



The Center for People of All Races

Verano / Summer 2009

A voice and a hub for the Latino community
as we advocate on behalf of our people
and work to achieve social justice.

Stimulus Funds Provide Employment, Crisis Assistance & More

As one of 31 federally designated Community Action Partnership organizations in Washington, El Centro de la Raza received \$239,824 in stimulus funding to provide employment assistance, crisis management, financial literacy and college readiness programs for 15 months. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded \$11.8 million to Washington State under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for activities to “encourage their eligible entities to support employment-related services and activities that create and sustain economic growth.”

Employment Assistance. El Centro de la Raza provides employment and life skills training to improve job readiness, job placement, employability, and wage increases through workshops and individual counseling. The program assists low-income, unemployed and Latino people in securing and main-

taining a livable wage to better their current employment and take steps to end the cycle of homelessness. The program connects participants with appropriate employers and removes barriers to employment through education and training.

(Continued on page 2)



Stimulus funds present a unique opportunity to increase the capacity to serve low-income families while helping get people back to work and meeting the needs of families impacted by the recession.

Photo by Yessica Andiputri.

Join Us for the Auction on September 26th...

On September 26, 2009 El Centro de la Raza will hold its Annual Auction Banquet *Celebrating las Américas: Meeting the Needs of Today – Building Hope for Tomorrow*. This event will both honor the cultures and histories of indigenous and Latin American peoples and raise funds to support our 24 human service and community building programs. You are invited to celebrate this event with us.

As the economic situation remains dire, more families are being torn apart and thousands are being left without the means to survive. Your support will enable us to defend basic human, civil and survival rights by providing comprehensive services to the most vulnerable in our community.

Saturday, September 26th

Seattle Design Center (free parking)
5701 6th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108
5:00 Reception & Silent Auction
7:00 Dinner & Live Auction
No-host bar and entertainment
\$100 Advance \$125 Day of Event

Purchase tickets at www.elcentrodelaraza.org, call 206.957.4649 or email events@elcentrodelaraza.org.

We are still looking for auction items! If you have a gift certificate or new item to donate please call 206.957.4652 or donor@elcentrodelaraza.org.

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Remembering Ricardo Aguirre, Dedicated Social Activist

El Centro de la Raza is deeply saddened by the passing of long term social activist and board member, Ricardo Aguirre. Ricardo Mario Aguirre, Chicano/Latino social activist, star Husky football player and coach, successful business owner in the insurance industry, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, July 3rd in his home in Renton.

Mr. Aguirre, born in 1937 in San Ysidro, California, whose mother died early in childhood and was raised in poverty by a single father, used his athletic prowess in high school and junior college to get recruited by Husky coach Jim Owens. He earned two Rose Bowl rings as a starter in the famous 1960-61 Rose Bowl victories over Wisconsin and Minnesota. He was the first Latino ever to play Husky football.

After college Mr. Aguirre coached football at the University of Hawaii for several years then returned to Seattle to establish his own insurance company. In the late 60's he became deeply involved in the farmworker struggles and the Chicano movement in the Pacific Northwest. He was instrumental in paving the way for the Educational Opportunity Program and the Office of Minority Affairs at the University of Washington. He was a founding member of El Centro de la Raza in 1972 and served long tenures as a Board Member of El Centro de la Raza in Seattle and the Northwest Communities Education Center serving farmworkers in the Yakima Valley.

Perhaps Mr. Aguirre's greatest contribution

was his passion for students. He volunteered thousands of hours at Sealth and Ballard High Schools, motivating and inspiring youth to succeed in school through Proyecto Saber and MEChA. Mr. Aguirre received numerous community awards and his Husky Championship Teams were inducted into the Husky Hall of Fame in 1994. He was also inducted into the St. Augustine High School Hall of Fame in San Ysidro.

Mr. Aguirre never allowed any one to forget that he was a Chicano. He is survived by Marlinda, his wife of 46 years, a retired Seattle public school teacher. He is also survived by his three children; Julia Maria, a math education faculty member of University of Washington, Tacoma, Deborah Ana, an insurance executive for Aguirre & Associates, Inc. and Ricardo Jesus, a medical doctor in the Los Angeles area. In addition he has four amazing grandchildren; Mario, Antonio, Alesandra and Joaquin.

His uncompromising struggle for justice and equality will forever be remembered.



