



El Centro de la Raza

The Center for People of All Races

Otoño / Autumn 2008

Annual Auction Banquet Success!

El Centro's First Annual Auction Banquet; *A Tribute to Las Américas: Uniting Cultures Across Borders* was a great success! The event, held at the Seattle Design Center, celebrated the diversity of the Americas and the unity we hope to achieve. Heading into the new year, the goal of building unity between all communities must be forefront in our minds as we face current social, political, and economic insecurities.

Due to the collective effort of hundreds of sponsors, guests, volunteers and staff, nearly \$180,000 was donated. This money will be used to serve our over 18,000 participants in our 24 community programs, including our new College Readiness program. Mil gracias for your support. We could not have done it without you! To see photos from the event, please visit <http://gallery.me.com/johngsea#100016> or www.sorellaphotos.com.

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.

We hope you will join us again next year, **September 26, 2009** as we once again reflect on what we as a unified community can achieve! For more information, please contact our Events Coordinator at



Photo by Merilee Jones

The children of José Martí Child Development Center present a

Save-the-date

Annual Auction Banquet

Saturday, September 26, 2009

Celebrating *las Américas*: Meeting the Needs of Today, Building Hope for Tomorrow

ADENTRO / INSIDE

Letter to President-Elect.....	2
What is a Poet?.....	4
Día de los Muertos.....	6
Election Sentiments.....	7
Mil Gracias to Our Donors.....	8-9

A New Dawn/Un Nuevo Amanecer: Open Letter to Our President

Honrado Señor Presidente,

Querido Amigo, Hermano, Compañero. Those of us who cast our vote for you here at home and those who voted for you with their hearts and minds around the world will forever marvel at the dexterity, the elegance and the eloquence with which you maneuvered the dangerous political and media minefield from the moment you announced your candidacy.

This profound and dramatic election that ignited people across the nation exposed the needless suffering and inequalities in our communities. Your historical victory brings hope for communities of color, a foreseeable end to various wars, immigration reform, literacy equality, steps to eradicating poverty, environmentally forward policy, and a new vision of the USA as an oasis of hope.

We were all touched and thrilled by your reference to “La Raza Cosmica” at the National Council of La Raza Conference in June. Yes, Amigo Barack, our “Raza” (people of all races) comprises all the beautiful hues of the human family (from the darkest to the lightest) and all the complexity of the tragedy of annexation (one-half of Mexico) and the perpetual and disastrous domination of our so called “Latin American backyard.”

This diversity includes the descendents of the annexed Chicanos of the southwest in 1848 and millions of immigrants from every single Latin American country pushed north by the deformed political and economic policies of our “juggernaut of the north.”

Our great Brother, we, like you, do not underestimate the enormity of the task at hand.

On the planetary level the survival of the human species will loom heavily on your watch especially in light of the disastrous Bush policies.

On the international level, the unspeakable suffering of the Palestinian and Iraqi people lies at the heart of international terrorism. Israel must take the lead to resolve this nightmare.

On the Latin American level, we need to build unity across different political currents such as Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela.

On the domestic front no one can argue that the economic crisis is the most urgent and compelling priority. But as you know, “in politics everything is related to eve-

“Today the new dawn ceased to be a future dream, tomorrow, someday, a new sun will shine through that shall illuminate all of our landscapes.”

-Verse from hymn of The Sandinista Front for National Liberation, Nicaragua, 1979

rything else.”

We have learned greatly from each other and joined the struggles of the Indian, Black, Asian, Arab and White community that worked mightily for over three and a half decades to reach this remarkable point of no return. We have the most to learn from our youth and children who will inherit the best and worst of our generation.

Gracias for being the first ever president-elect to remind us repeatedly that change comes from the bottom up and not the top down. In that spirit we will do all in our power to remind you of your commitment that humane immigration reform would be one of your highest priorities. In our minds the nightmarish immigration crisis, corrupted by the anti-immigrant hysteria is the most compelling human and civil rights issue of our time.

