerie Garza  
José Gonzalez  
Hector Gonzalez  
Julia Graham  
Carlos y Linda Guangorena, Jr.  
Juan y Diana Guerra  
George Guzmán  
Lora Hammersmith  
Roger Hansen  
Martin Haskins  
Ashley Haugen y Brandon Lehnerz  
John Hoffman  
Ted Hunter

Barbara Johns y Richard Hesik  
Jo Ann Kauffman  
Karen Keefe  
Kerry Keefe  
Joanne Keefe  
Michelle Kelly  
Betty Kill  
Pesha Klein  
Susan y Robert Koeppen  
Leo, Kay y Tayla La Clair  
Edward Laigo  
James Larus  
Eric Liu  
Candida Lorenzana  
Hannah Love  
Hilda Magaña  
Peter Maier y Elizabeth M. Tennant  
Micaela Mandapat  
Vonetta Mangaoang  
Ricardo Martinez  
Charles y Eleanor Martinez Smith  
Jason Mason  
Laura McAlister  
Dale McAlister  
Lidia McCall  
Loretta y Lisa Mclver y Family  
Louise y Samuel McKinney  
Mirabella Mendiola  
John Metcalf  
Eric Michl  
Jeffrey Middelton  
Rick y Colette Montez  
Harriet Morton  
Vicki Nino Osby  
Russell Noble  
Cedene Pacheco  
Don Parda  
Oscar Penate  
Mario Perez-Verdugo  
Thomas Piasecki y Maryann Renzi  
Daniel Prieto  
Maria Ramirez  
Juan Rivera  
Michelle Robles  
James Rogers  
Frederick Romero  
Ruben Salazar  
Mari Salinas  
San Juanita Segura  
Don Sirkin  
Nora Smith  
Loreley Smith  
Amaya Souarez  
Dedrick Sprick  
Anne Stadler  
Lynn y Bonnie Stowell  
Gayle Teramura y Roger Terriere  
Amy Thomson  
Duane Welty  
Charles Wilkinson  
Brenda Williams  
Yvonne Williams  
Philip Young  
Maria Elizabeth y Arturo Zamora  
City of Seattle Combined Charities  
Costco Wholesale  
Dia de los Muertos Attendees  
La Cocina Latino Hot Meal Prog.  
El Centro de la Raza Senior Prog.  
Employees Community Fund of  
Boeing  
Group Health Employees  
Employees of MLK County CFC  
Employees of UPS  
Employees of WA State CFC  
Global Education Services

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

MLK County Employees  
MacDonald Miller Facility Solutions  
Nordstrom Downtown Employees  
PopCap Games, Inc.  
Q13 Fox/My Q2  
Salmon Bay Sand Gravel Co.  
Seattle Police Dept. Employees  
Sound Transit  
Spanish Coalition for Housing  
Specialty Roast Coffee  
United Way of Northeast Florida  
Vulcan, Inc.  
WA State Combined Fund Drive  
Woodin Elementary PTA

#### **Amigos \$1-99**

Anonymous (7)  
Edward Alejandro  
Rebecca Allen  
Carissa Allen  
Roberto y Marisa Altschul  
Jannet Alvarez Sanchez  
John Amos  
Mary Ellen Anderson  
Robert Andolina, Jr.  
Juana y Sergio Avitia  
Kim Berges  
Clarissa Berry  
Bettykay  
Lisa Blair-Delgado  
Terrence Bone  
Herbert y Shirley Bridge  
Melanie y Adam Burch  
Penelope y Robert Cabot  
Kip y Suzanne Callahan  
Marina Campos  
Justin Carder  
Norma Castellanos  
Victor Cea Reyes  
Michael Clark  
Kathleen Colombo  
Mary Comstock  
Heles Contreras y Karen Zagona  
Richard y Connie Danielson  
Ruth Darden