"My name is Ricardo Aguirre and I am a Chicano."

(Continued from page 1)

Emergency Services. Through a full-time Crisis Advocate, we coordinate crisis intervention services for families that are facing new and/or additional challenges as result of the economic crisis. This program provides comprehensive advocacy, translation, information and referrals for community members seeking services such as sexual assault/abuse support, substance abuse recovery, food, shelter, eviction money, child care, and other emergency needs.

Financial Literacy. This program targets women, unemployed, homeless, people facing foreclosure or eviction, and low-income Latinos to create measurable changes in money use, thereby empowering participants to economic independence and financial security. After individual assessments, participants are helped to understand their core attitudes toward money and barriers to self-sufficiency. Staff

provide tailored steps to address negative behaviors and strengthen credit through counseling and educational workshops.

College Readiness. This program prepares low-income Latino youth for college and future success by clarifying college admission requirements, tutoring, assisting with the application and scholarship process, coordinating college visits, and teaching parents how to become involved in the college process. Students are individually assessed to establish educational and career goals to increase their focus on academics and help prevent delinquent behavior and violence, while also being in a supportive environment where post-secondary schooling is encouraged as an attainable goal.

For more information about these programs, please call 206.957.4634.

Youth Celebrate Graduation: An Explosion of Creativity

On June 5th El Centro de la Raza held the 4th Annual Youth Celebration: *An Explosion of Creativity*. The celebration honored both middle and high school graduates who have participated in one or more of El Centro's youth programs (Hope for Youth, Seattle Team for Youth, College Readiness, Parent Involvement in Education). 291 youth participate in our programs from Ballard, Chief Sealth and Garfield high schools, Denny Middle School and the Secondary Bilingual Orientation Center.

Students shared their talents in music and dance, and community leaders and teachers offered their congratulations and advice for the future. Estela Ortega urged the students to remember that El Centro de la Raza is their home where they can always return when times get tough or confusing. Dinner was followed by live entertainment with special guest, Banda Vagos! As each student left they received a swag bag filled with t-shirts, magnets, pens and information about the college application and financial aid process graciously donated by various Washington state colleges and universities.

Many of our students enrolled in our new College Readiness Program have been accepted at many different colleges and universities and have collectively earned over \$50,000 in scholarships! These scholarships include two Mount Baker Scholarships, worth up to \$6,000; and four South Seattle



Community College Foundation Scholarships, worth an entire year's tuition.

One student won \$5,000 through the National Council of La Raza Best Buy Emerging Latino Leaders Scholarship Program. Several students also received the Seattle School District Scholarship and the Ballard Golden Beaver Scholarship, both worth \$2,000. Congratulations and buena suerte to all of our students!

By Irene Routté, Development Assistant, Lutheran Volunteer. For more information about our youth programs, please call 206.957.4620.

Students from Ballard, Chief Sealth and Garfield high schools, the Secondary Bilingual Orientation Center, and Denny Middle School celebrate graduating during a community celebration at El Centro in June. Photo by Josh Lynch.

6/7 Journal Entry

Trying so hard too hard to live our life to the fullest best amigas turn to enemigas the liars turn to switches known as las ratas que pagan.

Hatred increases our life while the love and carino disappears quietly without knowing.

Can't believe after all these years nothing never can stay the same what ever happened to "when I grow up I want to be a lawyer" now it's all about "when I grow up I'm going to be most wanted."

As I see this nightmare becoming a reality I wonder how long they're willing to go.

Can there be anything to be done? I feel the hatred and I feel their sorrow. I see the drama and I hear their screams it's a dark dream I can't help but live it. This drama wanted and their crazy dream keeps adding on. No end to this nightmare just alone facing the world but no matter what I won't fall in. This maybe a maze but it won't stop me from getting to the end till I see the peace and light comes and shine on the dark world. *By Cynthia, age 16 - Proyecto Saber, Chief Sealth High School*

El Centro de la Raza Principle No. 7, adopted in 1976: To struggle against all forms of racism, sexism, individualism, ageism, and violence in our work and our community center.

Executive Director Transition, Maestas Steps into New Role

El Centro de la Raza principal founder and long-serving Executive Director Roberto Maestas stepped into a new role at El Centro de la Raza on July 1st. Maestas has been at the helm of El Centro since the agency was established in the former Beacon Hill Elementary School in 1972.