It is our hope that, among the many issues you address, you will stand in solidarity with us to help our nation and its leaders understand and encourage compassionate immigration reform during this crisis.

Our dearest hermano and señor presidente, your grace, intelligence, great analytical skills, and background in community organizing have and will continue to serve you well as you prepare to assume the most powerful position on the planet.

Querido Amigo, don't allow yourself to ever lose any of your god-given humility for that is what will allow you to know that you may not know all the answers.

Los pobres de la tierra, (the wretched of the earth) will help you find the answers. It is a new dawn.

Buena Suerte Siempre to you, our sister Michele and your beautiful babies Sasha and Malia.

Tu Amigo,

Roberto Maestas, On behalf of our “Beloved Community”

Mil Gracias United Way Day of Caring Volunteers

On September 12th, over 130 volunteers from Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Moss Adams, Nordstrom, University of Washington, and Verity partnered with United Way to provide a day of service at El Centro de la Raza. Mil gracias to all our volunteers!

Some of the projects for the Day of Caring at El Centro de la Raza included painting the outside of the building, yard maintenance, preparations for our auction banquet and hanging historical photos. Volunteers worked diligently all day and spent time talking to staff and board members, learning about El Centro de la Raza and the community we serve.

If you would like to volunteer for the United Way Day of Caring next year, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@elcentrodelaraza.org or (206) 957-4602.



Nordstrom volunteers worked on four different projects at El Centro de la Raza during the United Way Day of Caring.

Green Thumbs for Elders at El Centro de la Raza



El Centro de la Raza's Senior Nutrition and Wellness Program serves 8,100 congregate meals to 125 seniors and delivers 10,000 meals to 55 homebound seniors each year.

El Centro has recently been awarded the United Way Ventures Grant for 2008-2009. This funding will assist up to 50 senior citizens from our Senior Congregate Meal Program to establish small vegetable gardens at their homes. The gardens will consist of raised garden boxes that will reduce the need for bending and make it much easier for seniors to care for what they choose to grow. This project is a partnership that includes the Cesar Chavez Demonstration Garden at El Centro de la Raza and the Master Gardener's Program.

The Senior Nutrition and Wellness Program addresses emotional, physical, social, intellectual, spiritual, and vocational health through nutrition education, balanced daily lunches, a weekly grocery bag from our food bank and home delivered meals every week. Seniors age 60 and older partake in various social and educational activities daily and exercise three times a week.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help build boxes for this innovative program can contact our Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@elcentrodelaraza.org or (206) 957-4602.

El Centro de la Raza Principle No. 8, adopted in 1976: To struggle for the creation of programs and services which a society must provide for the development of our community and its people.

What is a Poet?

Poetry inspired by the students of Denny Middle School, Proyecto Saber...

Poets write poems
I write about my life, my life that's falling apart
Poets express their feelings
I write because my parents went away
Poets write poems to tell the truth
I write because I can't handle this pain
Poets win people over to read their poems
I write because people can't understand my pain
Poets are those people that tell others about their feelings
I write because those close to me don't even care
Poets give others a poem when they need a poem
I write because I miss my family when they're away
Poets write poems
I write because my family doesn't even care if I'm ok

By Yazmin

Poets can come from the nobody
From the gangmember
From the person with no self-esteem
Poets can be Mexican or Filipino
Poetry can come from a boy or even a criminal
Poetry is a life of flow and rhyme!

By Salvador

Poets talk about life
What you feel
Expression of feelings through art
Poets can help gang members express the madness
Poets rap...flow...rhyme
They smooth out their thoughts

Smile Now Paisa - Cry Later Gangster

(Poem on gang violence)

Don't mix the Pride with the...
Vida Loca
Show that being Paisa...Being Paisano
is more important than being...Gangster
Smile now Paisa
It's the time to do what we do best...
Party como si nunca, gano obama pues!

