

EL CENTRO DE LA RAZA | eNEWSLETTER JANUARY 2011



The Center for People of All Races

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

Estimad@s Amig@s,

Feliz año nuevo a todos and *mil gracias* to everyone who contributed to El Centro de la Raza in 2010! Our donors, volunteers, sponsors, supporters and advocates are what enable us to continue to provide the Latino and low-income community with our 32 comprehensive programs and services.

2010 was a difficult year for El Centro de la Raza - we lost our beloved founder, Roberto Maestas, whose spirit and legacy lives on in the work and services we provide every day. City and state budget cuts forced us to redesign some of our programs, and we, along with our participants, are feeling the crunch of the economic recession. Your contributions enable us to better ensure uninterrupted support to our participants.

Take a look at our [website](#) to keep abreast of what's going on at El Centro, to donate, or to sign up to volunteer. **Let's vow to make 2011 a strong and successful year by continuing our work building the "Beloved Community" together!**

What Do You Want to See in Your Neighborhood?

Stay tuned - look for our upcoming survey to give your thoughts on what you'd like to see in a new plaza next to El Centro de la Raza!

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

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DO YOU GOODSHOP?

Don't forget - if you use

[GoodSearch](#) as your search

engine, or do your online shopping through GoodShop, you can raise money for El Centro de la Raza without spending an extra penny (with coupons through [Goodshop](#), you might actually save money!)



QUICK LINKS:

[DONATE NOW!](#)

Support El Centro's 30 programs by simply clicking here!

[Learn More About El Centro!](#)
Visit our new website by clicking here!

Be our friend! Join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [MySpace](#)!

Want to keep updated on what El Centro is doing?

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29th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Rally and March



down the streets of Seattle highlighted achievements within King County and the greater Seattle community as well as other important issues, including SPD brutality.

This was a particularly special event for the El Centro community because we were able to pay tribute to the late Roberto Maestas, founder of El Centro and long time member of the [MLK Celebration Committee](#). El Centro employees and community members stepped onto the main floor as Estela Ortega lovingly invoked Roberto's memory and called upon the audience to shout "¡Presente!" in honor of the legacy he has left behind.

Another special moment came as El Centro's children's choir joyously sang about social justice and King's beloved community, "*somos los niños de paz, somos los niños del mundo* - We are the children of peace, we are the children of the world." After hearing the passionate words of numerous

Over 3,000 people crowded onto the Garfield High School campus this past Monday, January 17th in honor of what would have been Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 82nd birthday. The rally before the 29th annual march



[Join our Mailing List!](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Café Con el Centro

Thursday, February 3rd | 8-9am
El Centro de la Raza



Café Con el Centro is a great way to meet our staff, tour our building, and enjoy coffee and *pan dulce* on us!

Café Con el Centro takes place on the 1st Thursday of every month from 8am - 9am.

Reservations are already being made for the January 6th Café! To RSVP call (206) 957-4652 or [e-mail!](#)



Mil gracias to Starbucks for donating coffee to our Café!

¡Hola! ¿Quieres aprender español?

Class is in Session!

Adult Beginner - Intermediate Spanish Classes



Tuesday and Thursday 6-7:30pm
April 12th - June 9th

Classes are instructed by professional Spanish speakers in an interactive community-based setting. **Space is limited. Class fee is \$300. Sign up today!**

Call (206) 957-4605 or [email](#) for more



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speakers, the crowd filed out of the gym and onto the streets of Seattle, hopeful and eager to march for equality in the spirit of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - *Michelle Miller*

Mil Gracias to everyone who came out to show their support!

MLK Day Food Drive



Through the [United Way Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service](#), El Centro de la Raza partnered with the [Omega Delta Phi](#) fraternity from the University of Washington to hold a food drive outside of two local [Red Apple Markets](#).

These gentlemen braved the cold and enthusiastically participated in the event, helping us to gather much-needed grocery items for our hungry neighbors. We are thrilled that the community participated so wholeheartedly in purchasing non-perishable food items for our Food Bank, as well as graciously gifting El Centro with monetary donations.



Mil gracias to United Way of King County, the Omega Delta Phi Fraternity, Inc. and Red Apple Markets for making the drive a great success!

Want to volunteer? Check out our volunteer opportunities in the column to the right, or contact Kendehl Corley, our Volunteer Coordinator, at (206) 957-4602 or through [email](#).

details. Print out registration form [here](#).