In his new role Maestas will serve as Senior Advisor & Chair of Historical Resources, leading a program to chronicle, collect, record and preserve El Centro de la Raza's historical contributions to the local, national and international community and the social justice movement. Maestas will also act in a senior advisory capacity to ensure that his knowledge and strategic expertise is successfully captured for the benefit of the community.

"Roberto's vision for a program which will capture our history, contributions and lessons for social justice represents a major undertaking for El Centro," said David Gasca, El Centro Board Chairman and Senior Vice President of Frontier Bank. "Roberto is the only person equipped to lead such an initiative and his breadth of experience as Founder and Executive Director will be invaluable."

Estela Ortega, previously El Centro de la Raza's Associate Director was promoted to Executive Director effective July 1st. "With more than 35 years of service at El Centro de la Raza and extensive management, advocacy and community building experience Estela is a perfect fit for the job, said Gasca. "Estela has been central to El Centro de la Raza's success and leadership over the years, and I have the utmost confidence that her leadership qualities and strategic understanding of the organization's mission and inner workings will make her an out-

standing Executive Director," added Gasca.

"I am both honored and excited about this opportunity and want to thank the Board of Directors for their faith and confidence in my abilities," said Estela Ortega. "I look forward to continuing and building on our work to achieve equality, justice, dignity and freedom for all people."

Estela Ortega joined El Centro de la Raza in 1972 and participated in the founding of the organization. She is an accomplished manager and leader with over 35 years of achievements in human services, community organizing, economic development and non-profit administration. Estela is the recipient of numerous awards and distinctions including the Seattle Benefit Guild Martin Luther King Jr. Founders Award, YMCA Big Sisters Recognition Award and the Minority Executive Directors Coalition Presidential Award.

Roberto Maestas is the principal founder of El Centro de la Raza and served as its Executive Director for 36 years. Under Roberto's leadership, El Centro de la Raza emerged as significant and respected advocate in the national and international arena for social, environmental and economic justice. Roberto is the recipient of many awards and honors, including one the "Our Wondrous One Hundred" UW Alumni Award of all times, the Thomas C. Wales Award for Passionate Citizenship, the Outstanding Citizen Award by the Seattle Municipal League and the prestigious Othli Award by the government of Mexico just to name a few. Roberto has written and spoken extensively about his travels to Latin America, Asia, and Europe and throughout the U.S.



Help us spread some GREEN!

El Centro de la Raza is recycling your old electronics:

- cell phones
- palm pilots
- laptops
- digital cameras
- iPods
- inkjet cartridges

By keeping these items out of landfills we are making our world a little **GREENER**. As an extra **GREEN** bonus, our organization gets paid **CASH** for these items! Bring your items to El Centro and help us spread some **GREEN!**

El Centro de la Raza Principle No. 1, adopted in 1976: To share, disburse, and distribute our services, resources, knowledge and skills to our participants, community, visitors and broader human family with all due dignity for their individuality needs and condition. To do so creatively with warmth, cultural sensitivity, fairness, enthusiasm, compassion, honesty and optimism in all areas of work.

Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Ceremony and Exhibit

This year, El Centro de la Raza's multi-cultural Día de los Muerto exhibit will pay tribute to author Juan Rulfo's *Pedro Páramo*, the evocative story of a man who does not realize he is dead.

Día de los Muertos is a time of both remembering and rejoicing. Día de los Muertos celebrates the return of the dead to the world of the living. According to tradition, on November 1st known as All Saints' Day, the doors of heaven open up and the spirits of los angelitos (little children) are the first to be allowed to return to their families. On November 2nd, All Souls' Day, spirits of adults are allowed to return. Yet both must leave by the end of that night.

Death held a significant place in the rituals of Mexico's ancient civilizations. The Aztecs celebrated Día de los Muertos for thousands of years before the arrival of the Spaniards. The arrival of the conquistadors in 1500 saw the end of the indigenous celebration of the Day of the Dead. The Spaniards, in an effort to eliminate the "pagan" ritual, changed the date from July/August to that of All Saints and All Souls Day in November. The Día de los Muertos that we know today is the result of this meshing of Indigenous and Spanish cultures and tradition.