Cary Later gangster
que viene un Nuevo dia!
No viviendo La Vida sin respeto de la Raza
Be Proud de ser Raza

No se maten por lo que tienen puesto...un color showing off
Recuerden de donde vienen
Don't be ignorant Raza
We can't kill each other...this needs to stop

Smile Now Paisa...cry Later Gangster!

By Christina, Age 15
Proyecto Saber Student



Christina gives a solo performance of her poetry at the Youngstown Cultural Arts Night.

El Centro de la Raza Principle No. 2, adopted in 1976: To struggle to eliminate institutionalized racial, sexual, age and economic forms of discrimination which hamper the human potential in our society.

Family Strengthening Award and Peer-to-Peer Training

Every month, parents and students gather with teachers from José Martí for family support meetings. Topics include domestic violence prevention, earthquake response skills, and family literacy skills. One parent commented, "as a family, we have increased our awareness of how to support and assist our daughter educationally, nutritionally, and culturally by attending Family Night Meetings."

Due in part to these monthly meetings, the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) and the Annie E. Casey Foundation honored José Martí CDC with the prestigious 2008 Family Strengthening Award in San Diego.

As part of this award, the José Martí Child Development Center staff presented a one-and-a-half day onsite training session to fifteen NCLR affiliates in November. The sessions included an onsite visit, meetings with the program's participants and key program staff, and discussions on funding and best practices. The goal was to outline the best practices they have used to strengthen Latino families in their communities and provide an open dialogue for affiliates to share potential solutions to the challenges they face in running their own programs.

Meanwhile, many of our other teachers are in the process of pursuing and completing their degrees. The



Fifteen NCLR affiliates in the child development field were welcomed by the children, staff and board of El Centro for two days of workshops, performances and a networking lunch.

teachers' continuing education is part of a rigorous accreditation process with the National Association on the Education of Young Children. José Martí CDC was awarded re-accreditation with outstanding marks. Most recently, our After School Program was awarded re-accreditation by the National After School Association.

For more information about the José Martí Child Development Center, please call 206.957.4619.

Volunteer!

Here are some of our upcoming volunteer opportunities:

**MLK Day of Service with
United Way and
University of Washington**
January 19, 2009

Tax Preparation
January-April 2009

Program Assistance

Community Service Hours

Call 206.957.4602 to
volunteer today!

Do you have an auction item we are looking for?

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

Frequent Flyer Miles
San Juan Islands Vacation
Sailing Excursion
Parking Downtown for a Year
Tickets to Sporting Events
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!

Día de los Muertos Exhibit is a Community Success!

Over 1,700 visitors viewed the Día de los Muertos Exhibit at El Centro de la Raza in November, many of them student groups learning about the tradition. Over twenty community-based, social justice, and multicultural organizations displayed *ofrendas* or altars to honor and remember those who have passed, ensuring that we keep the memories of our loved ones alive.

The exhibit opened with over 400 families and community members in attendance on November 1st. Guest were greeted with mariachi music, free dinner, dancing and other entertainment. Joyas Mestizas and Mariachi Quinto Sol led community members in an illuminated procession for the opening ceremony with the Lady of the Night.

Free charlas or discussions were provided every Wednesday by Event Curator Francisca Garcia, Dr. Jeanette Rodriguez, Dr. Gabriella Gutierrez y Muhs, Dr. Lauro Flores and Dr. Deborah Caplow. Mil gracias!

Mil gracias to our sponsors: The Norcliffe Foundation, Mayor's Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, Seattle's People Fund and Event Curator Francisca Garcia.

Gracias to our inkind donors: Costco Business Center, DJ Wicho, Mick Duggan, El Castillo, Mariachi Quinto Sol, Nathalia, Rosella's Fruit and Produce Co. Inc., QFC, Safeway, Sysco Corporation, Tyson, and 206 ZULU. A special mil gracias to all our volunteers!