Tamale Class, February 5th!

Have you always wanted to learn how to make tamales? Now is your chance to learn from a master tamalera! The next class is Saturday, February 4th from 10am - 12:30pm in the El Centro de la Raza kitchen. Class fee is \$75 per person and includes tamales. Register [here](#) today! Class fees go to support our Senior Wellness Program. For more information, please call (206) 957-4611 or [email](#).

¡COMADRES!

Un grupo de apoyo y de conversación para la mujer Latina!

Quieres conocer nuevas amistades, hablar y aprender sobre temas que son importantes para la mujer Latina?

Estas cordialmente invitada:
Próximas Reuniones 5:30 - 7:30pm
2 y 16 de Febrero; 2, 16, y 30 de Marzo; 13 y 27 de Abril; 11 y 25 de Mayo; 8 de Junio

Se proveerá cuidado de niños, rifas y merienda. Para más información favor de contactar a Diana Mena (206) 957-4641.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Get more involved! We always have the need for volunteers, and we have plenty of opportunities for you to help. Check it out:

- Tax Prep Season January 18th–

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Connecting with our Seniors

Once a quarter, a Lakeside Middle School 8th Grade Spanish class commits to volunteering with us and engaging in the El Centro community. They helped us prep for our MLK food drive and spoke with participants in our Senior Nutrition and Wellness Program. Here's an excerpt from one of the conversations as written by a student:

"Lily was born in the Philippines, and moved with her daughter to the United States in 1996. She moved to Seattle



and had trouble adapting to the change in life . . . she was brought to El Centro de la Raza by the prospect of good food, good exercise, and amazing friends. She was not disappointed. El Centro has helped her with all of these

things, helping her become a part of the community. She proudly states her future plans are "staying here".

Mil gracias to [Lakeside Middle School!](#)

Coming up this Month

April 14th, 2011 Volunteers wanted to assist with completing [demographic forms and intake](#) for our tax prep participants! No tax knowledge required. Spanish proficiency required for some positions, but not all. Tax Prep sessions will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5-9 pm, and Saturdays 10am-2pm, here at El Centro de la Raza. Volunteer Tax Preparers provided through partnership with United Way of King County

- **Legal Clinics January – October 2011** Still looking to put your translation skills to work? Great! We need interpreters proficient in Spanish to assist in consultations between participants and attorneys for our Schroeter Goldmark & Bender legal clinics, 5:30-6:00pm the 2nd Wednesday of every month from January through October.
- **ESL and Citizenship classes** in full swing! We're looking for classroom assistants who can commit to at least one quarter for the 2011 school year. Spanish proficiency not required for all positions!
- We always have a need during office hours for detail-oriented volunteers with data entry, mailing thank you letters, and more!

[Email](#) Kendehl Corley, our Volunteer Coordinator, or call her at (206) 957-4602 for more details on these and other volunteering opportunities. Download our volunteer application [here](#).

MIL GRACIAS TO OUR WONDERFUL DECEMBER AND JANUARY FUNDERS!

El Centro de la Raza relies on donations from our individual supporters to keep our programs running.

But we are also fortunate enough to have

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Accordi-O-Rama IV: The Annual Squeezebox on January 23rd, dedicated to the memory of Roberto Maestas, was a festive afternoon of lively accordion performances by artists from across the globe.

The Latina/o Bar Association 19th Annual Awards Gala
Friday, January 28, 2011 at 5:30pm
Seattle Waterfront Marriott
2100 Alaskan Way
Seattle, WA 98121



[The Latina/o Bar Association](#) will be presenting Estela Ortega with the Modelo de Excelencia/Model of Excellence Award at their 19th Annual Awards Gala on Friday Jan 28th at 5:30pm. General admission tickets are \$100. To register and for more information, please go [here](#).