Mexicans look at death with the same fear as any other culture, but they reflect their fear by mocking and living alongside death. La muerte is known as La Catrina, la Flaca, la Huesuda, la Pelona--

Fancy Lady, Skinny, Bony, Baldy and is welcomed with pan de muerto, calaveras de azucar, and paper mache skeletons.

The ofrenda or altar has become one of the most impactful symbols of this ancient tradition that is one of the most important celebrations in Mexico, and is also celebrated throughout Latin America and the U.S. The altar is a place of honor constructed by the families or mourners in remembrance of dead ancestors or of a specific event. It is decorated with photographs, favorite articles of clothing and plaster saints that are meant to console the souls of those who have returned while also bringing closure for those who mourn their absence. The altars honor the dead and ensure the continuity of life.

Opening Ceremony Sunday, Nov. 1st

2:30 - 6 PM at El Centro de la Raza

2524 16th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144

Free Admission

Our opening ceremony will include a free brunch, ceremonial procession, readings, children's activities, entertainment and feature ofrendas by diverse community organizations and participants! For more information please contact 206.957.4640 or cultura@elcentrodelaraza.org.

Volunteer!

Here are some of our upcoming volunteer opportunities:

United Way Day of Caring
September 11, 2009

Auction Banquet
September 26, 2009

Program Support
Please call for opportunities

Community Service Hours
Please call for opportunities

Call 206.957.4602 to
volunteer today!

Can you donate an auction item?

Here are some items we are still looking to have at our
Annual Auction Banquet on Saturday, September 26, 2009:

Frequent Flyer Miles
Tickets to Sporting Events
San Juan Islands Vacation
Sailing Excursion
Parking Downtown for a Year
Select Wines
Certificates to Restaurants
Gift Certificate to Your Favorite Store
Gift Baskets

If you would like to volunteer to join our **Procurement Committee** or have an item to donate, please call 206.957.4652 or email donor@elcentrodelaraza.org!

El Centro de la Raza en Acción



U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell visits El Centro to meet with Latino community leaders. Pictured with Senator Cantwell are State Representative Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney and Executive Director Estela Ortega.



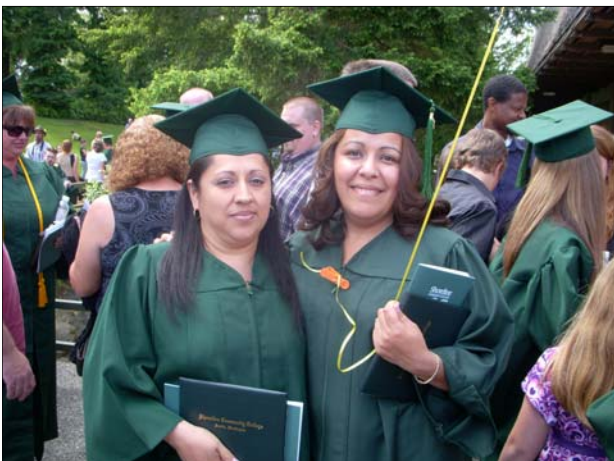
Author Antonia Darder with student, Daniel. Darder has written extensively on culture, bicultural education, and social justice. Her teachings helped develop the bilingual curriculum in the child development center.



Nike donates \$1,000 in sports equipment and product for educational and physical activity use in the Child Development Center and After School Program. Mil gracias Andrea and Nike for making this possible!



Gracias to photography volunteers from Seattle University who photographed El Centro programs and events this year. Their photos captured our mission in action. Mil gracias!



Teachers in our child development center are in the progress of completing their AA and BA degrees. Congratulations to graduates, Maria Elena and Rocio!



A volunteer appreciation BBQ to thank volunteers for all their hard work! El Centro was founded and operated for the first seven years by volunteer support. Mil gracias to all our volunteers!

El Centro de la Raza in Action



El Centro de la Raza community, staff and tenants testify at the Seattle City Council to keep the North Beacon Hill Neighborhood Plan on schedule to move forward for growth in the next 2-3 years.



El Centro celebrates with residents of Rainbow Haven. We are working with the residents to keep their mobile homes as they face possible eviction by the City of Tukwila.



El Centro participates in the May Day rally and march for immigration and labor rights with over 1,000 supporters.



Roberto Maestas is shown here on the Link Light Rail preview ride, July 17th. El Centro is directly across from the Beacon Hill Station, come see us anytime! Photo by Lori Call for Team Photogenic 2009.