If you are interested in participating in the event next year, please call 206.957.4640.



The Lady of the Night led the opening ceremony for Día de los Muertos 2008 with leaves blowing in the wind on a crisp autumn evening.

Bracero Program Settlement - Deadline January 5, 2009

A message from National Council of La Raza (NCLR):

In October 2008, the U.S. District Court of Northern California approved a preliminary settlement that enables former participants of the Bracero Program, their surviving spouses, or their children to collect withheld wages from the Mexican government. The deadline to submit a claim for receipt of back pay is January 5, 2009. Given the brief time frame established for the application period, publicity will be absolutely critical in notifying the eligible population and providing claimants with information about the requirements of the application process. We are hoping that you can help maximize participation among the eligible population.

To qualify for an award, applicants must: (1) currently reside in the U.S. (2) have worked as braceros during the period from January 1, 1942 – December 31, 1946 (3) have not previously registered in the braceros registry compiled by the Secretaria de Gobernacion and (4) be Mexican citizens as evidenced by a Mexican passport, voting card, or military service card. Claims may

also be filed by the surviving spouses or children of deceased braceros who were or became Mexican nationals and/or dual nationals.

If your constituency includes eligible applicants, please distribute this information accordingly to your local networks and media sources. Below, you will find links to the main websites and entities responsible for the implementation of this program—in English and in Spanish. Please refer to these resources to assist your publicity efforts, obtain information on the settlement, and download application materials as needed.

For help in completing the claim form or gathering required documents, call toll free: (877) 436-9359.

For more information, please visit www.casobracer.com. If you have additional questions, please contact Olga Medina at NCLR (omedina@nclr.org or (202) 776-1788).

2008 Election Sentiments from El Centro de la Raza

Following the historical 2008 election, El Centro de la Raza staff reflect and share their sentiments below:



The children of José Martí remind everyone in the El Centro de la Raza building to vote during election day!

I'm amazed and excited that the second presidential election I've voted in has elected Obama.
-Heidi, AmeriCorps Volunteer

It is truly an exceptional time for America. A major impetus towards positive change has been realized and swiftly acted upon.
-Max, Accounting

My thoughts on election night were of all the children of every color all over the world who will now grow up to see a person of color as the United States president, a black family in the White House, and a smart, talented woman of color as the First Lady.
-Rebecca, ESL/Citizenship

Being very disillusioned with the USA government, Obama inspired me to voice my word and vote, "no man is an island", and with the power of unity we can accomplish. I also see Obama as an inspiration to the world.
-Alex, Homeownership Center

For the first time in my 25 years I wanted nothing more than to be involved in this election. I was left in awe seeing youth not yet able to vote volunteering their time to support Obama with the mature understanding that he will bring historical change.
-Heather, AmeriCorps Volunteer

This was a very special and historical election. I'm proud to have been a part of this huge event.
-Virginia, Homeless Assistance Program

I'm proud to have been a part of the election.
-Sarah, AmeriCorps Volunteer
I hold Obama to his word and I am delighted that there

will be some color in the white house. It's about time!
-Rubi, Youth Gang Prevention

All over my college campus and among my friends, I felt the most incredible sense of unity and hope. The most repeated saying of the night was, "I can finally feel proud about my country."
-Rachel, Work Study Student

I'm happy that our children have a man of color to look up to and model themselves after. Especially because this man is not only strong, but thoughtful and humble.
-Irene, Lutheran Volunteer Corps

Estoy contenta con la nueva deccion y esperamos que realmente sea el cambio.
-Janet, Child Development Center

I am proud and I think it is very incredible and historical election for people of color and new opportunities to feel free to express ourselves.
-Sandra, Child Development Center

We took back the streets election night...now we're taking back the country!
-Enrique, Executive Office

