



El Centro de la Raza

2004 ANNUAL REPORT

“He/she who lives with untruth lives in spiritual slavery...freedom is still the bonus we receive for knowing the truth.”

--- DR. MARTÍN LUTHER KING, JR. (1929-1968)

EL CENTRO DE LA RAZA, or “The Center of the People,” came to life in 1972 when a group of students with a longing for a sense of community led a peaceful occupation of the abandoned Beacon Hill School.

OVER THREE DECADES LATER, El Centro de la Raza continues to provide culturally competent services, and to sponsor diverse initiatives for the betterment of our city, our nation and our world.

OUR MISSION is to achieve quality, justice, dignity and freedom for all people without regard to race, color, creed, sex or national origin. We seek to empower – through peaceful means and social change – those affected by poverty, militarism, racism, and sexism so that they may become self-reliant.

“We believe that only an expanded democracy—where all citizens have equal rights and opportunities—will enable our country to realize its potential for greatness....”

--Roberto Maestas, Executive Director/Founder



Children in the After School Program

MAJOR FUNCTIONS OF EL CENTRO DE LA RAZA

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HUMAN SERVICES – Seeking to address immediate aspects of human suffering such as hunger, healthcare, and homelessness, El Centro provides diverse human services, including:

Housing and Rental Assistance • Basic Healthcare Plan Sponsorship • Senior Citizen Support • Hot Meal Program • Food Stamp Enrollment & Advocacy • Infant Mortality Prevention • and many others • EDUCATION & SKILL BUILDING – El Centro seeks to promote self-sufficiency and empowerment through education and skill building initiatives, including:

Homeownership Education & Financial Literacy • Homelessness Job Readiness & Employment • ESL and Citizenship classes • Parenting Classes • Down-payment Assistance • UW Educational Opportunity Center | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAMS – Investing in our children and their future, El Centro provides an array of child and youth services to the local community:

José Martí Child Development Center • After School Mentor/Tutor Support Program • Hope for Youth Poetry Classes • Seattle Team for Youth Program • History Classes at select Seattle Public High Schools • COMMUNITY BUILDING – El Centro believes that only through civic involvement, as well as political and social activism, will our community be able to effectively address the profound contradictions facing our city, state, nation and world:

Community Involvement • Grassroots Organizing • Social Action • Voter Education and Registration. <p>“Basic needs are a right, not a privilege.”
--Unknown</p> |
|---|---|

“For three decades, this outstanding organization has worked tirelessly to eliminate cultural barriers, strengthen neighborhoods, and promote social justice.”

-- Former Governor Gary Locke

ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- COMCAST CARES DAY OF SERVICE WITH EL CENTRO DE LA RAZA – Comcast employees in Seattle joined El Centro de la Raza to paint, landscape, clean up grounds, wash windows, perform general maintenance and assist us in database management at El Centro, located in Seattle. One hundred and seventy volunteers were part of the fourth annual Comcast Cares Day for a company-wide day of community service. A total of 1,360 volunteer hours were spent at El Centro de la Raza. Additionally, Comcast donated \$3,840.00, and they provided materials and tools for many of the projects.
- TWO LOCALLY WRITTEN BOOKS, Seattle's Beacon Hill, and A Chronological Overview of 150 years of Seattle and King County History, highlight El Centro de la Raza's contributions to Seattle's history and the local community.
- SHARE/WHEEL'S TENT CITY for the homeless was temporarily headquartered at El Centro de la Raza this year, in our continuing efforts to combat homelessness and make El Centro a home for all.
- SEA-FAIR BESTOWED THE TITLE of King Neptune 2004 upon Roberto Maestas, Executive Director & Founder of El Centro de la Raza, for his exceptional leadership and service to the local community.
- STAFFORD FREY COOPER SPONSORED our 2004 Childcare Holiday Party. Gifts were purchased for 126 children. Twenty volunteers donated their time to El Centro de la Raza and provided a gift for each child, Christmas trees, decorations and snacks. Our heartfelt gratitude is extended to all of the volunteers, including the lead, Michael Bolasina and Maria Urrea, who recommended the project. Their contribution totaled approximately \$4,000 and is priceless to all of our little ones.
- BUILDING USAGE HOURS TOTALED 4995. The doors of the building are open for all community groups to gather. The Community uses El Centro space for meetings, weddings, birthday parties and other activities.
- ISABELLE ALLENDE, the internationally acclaimed Chilean novelist, visited with El Centro de la Raza youth, elders, and staff in 2004. One of the ways El Centro educates its children is by introducing them to distinguished community and global figures.