Mothers, children, volunteers, supporters and staff march and rally for healthcare in the May 30th Mother's March.



Students in the After School Program participate in Zumba dance classes once a week learning both cultural dances and exercising.

¡Mil Gracias to Our Spring and Summer Donors!

Gracias to our May-July donors: **Socios \$5,000-9,999**

Public Support

AmeriCorps*JustServe
AmeriCorps*Literacy
AmeriCorps*VISTA
Child Care Resources
City of Seattle Human Services
Early Learning Network
Emergency Shelter Assistance
Food Resources
MLK County Housing & Community Development
MLK County Department of Community & Human Services
Seattle Housing Authority
Seattle MLK County Coalition on Homelessness
Seattle Metro Ticket Book Program
Seattle Public Library
Seattle Step Ahead Preschools
Seattle & MLK County Public Health
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 Commerce
Washington State Housing & Finance Commission
Washington State Legislature

Voluntarios

Since January, approximately **533** volunteers provided **14,028** hours of service valued at **\$284,067**. Mil gracias!

Please call 206.957.4602 to volunteer! We are a community service site.

Mil Gracias

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

Join the Giving Circle

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.

Double or triple your gift through Workplace Giving! Call 206.957.4652 for more information.

Benefactores \$10,000+

Paul G. Allen Family Foundation
United Way of King County
Seattle Foundation

ESAP (FEMA)
Raza Development Fund

Partidarios \$1,000-4,999

José Martí Child Development
Center Children's Day Attendees

Auction Sponsors

Muckleshoot
Comcast
Vulcan
Lilly
College Success Foundation
Jones & Jones
Kenneth & Marleen Alhadeff Charitable Foundation
Sprague Israel Giles Inc.
Teamsters Local Union 117

Auction Table Captains

Roxana Amaral, Board Member
Michael Brogman, Bank of America
Mark Burke, Schroeter Goldmark & Bender
Christine Cardon, Pepsi Group
Doreen Cato, First Place School
Dave Gandara, Moneytree, Inc.
David Gasca, Board President
Rhonda and Larry Gossett
Law Office of Robert M. Keefe
Victoria Kill, Board Member
Eric Liu, Guiding Lights Network
Rogelio Riojas and Jorge Madrazo, SeaMar
Hilda Magaña, El Centro de la Raza
Roberto Maestas, El Centro de la Raza
Susan Maisel, El Centro de la Raza
Frances Martinez Staff, El Centro de la Raza
Jimmy Matta, Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters
Jeff Middleton, Board Member
Linda Mullen, Enviroissues
Juan Orozco
Estela Ortega, El Centro de la Raza
Martin Padilla
Steve Robinson, NW Fisheries
Cindi Shiota
Pedro Solis
Mike Sotelo
TJ Vassar and Eric Barber, Lakeside Middle School
Brenda Williams, Board Member

Auction Item Donors

María Luísa Aguilera
Rebecca Allen
Elise Belusa
Heidi Blocker
Mark Dunne
Mallory Erickson
Patricia Flores
Hon. Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney
Ashley Haugen
Sarah Haywood
John Hoffman
Mike Holberg

Mark Hudak
Heather Hudson
Adriana Maestas
Roberto Maestas
Susan Maisel
Denise Marinacci
Estela Ortega
Larry Phillips
Anna Reis
Irene Routté
Ricardo Solis
Betsy Talbot
Elisha Thorne
Amy Woidtke
Rita Zawaideh
Cavu Cellars
Dick's Drive-In Restaurants
Dimitriou's Jazz Alley
Diva Espresso
Duke's Chowder House
Edmonds Center for the Arts
El Faról
Fort Walla Walla Cellars
Jefferson Park Golf Course
Kenneth & Marleen Alhadeff Charitable Foundation
La Hacienda
Mexico Lindo
Muckleshoot Casino
Point Defiance Zoological Society
Seattle Aquarium
Seattle Art Museum
The Last Supper Club
The Samarya Center
Victrola Coffee
Vyve Salon and Boutique
Wolf Haven International

A special gracias to our 2009 Auction Procurement Committee for all their work and continued support:

Evelyn Brom
Kate Cudney
Norma Cuevas
Patricia Flores
Jan Gokami
Eva Lopez
Susan Maisel
Cindi Shiota
Rosa Singer
Billy Smith