Seattle Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League's 89th Annual Banquet
Saturday, January 29, 2011 at 5:30
New Hong Kong Restaurant
900 S Jackson St., 2nd Floor
Seattle, WA 98104



[The Seattle Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League](#) will be honoring Roberto Maestas as one of Seattle's greatest social justice leaders at their 89th Annual Banquet & Scholarship Fundraiser. Tickets are \$60 in advance, \$75 at the door (if tickets remain). For

corporate and foundation sponsors and grants for many of our programs and services. For example:

- ▶ [JP Morgan Chase](#) - \$40,000 for our Homeownership Center
- ▶ [Safeco Foundation](#) - \$20,000 for our Youth Violence Prevention
- ▶ [Suquamish Tribe](#) - \$1,500 for our History Project
- ▶ [City of Seattle](#) - \$1,000 in reduced fair metro tickets for our Homeless Assistance Program

We had a wonderful outpouring of support from the community around the holidays. *Mil gracias* to [Azteca America Seattle](#) for the donation of jackets, sweaters, hats and gloves. *Mil gracias* to all of those who donated to our very successful JMCDC Toy Drive, including:
▶ Lee Morales & Avalon Towers Bellevue
▶ Carlos Oseguera [Seattle Seahawks](#) and [Sounders FC](#)
▶ Delia Fontaine
▶ And to all of our anonymous donors who made the Toy Drive such a success!

Mil Gracias to all of our wonderful funders and donors!

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Ramon Soliz, *President*
Jeff Middleton, *Vice President*
David Gasca, *Treasurer*
Brenda Williams, *Secretary*
Roxana Amaral, *Parliamentarian*
Ricardo Garcia
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Norma Guerrero
Victoria Kill
Pablo Mendoza
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Billy Smith
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EL CENTRO'S PROGRAMS:

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reservations go [here](#) or for more information, contact Ann Fujii Lindwall at fujiiindwall@comcast.net.

December Recap: Holiday Hot Meal with Mayor McGinn



This year on December 22, 2010 we had the honor of hosting Seattle's mayor, [Mike McGinn](#), at our annual holiday hot meal that serves our local community. The mayor did not hesitate to roll up his sleeves, head into the kitchen and get his hands dirty. He helped the kitchen staff and our amazing volunteers carve up turkey and prepare plates for the more than 75 participants.

Men, women and children made their way through the line where they were then given a small gift bag with toiletries donated by Seattle University's [Beta Alpha Psi](#), a \$5 Orca card donated by [Sound Transit](#) and Estela Ortega handed out smoked salmon donated by the [Muckleshoot Indian Tribe](#). After each person was served, Mayor McGinn sat down with one of the families to enjoy his lunch, share some laughs and get to know some of our participants.
- Arlene Chavez

Mil gracias to Mayor McGinn, our volunteers, our staff at El Centro, Beta Alpha Psi, Sound Transit and the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe!

News Roundup

LOCAL

- Youth Take Leading Role at Seattle MLK Rally
<http://bit.ly/gZc2xj>
- P-I Archive: Civil Rights Protests in Seattle

With over 24,000 volunteer hours, El Centro de la Raza serves 22,884 individuals and 9,673 families annually through the following programs and services:

- Basic Healthcare Enrollment
- BEBES! Infant Mortality Program
- Café con El Centro
- College Readiness
- Crisis Advocacy
- ECR Transitional Housing
- El Patio Apartments
- ESL & Citizenship Classes
- Eviction Prevention
- Financial Literacy
- Food Bank
- Foreclosure Prevention
- Homeless Assistance Program
- Homeownership Program
- Hope for Youth Poetry & Civil Rights History Classes
- José Martí Child Development Center
- Juvenile Justice Policy Advocacy
- Latino Hot Meal Program
- Luis Alfonso Velásquez Flores After School Program
- Parent Involvement & Education
- Senior Home Delivered Meals
- Senior Nutrition & Wellness
- Youth Violence Prevention
- Veterans Services
- Community Meeting Space
- Community Service Site
- Cultural/Political/Social Events
- Immigrant/Human/Civil Rights Social Justice Advocacy
- Legal Clinic Site
- Tax Preparation Site
- Local, State, National & International Coalition Building
- Service Learning Site
- Tax Preparation Site

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<http://bit.ly/hCYQqr> see more photo archives [here](#)

NATIONAL

► Omaha Senator Offers Alternative to Illegal Immigrant Bill

<http://bit.ly/hXxCfY>



Connect with us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for up-to-the-minute news and information!

Thank you for reading. And of course, for your support,
whether monetary - [donate here now](#) - or through
volunteering - [e-mail us](#) - that makes our work possible!

Siempre bienvenidos, nuestra casa es su casa.

Estela Ortega
Executive Director

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