Children visiting with Isabelle Allende



Dedication of the Luis Alfonso Velasquez Flores After School Program, a 9 year-old Nicaraguan assassinated in 1979 for political reasons, whose work has become an inspiration to the children in our program. His message of solidarity, self-assurance, self-worth, community involvement, social equality, equal opportunity, fairness, camaraderie and hope struck a chord with our students and teachers.

2004 PROGRAMS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

José Martí Child Development Center

DEVELOPS the self-awareness, self-esteem, and cultural pride of our children using a bilingual, multicultural curriculum.

EL CENTRO IS COMMITTED to enhancing the quality of José Martí Child Development Center. Every single José Martí teacher is working toward a college degree in Bilingual/Bicultural Childhood Education.

CONGRATULATIONS to Martha Diaz for earning her A.A. degree & to Diana Elenes who began her B.A. program.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The “2004 Cultural Pride Award” is awarded to José Martí CDC by Sea Mar Community Health Centers.
- José Martí CDC is the only nationally accredited Spanish/English bilingual program on the West Coast.
- “CHILDREN SING FOR PEACE” José Martí CDC children form part of a traveling choir spreading messages of peace, as well as participating in a U.N. sponsored video on children and peace.

Hope For Youth Program

- CHICANO/LATINO HISTORY CLASSES taught by El Centro de la Raza at select area high schools. Also, in a joint effort with the Seattle Public Schools, El Centro instills cultural pride in Latino students while they complete high school requirements for graduation.

Homeownership Center

- EL CENTRO IS BUILDING STRONGER NEIGHBORHOODS and families through our homeownership assistance program. We counseled 325 families on homeownership, and assisted 75 families in obtaining more than \$11.75 million in home loans.

Basic Health Care Plan

- EL CENTRO DE LA RAZA IS COMMITTED to combating the current health care crisis among the poor. In 2004, we sponsored the membership fees of over 3,000 families in the state’s Basic Health Plan.

**“Para los niños trabajamos porque los niños son los que saben querer,
“It is for the young that we work, for they are the ones who know how to love, for they
porque los niños son la esperanza del mundo.”
are the hope of the world.”**

--José Martí (1853-1895)

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

IN 2004:

WE INITIATED PLANS to replace the original 1911 boiler system as a first step toward meeting modern environmental and energy efficiency standards.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM facilities were renovated, thereby permitting the program to continue providing activities and academic assistance to school age children.

PARTIAL FUNDING WAS SECURED through Muckleshoot Indian Tribe in the amount of \$25,000.00 to begin renovation and bring into compliance *La Cocina Popular* (The People’s Kitchen), which prepares 85,256 meals annually.

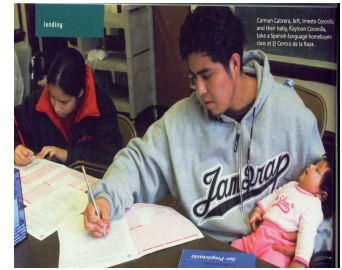
THE MUCKLESHOOT INDIAN TRIBE PRESENTED a new 2005 Van to support El Centro de la Raza programs.

IN 2005:

COMPLETE INSTALLATION PROCESS to replace the original 1911 boiler system as a first step toward meeting modern environmental and energy efficiency standards at an approximate cost of \$350,000.00.