Familia \$100-999

Ernesto Acosta
Ernesto Acosta Herrera
Katherine Alfaro
Herb Bridge
Brian Carey
Charles Davis
Eddie Demmings-Canales
Rhonda Gossett
Sandra Fried
Carlos Guangorena, Jr.
Betty Kill
Candida Lorenzana
Pablo Mendoza
Jeffery Middleton
Estela Ortega
Maria Ramirez
Michelle Robles

Michele Rosen
Ruben Salazar
Carlos Sanchez
San Juanita Segura
Anne Stadler
Kim Storms
Philip Talmadge
Dennis Tiffany
CFC King County Employees
City of Seattle Combined Charities
El Centro de la Raza Latino Hot Meal Participants
HomeStreet Bank
Kemper Investors Life Insurance
U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)
Washington State Combined Fund

Amigos \$1-99

Shirley Aguilera
Roberto Altschul
Enrique Alvarado
Silvia Barahona
Timothy Bartle
Luis Benito
Marleina Binongcal
Terrence Bone
Alicia Braman
Domitilo Calderon-Ontiver
Rosa Caro
Mary Comstock
Heles Contreras
Deborah Cornell
Steve Cortez
Lorena Denny
Margaret Duncan
Jean Feek
Charles Ferguson
Patricia Flores
Nicole Franklin
Michael Franks
Roberto Frigillana
Nancy Garcia
Hector Gonzalez
José Gonzalez
Robert Harrison
Juan Hernandez
Pamela Jensen
Michelle Kelly
Dean KiloDavis
Pesha Klein
Adrian Laigo
Patricia Lopez
Rosa Elena Lopez
Rev. Thomas Marti
Linda Mullen
Sally Newton
Shann Pattee
Sarah Lynn Pietz
Michael Predmore
Dolores Ramirez
Maurillo Ramos
Julio Quezada
Carlos Sanabria
Imelda Santana
Grizelda Sarria
Katherine Shozawa
Maitri Sojourner
Dedrick Sprick

(Continued on next page)

We apologize if we have left your name off this list. Please call 206.957.4611 and we will promptly correct this error.

(Continued from page 5)

Nora Smith
Nathan Tercero
Maria Del Villar López
Duane Welty
Maria Elizabeth Zamora
Betty Zielinski
Better World club
Polyclinic
Salmon Bay Sand & Gravel Co.
Tetra Tech/KCM, Inc.
WaMu

Inkind Support

Vicki Bekkers
Ashley Haugen
Claudia Navas
Andrea Schneider
Lynn Tucker
Donna Yerman
Beta Alpha Psi - Delta Eta
Grocery Outlet
Nike
Proyecto Linguistico
REEL Grrls
Tomlinson Linen Service
World Vision U.S. Programs

Cinco de Mayo Sponsors

City of Seattle Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs
Bank of America
HomeStreet Bank
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Kumon Math & Reading Centers

Cinco de Mayo Supporters

Ameyaltonal Danza Azteca
Artist & Craftsman Seattle
Children's Home Society
Bryson Chiu
Agustina Colombo Eiff
DJ Wicho & DJ Junior
Emeraldine
Federal Communications Commission
Jefferson Community Center
José Martí Child Development Center students and families
La Escuelita
Mariachi Quinto Sol
Hilda Magaña
Professor Naomi Kasumi
NARAL Pro Choice WA
Plaza Bank
QFC
Quetzal and the Ghetto Fourtette
Quetzal Restaurant
B-Boy Remi and 206 Zulu
Royal Prestige A.S.
Sam's Club
SeaMar
Seattle Parks & Recreation
Seattle University Winter 2009 Design Class
Spine Rehab Associates
State Farm Insurance, Jim Sullivan
T.E.C. Traducciones
Tree of 5 Designs
Top Ten Toys
Vendor and booth participants
Volunteers and staff



El Centro de la Raza held a successful Cinco de Mayo event with over 350 community members and families in attendance at Jefferson Community Center on May 2nd. Mil gracias to all our sponsors, donors, volunteers, vendors and community participants who made this event possible!

Photo by Ish.

How Can You Make a Difference?