It was a monumental election, the potential to change history. And it did. As we move into the next four years I have to think it myself, it's Obama, anything could happen. We must work together to make it happen.
-Kayla, AmeriCorps Volunteer

I never thought I would be a part of something this great but walking down the streets of downtown I felt as if this was our revolution and that we had triumphed.
-Diana, Work Study Student

I really like as an example for our children to know that a person of color can win the election and be president. It really shows the value of what can be done when people come together and organize. ¡Y Obama es un precioso!
-Hilda, Child Development Center Director

You could feel the energy and hope radiating through all of the celebrations throughout Seattle. It was amazing to celebrate the election of our new president in the streets with thousands of the diverse people that truly helped make it happen.
-Jessica, Child Development Center

This has been an election in which from this point forward it will be possible, with a straight face, to be able to say, "You too can be President!" Not all things are likely or possible, but, at least for the near future, it certainly seems so.
-Mike, Tech Support

¡Mil Gracias to Our Summer and Autumn Donors!

Gracias to our July-November donors:

Public Support

AmeriCorps*JustServe
AmeriCorps*Literacy
AmeriCorps*VISTA
Child Care Resources
City of Seattle Human Services Dept.
Early Learning Network
Emergency Shelter Assistance State
Federal Funding
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 Communication, Trade & Economic Development (CTED)
Washington State Housing & Finance Commission
WA State Legislature

Voluntarios

Since January, approximately 426 volunteers provided over 15,000 hours of service to El Centro. 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!

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
Victoria Kill y Henry McGee, Jr.
Amalia Maestas y John Daniels, Jr.
Roberto Maestas
Jeff Middelton
Michele y Stan Rosen
Rita Zawaideh

Benefactores \$10,000+

United Way of King County
National Council of La Raza
Sam's Club (inkind-food)

Socios \$5,000-9,999

City of Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs
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(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 8)

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Buggy on Beacon
Cactus - Alki
Captain's House B&B
Caravan-Serai, Inc.
CASA Latina
Century Ballroom
Chinoise Café
Churchmouse Yarn and Teas
Columbia City Bakery
Comfort Inn and Suites Ocean Shores
Communi-Chi
Costco Business Center
Crystal Seas Kayaking
Culinary Communion
Dagoba Organic Chocolate
Daniel DeSiga Designs
Darigold, Inc.
Dick's Drive-In Restaurants
Diva Espresso
Doc's Marina Grill
Duke's Chowder House
East West Book Shop
The Edgewater Six-Seven Restaurant
Edmonds Center for the Arts
Egan's Ballard Jam House
El Centro de la Raza After School
Program
El Quetzal
Flyright Productions
Frontier
Hilltop Yarn
Hotel Dos Lunas
Islander Restaurant & Tiki Lounge

Ivar's
Java Love and Baja Bistro
Jazz Alley
Jose Marti CDC
JRA Bike Shop
La Hacienda
La Hermandad Educativa
Latin Merchant
Mae's Phinney Ridge Café
Maya's Restaurant
McCormick & Schmick's Restaurant
Microsoft
Mount Baker Ski Area
Muckleshoot Casino
Museum of Glass
Norton Rose LLP
Nota Bene Cellars
Pacific Coast Clearing Services, Inc.
Palomino Restaurant
Parent Map
PCC Natural Markets
Pepsi Bottling Group - NW Market Unit
Pike Brewing Company
Queen City Grill
Qwest
Red Apple
Redhook
Sala de Belleza
Saltoro
Sazerac
Seastar Restaurant and Raw Bar
Seattle Aquarium
Seattle Art Museum
Seattle Holistic Center
Seattle Mariners
Seattle Natural Medicine
Seattle Seahawks
Seattle Underground Tour
Seattle University
Simon Golub & Sons
Skin Deep Dance Studio
Snappy Dragon Restaurant
Specialty Roast Coffee Company
SPORT Restaurant and Bar
Starbucks
Stumptown Coffee
Taco del Mar
Teacup
Ten Thousand Villages
Tiki Bob's Cantina
Tillicum Village and Tours, Inc.
Torero's Restaurant
UKUSH
Union Square Grill
University of Texas Press
Vince's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria
Vulcan, Inc.
Vyve Salon and Boutique
Washington Wine Commission
Wolfgang Puck
Woodland Park Zoo
Yoga on Beacon