RESTORATION OF 212 WINDOWS TO MEET modern environmental and energy standards for El Centro at a cost of \$1.7 million while maintaining the integrity of our historic 1911 four story building.

PARTICIPANTS SERVED & GEOGRAPHIC REACH OF SERVICES



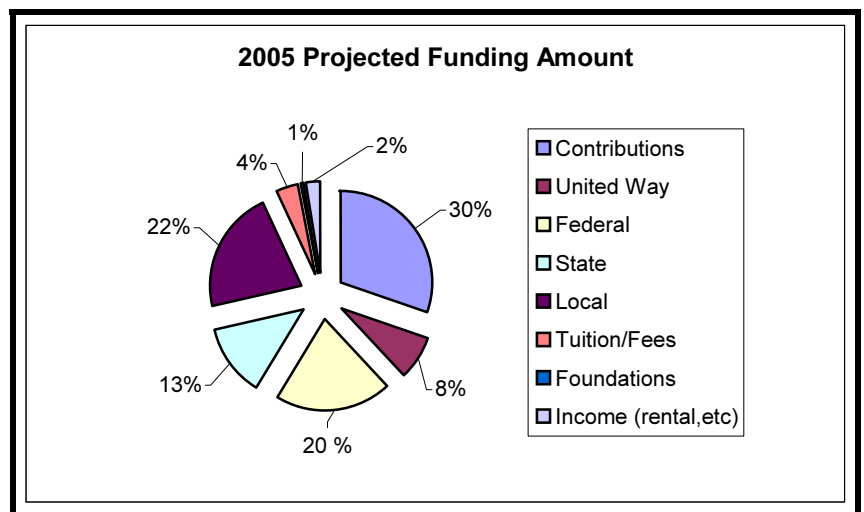
In 2004, **we served 7,306 unduplicated families and 11,115 individuals**. The majority of our participants reside in the Seattle-King County region, with some coming from Pierce and Snohomish Counties. We gear our culturally appropriate, bi-lingual services toward Latino/Chicano and low-income residents, but embrace a multicultural community reflective of the surge of diversity in the Seattle area.

Age	No.
0-5	1,094
6-11	1,044
12-17	1,068
18-23	985
24-44	3,892
45-54	1,678
55+	1,354
TOTAL	11,115

Ethnicity	No.	%
African American (non-Latino)	1,111	10
Caucasian (non-Latino)	1,887	17
Latino/Chicano	5,878	53
Native American/Alaska Native	364	3
Asian/Pacific Islander	1,511	14
Other	364	3
	11,115	100

Gender	No.
Female	4,844
Male	6,271
	11,115

2005 PROJECTED FUNDING		
SOURCE	AMOUNT	%
Contributions	\$997,772	30
United Way	\$255,960	8
Federal	\$676,534	20
State	\$420,175	13
Local	\$711,887	22
Tuition/Fees	\$128,980	4
Foundations	\$22,750	1
Income (Rental, etc.)	\$77,900	2
TOTAL	\$3,291,958	100



2004-2005
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Ramon Soliz
 Operation H.R., UW Health
 Sciences (2/02-2/05)

VICE PRESIDENT

Laurie Prendez
 Seattle Genetics Quality
 Assurance (2/02-2/05)

SECRETARY

Minty Jeffrey
 Owner/Co-Founder Colors
 NW Magazine (2/02-2/05)

TREASURER

Jeff Middleton
 Architect, Integrus
 Architecture (1/01-1/07)

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Jairo Sanchez
 Business Proprietor
 (2/02-2/05)

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP:

Rolando Adame
 Attorney-at-Law (2/02-2/05)

Ricardo Aguirre
 Financial Planner (2/02-2/05)

David Gasca
 Vice-Pres., Frontier Bank
 (2/02-2/05)

Steve Gonzalez
 King Co. Superior Ct. Judge
 (2/02-2/05)

Victoria Kill
 Adjunct Professor, Dept. of
 English, Seattle University
 (1/04-1/07)

Phyllis Little
 Executive Director, POCAAN
 (10/02-10/05)

Dorothy Oakie
 Community Volunteer
 (2/02-2/05)

Urbano Santos
 Founder, Guatemaltecos
 Unidos/Contractor/Masonry
 (3/04-3/07)

Rita Zawaideh
 Travel Express/Caravan Serai,
 Inc. (10/02-10/05)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

El Centro de la Raza is directed through a 14-member Board of Directors that meets on a monthly basis.