Please consider giving to El Centro de la Raza this year. As a voice and hub of the Latino community for services and advocacy, we provide strong child and youth programs and comprehensive services to help families gain the skills and access the resources to lead fulfilled lives and achieve a greater degree of economic self-sufficiency. Every gift makes a difference in the lives of a child, youth, family or elder.

Ways you can help:

1. Attend a Café con El Centro on the first Thursday of every month. RSVP to 206.957.4652.
2. Join us on Facebook, MySpace and Ning by visiting www.elcentrodelaraza.org.
3. Send a check to: El Centro de la Raza, 2524 16th Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98144.
4. Donate online at www.elcentrodelaraza.org.
5. Give in memory or honor of someone you love or a social justice issue close to you.
6. Purchase a seat at our Annual Auction Banquet on September 26, 2009; call 206.957.4649 or email events@elcentrodelaraza.org to be sure you receive an invitation.
7. Ask your workplace Human Resources department about matching your gift to El Centro.
8. Make an in-kind donation to our Wishlist at www.elcentrodelaraza.org/giving/wishlist.htm.
9. Volunteer to help one of our 24 programs and services! Call 206.957.4602.
10. Sign up online to receive our eNewsletter so we can keep in touch!
11. GoodSearch and GoodShop for El Centro de la Raza at www.GoodSearch.com.

El Centro de la Raza is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Tax ID# 91-0899927. Donations are tax deductible.

COMADRES Provides Support and Prevention

This July El Centro de la Raza, through its Infant Mortality Prevention Program, started providing a new support group for Latina women, Comadres, in the hopes that our women can have the opportunity to find community support.

Comadres was created in response to a need for a support network in the Latina/o community. In Latin America you have a tight network of relationships: mothers, sisters, cousins, neighbors; you always have someone to talk to. When one immigrates to the U.S., for the first time we find ourselves alone in our apartments. This solitude can lead to depression, which negatively affects our relationships with our family and friends.

Through Comadres, women can connect with other women. While it can be difficult to get out of bed, off the couch, away from the apartment, women leave Comadres feeling better than when they came in. We already have 40 women signed up and hope to keep growing in numbers to serve more women and improve their experiences in our community.

Meetings are held every two weeks on Thursdays from 6-8pm in Salon Salvador Alende. El Centro provides snacks and daycare, but we hope to evolve to pot-lucks so that each woman can bring a special dish to share with the other participants. Our meetings address various topics from the role of women at home, our dreams for our futures, and what we miss about home.

Comadres invites you to participate in our future meetings. Please email call 206.957.4642 or email outreach@elcentrodelaraza.org for more information. ¡La esperamos!

By Diana Mena, Outreach Coordinator



Comadres helps prevent isolation and provides opportunities for women to connect, network, build new relationships, relax, and find support in our community.

Senior Wellness Program Delivers More

The Senior Nutrition and Wellness Program at El Centro de la Raza addresses the emotional, physical, social, intellectual, spiritual, and vocational health of elders in our community through nutrition education, balanced daily congregate meals, a weekly grocery bag from our food bank, and home delivered meals to homebound seniors every week.

Seniors age 60 and older participate in various social and educational activities daily and exercise three times a week.

Made possible with funding from United Way, the Senior Wellness Program is now providing an additional hot meal per person per week for our homebound seniors, making it four hot meals and three frozen meals per week through the home delivered meal program. Meals are delivered to 20-25 seniors per week. The new funding has also allowed El Centro to provide an additional senior congregate

meal onsite on Mondays for a total of five congregate meals per week, Monday-Friday. For more information about this program, please call 206.957.4643.



Additional funding from United Way allows El Centro to provide an additional hot meal per person to homebound seniors per week and an additional congregate meal per person per week.

Good Shop for El Centro! Financially support El Centro by visiting www.goodsearch.com/goodshop.aspx before you shop online at Amazon, Target, Home Depot and more! Associated businesses contribute a percentage of the sale to your chosen organization, El Centro de la Raza, and will directly support our comprehensive services for children, youth, adults, families and seniors. **GoodSearch** still donates a penny every time you search online for El Centro de la Raza!

New Website Coming Soon!

Mil gracias to the Taproot Foundation for the award of a Basic Website Service Grant! The award provides a team of experienced professionals including a web designer, web developer, marketing manager, writer/copy-editor and project manager to build a new 15-page website for El Centro de la Raza. The grant is valued at \$50,000. We will keep you updated on the progress, but hope to launch the new website in September, so please check back: www.elcentrodelaraza.org.