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

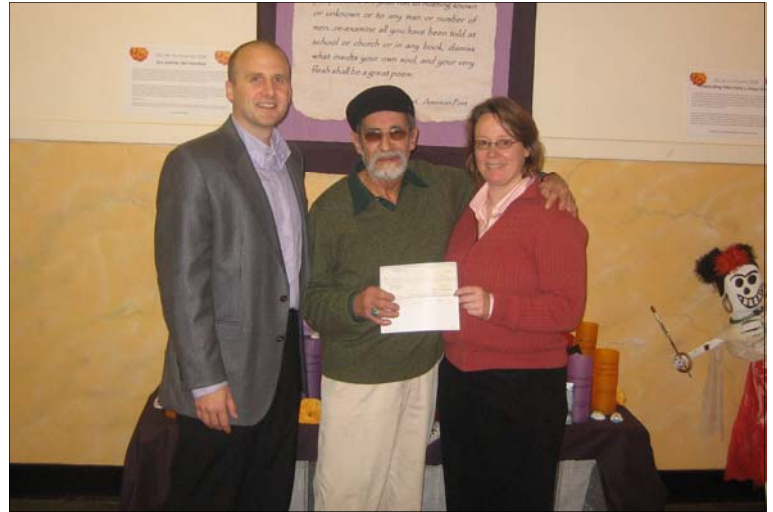
By keeping these items out of landfills we are making our world a little **GREENER**. As an extra **GREEN** bonus, our school gets paid **CASH** for these items! Bring your items to El Centro and help us spread some **GREEN!**

Safeco Delivers Surprise Donation!

Safeco surprised El Centro de la Raza with a \$5,000 donation to purchase emergency food for our Food Bank during this difficult economic time.

El Centro seeks to address immediate aspects of human suffering such as hunger, healthcare and homelessness by providing diverse, bilingual human and emergency services through our Food Bank, Homeless Assistance, La Cocina Latino Hot Meal and WA Basic Healthcare Plan Sponsorship programs.

Mil gracias to Safeco for this beautiful surprise and recent support of a new bus for our after school program, sponsorship of our 35th anniversary event and support of our auction banquet!



Mil gracias to Safeco for their surprise \$5,000 donation!

How Can I Help This Year?

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.

10 ways you can help:

1. Send a check to: El Centro de la Raza, 2524 16th Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98144.
2. Purchase coffee at www.SpecialtyRoast.com and select El Centro de la Raza as your charity!
3. Donate online at www.elcentrodelaraza.org.
4. Give in memory or honor of someone you love. Or a social justice issue close to you.
5. Purchase a seat at our Annual Auction Banquet on September 26, 2009; call 206.957.4649 or email events@elcentrodelaraza.org.
6. Ask your workplace Human Resources department about matching your gift to El Centro.
7. Make an in-kind donation to our Wishlist at www.elcentrodelaraza.org/giving/wishlist.htm.
8. Volunteer to help one of our 24 programs and services! Call 206.957.4602.
9. Sign up online to receive our eNewsletter so we can keep in touch!
10. GoodSearch and GoodShop this holiday season and during the New Year 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.
All donations are tax deductible. Mil gracias for your support!

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 1 to 37.5% of the sale to your chosen organization, El Centro de la Raza. A portion of your purchases will directly support El Centro's 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!