Penelope de la Torre  
Maria Del Villar López  
Josephina Eguia  
Katrina Freeburg  
Roberto Frigillana  
David y Mary Garcia  
Genaro Garcia  
Annabel y Third Garcia-Andresen  
Tim Grassley  
Paul Green  
Emily y Judson Greif  
Mayra Guerrero  
Debra Hannula y David Bienvenu  
Louise Harris  
Robert y Jean Harrison  
Richard Harrison  
Nancy Heffernan  
Katrina Hellbusch  
Paul y Jackie Hennes  
Lauren Heyne  
Robert Horlick  
Dorothy Hudson  
Gary Ikeda  
Martha y Samuel Jacobs  
R. Gordon y Lisa A. Kennedy  
Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles  
Barbara Lampert  
Joanne Langlais  
Matthew McCullough  
Molly Mcnees  
Jose Luis Melgar  
Amalia Mercado-Perez  
Mike Moore  
Sarah Oberender y Eric Saeter  
Erin O'Rorke y Jacob Brownfield  
Judy Ortiz  
Margaret O'Sullivan  
Margaret Pahl  
Shann Pattee  
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Alexander y Anne White  
Retha Wright  
Maria Elizabeth y Arturo Zamora  
Cartridges for Kids  
CFC North Puget Sound Employees  
Costco Matching Gift Fund  
Dick's Drive-In Restaurants  
Employees of Accenture  
Employees of City of Seattle  
Niños Estudiando El Salvador  
Seattle Academy of Arts & Sciences  
"We Stand Before You Juntas"

#### **In-Kind Support**

Roberto y Marisa Altschul  
MaryEllen Anderson  
Mary Courtman  
Rosa Dobrev  
Mary Dragonovich  
Maria y James Durham  
Francisca Garcia  
Carole Grayson  
Justin Hanseth  
Tobias Jean y Nancy Johnson  
Terry Keller  
Benita Knight  
Tiffany Kuespert  
Emilio y Mary Maddela  
Mike Moore

Harriet Morton  
Rosemary Ness  
Phillip y Christine Newcomb  
Strom Peterson  
David Petronic y Steve Karbowski  
Blayne Plummer  
Betsy Popelka  
Victor Shul  
Darren White  
Rita Zawaideh  
Bellevue Jazz Festival  
Culinary Communion  
El Quetzal  
Executive Service Corps of WA  
Friends of the Cedar River  
Watershed  
Hilltop Red Apple Market  
HomeStreet Bank  
Jefferson Community Center  
Jesuit Volunteer Corps  
La Mexicana  
Lutheran Volunteer Corps  
Math 'n' Stuff  
Microsoft  
Northwest Film Forum  
Old Fashioned Painting  
Quality Food Centers  
Rosella's Fruit and Produce  
Seattle Central Comm. College  
Seattle Sonics and Storm  
Skin Deep Studios  
State Farm Insurance  
Sysco Foods  
Tableandhome.com  
Techsoup Stock  
Tienda y Tortilleria Bendicion  
Tomlinson Linen Service  
Trattoria Roma  
United Indians of All Tribes  
UW School of Art  
West Seattle Nursery

## Support El Centro de la Raza This Year

Please consider giving a special contribution to El Centro de la Raza to support our 24 programs and the thousands of people we serve each year in Seattle, Martin Luther King, Jr. County and across the state.

### Here is how you can help:

1. Check us out on Facebook, MySpace and Ning. Visit [www.elcentrodelaraza.org](http://www.elcentrodelaraza.org) to find us.
2. Join us the first Thursday of every month for [Café con El Centro Breakfast and Tour](#). Network with other community members, learn about what we do and how you can help. Please RSVP to 206.957.4652.
3. Volunteer to help one of our 24 programs and services! Call 206.957.4602.
4. Send a check to: El Centro de la Raza, 2524 16th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144.
5. Donate online at [www.elcentrodelaraza.org](http://www.elcentrodelaraza.org). Give in memory or honor of someone you love.
6. Attend our annual banquet on September 26th. Call 206.957.4649 to make sure you get an invitation
7. Donate an auction item! Call 206.957.4652 for a list of ideas.
8. Purchase coffee at [www.specialtyroast.com](http://www.specialtyroast.com) and select El Centro de la Raza!
9. Ask your workplace Human Resources department about matching your gift.
10. Make an in-kind donation to our Wishlist at [www.elcentrodelaraza.org](http://www.elcentrodelaraza.org).
11. Sign-up online to receive our eNewsletter so we can keep in touch.