Board Membership is as diverse as the community the organization serves, ranging from young professionals to senior citizens; low income to upper middle class; financial planner to community volunteer.

EMPLOYEES & STAFF

El Centro de la Raza thanks its employees and volunteers for making 2004 an exceptional year.

Congratulations to EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR, **MARIA LUISA AGUILERA**, and SPIRIT AWARD RECIPIENT, **ALEX BAUTISTA** for their outstanding dedication, service, and overall excellence in carrying out our mission.

**WE WELCOME EVERYONE TO VISIT OUR
 CENTER, SHARE IN OUR WORK AND ENRICH
 OUR VISION FOR A BETTER FUTURE**



EL CENTRO DE LA RAZA

2524 – 16th Ave. S., Seattle, WA 98144
 Tel: 206.957.4613 • Fax: 206.329.0786
www.elcentrodelaraza.org

WA State Non-Profit 501(c)(3) Corporation
 EIN # 91-0899927 • UBI # 601025014
 IRS 990 available online

2004-2005
**KEY ORGANIZATIONAL
 STAFF /DEPARTMENTS**

Roberto Maestas
 Executive Director/
 Founder

Estela Ortega
 Associate Director

David Bauch
 Financial Officer, CPA

Hilda Magana,
 Director of José Martí Child
 Development Center

Graciela Gonzalez,
 Director of Human Services

Steve Erickson,
 Director of Facilities

Bobbie Stephens,
 Human Resources

Elton Hyndman,
 La Cocina Manager & Chef

Arturo Gonzalez,
 Homeownership Center
 Manager

Monica Urrutia,
 Property & Housing Manager

Pablo Mendoza,
 Computer & Technology
 Manager

Alex Bautista
 Hope for Youth Program
 Leader in Training

Development Department

THE 2005 LATINO EDUCATION SUMMIT

March 18 - 19, 2005

Chief Sealth High School

Contact: Adrian Moroles (206) 790-0106

(Child Care will be provided)

Campaña Quetzal is a coalition of Latino educators, parents, youth and concerned citizens who are alarmed by the academic achievement gap facing the Latino community and volunteer our time to building solutions. Campaña Quetzal believes solutions will come through harnessing leadership in the Seattle area, in particular parent leadership, as a means of addressing institutionalized racism thus making Seattle educational institutions more successful for Latinos and students of all colors.

The summit operates under the fiscal responsibility of El Centro de la Raza. Sponsors include: Consejo, Latino/a Educational Achievement Project, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

This conference is financially supported by: City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, Costco, Neighbor to Neighbor Fund, SeaMar Community Health Centers, Seattle Metropolitan Credit Union, Seattle Public Schools, and The University of Washington Office of Minority Affairs.

FIRST TIME HOME BUYER CLASSES

held monthly at El Centro de la Raza in Spanish and English.

Contact Arturo Gonzalez (206) 957-4639 to register.

DIA de los MUERTOS

November 1 – 22, 2005

If you are interested in exhibiting an Ofrenda
please call (206) 957-4605 for more information.

Donate your cars, boats, trucks, RVs, land, property, or cash!

Your donation provides food, housing for the homeless, child,
youth, and elder services and much more. Towing is FREE!

Please call (206) 957-4636

Thank you for supporting El Centro de la Raza. Only with your support can we achieve our mission!
El Centro de la Raza is a 510(c)(3) organization and contributions are tax-deductible.



If you would like to contribute at this time,
please mail your check or money order to:

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A Washington State Community Action Agency/A United Way Agency