Gracias Seattle City Council for Not Abandoning Our Youth

Gracias to the Seattle City Council for voting to continue to fund the Seattle Team for Youth (STFY) program through the second quarter of 2009. Some cut-backs will be made and a future RFP process is to be determined. This came after Mayor Greg Nickels proposed a \$9 million dollar initiative for the prevention of youth violence in the City's 2009-2010 budget that would have led to a cut in spending for El Centro de la Raza's Hope for Youth Program and the elimination of STFY. El Centro has been a leading organization in STFY for close to twenty years. STFY has proved its effectiveness with 790 of the 830 students it served this year achieving success indicators established by the city.

The Mayor's proposal undermined the programs of various organizations with direct connections to Seattle's marginalized communities. The proposal process was almost intentionally dismissive to the minority community of Seattle, with fast action and little input from organizations and communities that wanted their voice heard. The proposal did not lay out a concrete transitional program, leaving youth with a gap in support that could trigger a regression to previous habits and behaviors. The Council heard these communities and voted to make sure our youth are not left out and continue to receive support.

El Centro de la Raza participants, supporters, friends and staff testified at the Seattle City Council hearings on October 8th and 27th. Gracias to all those who testified, called in testimony and emailed, faxed or wrote comments to the Council on behalf of our youth. You helped make sure the voices of our youth were heard!



Students from El Centro's After School Program support youth as they testify to City Council about how the Seattle Team for Youth program helps youth stay in school and away from gang activity.

Bienvenido New Staff Members

El Centro welcomes the following new staff members:

Heidi Blocker, AmeriCorps*VISTA Events Coordinator

Mallory Erickson, AmeriCorps*JustServe College Readiness Program

Sarah Haywood, AmeriCorps*VISTA Volunteer Coordinator

Nicole Keenan, Hope for Youth Violence Prevention Program

Billy Smith, AARP Development Office

Daniel Steyer, AmeriCorps*JustServe Financial Literacy Coordinator

Seattle University and University of Washington Work Study Students:
Tegan Callahan, Rachel Fridell, Paola Florez, Maggie Macklin, Koren Martin, Brittany Marzest, Elaina Porten and Heidi Sandgrin.

RENT A ROOM! Call 206.957.4601 to reserve space for a meeting, wedding or other event.

Board Members

Executive Committee:

David Gasca, President
Frontier Bank
Vice President Manager

Rita Zawaideh, Secretary
Travel Express/Caravan Serai

Jeff Middleton, Treasurer
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Ricardo Aguirre, Parliamentarian
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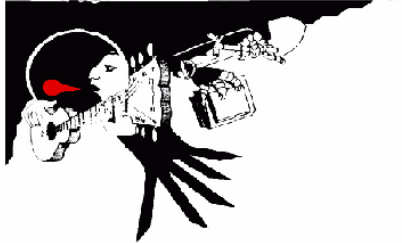
Benita Horn
Achievement Architects North
Principal Consultant

Elisa Miranda
Civil Rights Activist
Social Justice Writer & Poet

Urbano Santos
Guatemaltecos Unidos Founder
Masonry Contractor

Ramon Soliz
Senior Human Resource Analyst
Martin Luther King, Jr. County

Brenda Williams
Supervising Attorney
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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.

Save paper and postage! Sign up on our website to receive our newsletters by e-mail.

Please visit www.elcentrodelaraza.org/aboutus/mailling.

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.

- Next Cafés -
January 8th and February 5th

Space is limited, so please RSVP to Irene Routté at (206) 957-4652 or donor@elcentrodelaraza.org.



Support El Centro with your next coffee purchase!

El Centro de la Raza has teamed up with Specialty Roast Coffee Company and our neighbor, Hilltop Red Apple Market, to offer a chance to support your community with every coffee purchase.

To order our coffee online, go to: www.SpecialtyRoast.com and select El Centro de la Raza as your charity!

Every bag purchased online at SpecialtyRoast.com earns us \$2 and thanks to Hilltop Red Apple, every bag you purchase in their store earns us \$1.

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