# Strategic Priorities for 2009-13

While El Centro de la Raza will continue to provide and maintain its programs in its four primary service areas, Child and Youth Programs, Human Services, Education and Skill Building Programs, and Community Building and Development, it has identified the following strategic priorities for expanding its services and strengthening its infrastructure in order to best meet our community's current and emerging needs – including the needed responses to challenging economic times and the likelihood of imminent immigration reform. *A copy of our entire 2009-13 Strategic Plan is available upon request.*

## Strategic Programmatic Priorities for 2009-13:

- 1.0 Meet emergency needs and stabilize families in the economic downturn
- 2.0 Prepare more children and youth for academic and life success
- 3.0 Strengthen job training, economic development opportunities, housing and community involvement for young adults and families
- 4.0 Ensure that seniors in our community maintain a high quality of life
- 5.0 Promote social justice emphasizing immigration reform and leadership development
- 6.0 Ensure El Centro de la Raza remains a vital cultural center and link for an expanding Latino community

## Strategic Capacity Building Priorities for 2009-13:

- 1.0 Strengthen fund development and complete building renovations
- 2.0 Refine operational infrastructure
- 3.0 Complete planning and pre-development work on the South End property with an emphasis on economic development

## Support With a Hot Meal in Hard Times

El Centro de la Raza has been working to meet the increasing need for basic and emergency services in the community due to the economic downturn and subsequent rising unemployment. In *La Cocina Popular* Latino Hot Meal Program, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of people served from January to November of 2008, up 93.9%. The objective of the program is to enable low-income and homeless people to meet their nutritional needs by providing hot, wholesome meals in a setting which offers social support, health promotion and easy access to other basic human services.



Lucio, who immigrated to the United States ten years ago and more recently to Seattle just two years ago, said that he's been coming to El Centro de la Raza for meals for the last year a couple times a week, depending on his work schedule. He too has noticed the increase in people waiting in line for a meal and the new faces, but points out that, "for a lot of us [immigrants] we have been surviving day by day. It [the economic crisis] is not news to us." Lucio appreciates the communal atmosphere at El Centro and commented that "other places give you a meal and then they make you leave." Here, there is time to sit and read the newspaper, chat with friends and go back for seconds and sometimes even thirds.

The Latino Hot Meal will provide at least 14,000 hot meals in 2009 from 12:00-1:00 PM every weekday at El Centro de la Raza.

# Volunteer and Staff Highlights

The dedication and hard work of our staff in 2008 was recognized in a celebration ceremony. Mil gracias for all your hard work! Please see the list of award recipients and photographs below.

Volunteers of the Year: Mick Duggan and Allen Nelson  
Employee of the Year: Marta Labiosa  
Spirit Award: Mirabella Mendiola

Service of 20+ Years: Graciela Gonzalez  
Service of 10+ Years: Marta Diaz  
Service of 5+ Years: Raquel Garcia  
Service of 3+ Years: Enrique Gonzalez, Elvia Guzman, Marisela Hernandez, Cristina Jimenez, Marta Labiosa, Belem Ruiz and Dominique Vjarro



Employee of the year, Marta Labiosa.



One of two volunteers of the year and ESL teacher, Allen Nelson. Congratulations to our other volunteer of the year, Mick Duggan!

Mil gracias to our **AmeriCorps**, **Lutheran Volunteer Corps** and **AARP** staff: Rebecca Allen, Steve Araujo, Heidi Blocker, Mallory Erickson, Noemi Escamilla, Sarah Haywood, Heather Hudson, Nicole Keenan, Kayla Rakes, Irene Routté, Daniel Steyer and Vincent Witwer. El Centro would like to highlight work-study students from **Seattle University**: Yuni Castorena, Paola Flores, Rachel Fredell, Josue Licea, Cassie Martinez, Joy Matsukawa, Diana Mena, Brittney Marzest, Benjamin Mendoza, Leah Newcomb, Alicia Northway, Elena Porten, and Kaelyn Valdez.

El Centro was honored to have volunteers from **Enterprise Rent-A-Car**, **Moss Adams**, **Nordstrom**, **University of Washington** and **Verity Credit Union** for the United Way Day of Caring in September. Your commitment made a huge impact on our participants, staff, community and the mission of El Centro de la Raza. Mil gracias to all our volunteers!