Congratulations Graduates!

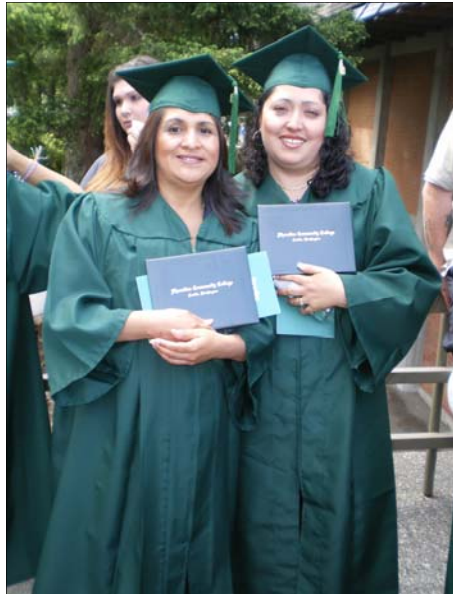
Congratulations to Seattle University work study students Brittney Marzest and Diana Mena who graduated with BA degrees in June!

The teachers in José Martí have been busy this year! We would like to congratulate four teachers for completing their AA degrees and one who completed her CDA!!!

Rocio Espiritu, Maria Elena Rico, Maricela Hernandez and Sandra Medina graduated with their Associate in Applied Arts and Science in Bilingual and Bicultural Education from Shoreline Community College. Belem Mendoza completed the requirements and received her CDA (Child Development Associate) credential.

In April, many of the teachers attended an event sponsored by SOAR to celebrate their accomplishments in completing degrees and/or to support their co-workers. The event recognized the hard work and dedication it took the teachers to complete their AA and CDA degrees while simultaneously working full time.

This progress toward higher education degrees is integral in upholding high quality programming and NAEYC accreditation standards. Gracias to our teachers for all of their hard work and dedication!



Congratulations to Shoreline Community College graduates, Sandra and Maricela!

Bienvenidos New Staff Members!

El Centro de la Raza welcomes the following new staff members:

Sarah Brady, Seattle University Work Study, Día de los Muertos Coor.

Paul Gentile, Seattle University Work Study, Fiscal Office

Elisha Thorne, Seattle University Work Study, Development Office

Board Members

Executive Committee:

David Gasca, President
Vice President Manager
Frontier Bank

Ramon Soliz, Vice President
Senior Human Resources Analyst
Martin Luther King, Jr. County

Rita Zawaideh, Secretary
Travel Express/Caravan Serai

Jeff Middleton, Treasurer
Architect
Integrus Architecture

Members:

Roxana Amaral
Teacher
Denny Middle School

Ricardo Garcia
Retired
Yakima Valley

Christina Garcia-Valdez
Student
Chief Sealth High School

Norma Guerrero
Belltown Inn Housekeeping

Victoria Kill
Adjunct Professor
Seattle University Dept. of English

Gloria Marin
Newspaper Carrier
The Seattle Times

Madrienne Salgado
Public Affairs Support Specialist
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe

Urbano Santos
Founder, Guatemaltecos Unidos
Contractor, Ceramic Marble &
Granite Masonry

William Smith
Volunteer
AARP

Brenda Williams
Attorney
University of Washington
Tulalip Tribe



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Mission Statement

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.

Please place address label here.

Café con El Centro Breakfast & Tour

Join us from 8:00-9:00 am the first
Thursday of every month for a
brief introduction and tour of
El Centro de la Raza

Upcoming Cafés:
September 3rd
October 1st
November 5th

Space is limited, so please RSVP
to 206.957.4652 or
donor@elcentrodelaraza.org

Save-the-date

Annual Auction Banquet
Saturday, September 26, 2009
Seattle Design Center

5:00 Reception & Silent Auction
7:00 Dinner & Live Auction
*Celebrating las Américas: Meeting the Needs of
Today - Building Hope for Tomorrow*

Día de los Muertos Ceremony and Exhibit
Sunday, November 1, 2009
El Centro de la Raza

2:30 Brunch Served
3:30 Opening Ceremony
4:00 Ofrenda/Altar Exhibit
Free Admission

**Editorial
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