## The Path to Citizenship

Tavo left his home state of Michoacan, Mexico in December of 1989 and has since made his home in White Center, Seattle. Tavo's involvement with El Centro began as he sought assistance with the complicated naturalization application. "There aren't many places that will just help you out. It's nice to have a place I know I can go to help me find answers." After his application for citizenship was accepted in July he did not question where he could go for support leading up to his test date.



The Citizenship Program is free to all participants and volunteer driven. While the program aims to serve 100 participants at any one time, enrollment has seen a dramatic increase with 72 new students signing up just this quarter! With the cost per participant at approximately only \$210 and with 80% of our students achieving naturalization, the Return on Investment is priceless! Citizenship provides access to higher paying jobs and careers that allow for upward mobility, and creates the opportunity for greater participation in the local community.

Tavo is looking forward to his test day on October 26<sup>th</sup> and is confident he will pass. He talks candidly and excitedly about how, as a U.S. citizen, employers will view him differently, and the ease he will have as he travels to visit his family in Michoacan. As a new citizen, Tavo hopes to continue strengthening his connections with El Centro de la Raza and become further involved in the Seattle community.

# Gracias to Board and Staff Members

## Staff 2008

### Leadership Team:

Roberto Maestas  
*Founder/Executive Director*  
Estela Ortega  
*Associate Director*  
Hilda Magaña  
*José Martí Child Development Center Director*  
Graciela Gonzalez  
*Human Services Director*  
Susan Maisel  
*Controller*  
Bobbie Stephens  
*Human Resources*  
Arturo Gonzalez  
*Homeownership Center Director*  
Alex Bautista  
*Youth Services*  
Cristina Jimenez  
*Facilities Manager*  
Enrique Gonzalez  
*Executive Assistant*  
Ashley Haugen  
*Development Associate*  
Anastasia Mendoza  
*Property Manager*  
Heyda Baez  
*Kitchen Manager*

### Frances Martinez Community Service Center:

Graciela Gonzalez  
Steve Araujo  
Graciela Ayala  
Alex Bautista  
Tegan Callahan  
Virginia Culbertson  
Mallory Erickson  
Raquel Garcia  
Langston Gossett  
Janet Guzmán  
Nicole Keenan  
Danny Kogita  
Dolores Ledesma  
Maggie Macklin  
Mirabella Mendiola  
Wendy Radillo  
Patricia Rangel  
Francisco Ramirez  
Ana Rosas  
Sylvia Rubio  
Heidi Sandgren  
Gerald Smith  
Emily Stoll  
Stephanie Todd  
Kaelyn Valdez  
Sandra Villagarcia  
Rubi Zamora  
Belinda Zintzún

### Homeownership Center:

Arturo Gonzalez  
Yuni Castorena  
Noemi Escamilla  
Koren Martin  
Alex Mendez  
Daniel Steyer

### Basic Healthcare Plan:

Diana Carranza

### José Martí Child Development Center:

Hilda Magaña  
Maria Luisa Aguilera  
Martha Cano  
Martha Diaz  
Diana Elenes  
Rocio Espiritu  
Hiromi Fermin  
Maria Fitz  
Elvia Guzmán  
Jessica Harris  
Bertha Hernandez  
Marisela Hernandez  
Marta Labiosa  
Jazmin Macias  
Sandra Medina  
Carmen Miranda  
Sandra Miranda  
Cecilia Perez  
Heyda Baez  
Maria D. Rico  
Maria E. Rico  
Michi Robinson  
Belem Ruiz  
Ricardo Solis  
Consuelo Trujillo  
Dominique Vizarro

### Facilities Office:

Cristina Jimenez  
Rachel Fredell  
Dennis Johnson  
Frank Perez  
Elena Porten  
Sandra Ramirez  
Stephanie von Wagou  
Mike Yakubinis

### Fiscal Office:

Susan Maisel  
David Bauch  
Paola Flores  
Joy Matsukawa  
Alicia Northway  
Max Sanchez  
Bobbie Stephens  
Victoria Walters  
Thao Wild

### Executive Office:

Roberto Maestas  
Rebecca Allen  
Heidi Blocker  
Enrique Gonzalez  
Tim Grassley  
Sarah Haywood  
Ashley Haugen  
Heather Hudson  
Jim Kee  
Brittney Marzest  
Diana Mena  
Anastasia Mendoza  
Benjamin Mendoza  
Mike Moore  
Leah Newcomb  
Estela Ortega  
Kayla Rakes  
Irene Routté

## Board of Directors 2008

El Centro de la Raza is directed by a 14-member Board of Directors that meets monthly. Our diverse board membership consists of young and seasoned professionals, senior citizens, volunteers, and low-income to upper middle class members.

### David Gasca, President

Frontier Bank  
Senior Vice President Manager  
*Current term: 2/2008-2/2011*

### Rita Zawaideh, Secretary

Travel Express/Caravan Serai,  
*Current Term: 10/2006-10/2009*

### Jeffrey Middelton, Treasurer

Integrus Architecture  
Architect  
*Current term: 1/2007-1/2010*

### Ricardo Aguirre, Parliamentarian

Ricardo Aguirre & Co.  
Financial Planner  
*Current Term: 2/2008-2/2011*

### Ricardo Garcia

Radio KDNA  
Executive Director  
*Current Term: 12/2008-12/2011*

### Christina Garcia-Valdez

Chief Sealth High School  
Student  
*Current term: 12/2008-12/2011*

### Benita Horn

Achievement Architects North  
Principal Consultant  
*Current Term: 12/2006-12/2009*

### Victoria Kill

Depart. of English, Seattle Univ.  
Adjunct Professor  
*Current Term: 1/2007-1/2010*

### Leo La Clair

Muckleshoot Indian Tribe  
Intergovernmental Affairs Spec.  
*Current term: 3/2006-3/2009*

### Gloria Marin

El Patio Community Housing  
Resident  
*Current term: 12/2008-12/2011*

### Urbano Santos

Guatemaltecos Unidos  
*Current Term: 3/2007-3/2010*

### William Smith

Community Volunteer  
*Current term: 12/2008-12/2011*

### Ramon Soliz

WA State Department of Transportation, Labor Relations & Recruitment Specialist  
*Current Term: 2/2008-2/2011*

### Brenda Williams

The Defender Association  
Staff Attorney  
*Current term: 12/2006-12/2009*



El Centro de la Raza has 72 full and part time staff members and 8 positions filled by volunteer corps members who dedicate at least one year of service to the organization.

**EL CENTRO de la RAZA**



2524 16th Avenue South  
Seattle, WA 98144  
206.957.4605  
www.elcentrodelaraza.org

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SEATTLE, WA  
PERMIT NO. 273

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Save the Date in 2009

### **Café con El Centro**

8-9 am first Thursday of every month  
Please RSVP to 206.957.4652

### **Cinco de Mayo Celebration**

May 2nd  
Jefferson Community Center

### **Annual Auction Banquet**

September 26th  
Seattle Design Center

### **Día de los Muertos**

November 1st Opening Ceremony  
El Centro de la Raza

## Mission

As an organization grounded in the Latino community, our mission is to build unity across all racial and economic sectors, to organize, empower, and defend our most vulnerable and marginalized populations and to bring justice, dignity, equality, and freedom to all the peoples of the world.

## Vision

Our vision is a world free of oppression based on poverty, racism, sexism, sexual orientation, and discrimination of any kind, that limits equal access to the resources that ensure a healthy and productive life for all peoples and future generations, in peace, love and harmony.

## El Centro de la Raza

El Centro de la Raza is a United Way Agency, a Washington State Community Action Agency, and an affiliate of National Council of La Raza.

Washington State Non-Profit 501(c)(3)  
EIN# 91-0899927 • UBI# 601025014  
IRS 990 Available Online • [www.elcentrodelaraza.org](http://www.elcentrodelaraza.org)

2524 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue South • Seattle, WA 98144  
Tel 206.957.4605 • Fax 206.329.0786

Basic Healthcare Plan Office:  
1516 South 11<sup>th</sup> Street • Tacoma, WA 98405  
Tel 253.280.9828



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