



EL CENTRO DE LA RAZA

THE CENTER OF THE PEOPLE

“It is for the children that we work, for they are the ones who know how to love, for they are the hope of the world.”
-José Martí, Cuban Poet & Martyr (1853-1895)



2524 16TH AVENUE SOUTH
SEATTLE, WA 98144
www.elcentrodelaraza.org

WHAT SERVICES DO WE OFFER?

Human Services: Seeking to address immediate aspects of human suffering such as hunger, healthcare and homelessness, El Centro provides diverse human services from our Frances Martinez Community Service Center.
Senior Nutrition & Wellness ▪ Homeless Assistance ▪ Basic Healthcare Plan Sponsorship ▪ Infant Mortality Prevention ▪ Food Bank ▪ “La Cocina” Latino Meal Program



Child & Youth Services: 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 ▪ Luis Alfonso Velasquez Flores After School Program ▪ Hope for Youth Poetry & History Classes ▪ Seattle Team for Youth ▪ Pregnant & Parenting Teen Program

Education & Skill Building Programs: El Centro seeks to promote self-sufficiency and empowerment through education and skill building initiatives.
First Time Homebuyer Education ▪ Financial Literacy ▪ Life Skills & Job Readiness Training ▪ ESL & Citizenship Classes ▪ Bilingual Legal Clinics

Community Building & Development: El Centro believes that only through civic involvement, grassroots organizing and political and social activism will our community be able to effectively address the profound contradictions facing our city, state, nation and world. We bring together communities of all ages, races, genders and classes to fight for civil rights and human rights both locally and globally. We also offer education and voter registration to empower people to become active, voting citizens. By developing the community in which we live, we are enriching the lives of the people in our community.
Low-Income Housing ▪ Commercial Space ▪ Building Uses & Current Tenants ▪ Volunteerism ▪ Global Relations

OUR MISSION

El Centro de la Raza’s mission includes ensuring access to services and advocating on behalf of people regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, gender, level of income, age, ability and sexual orientation. El Centro de la Raza was founded in 1972 to address the problems that people face related to cultural differences, literacy, health, racism, education, income and assets.

“A better world is not only possible, it is a necessity.”
-Roberto Maestas, Executive Director & Founder

HISTORY

El Centro de la Raza’s journey began on October 11, 1972 when Latino staff, students and families peacefully occupied the abandoned Beacon Hill Elementary School near downtown Seattle. The core group was part of the English and Adult Basic Education Program at the Duwamish branch of South Seattle Community College, a program of the War on Poverty that was defunded after less than two years.

The occupation was widely supported by Native American, African American, Asian and Caucasian people. Thus, a community was created in a building without running water or heat and negotiations with the City of Seattle and Seattle Public Schools led to the eventual approval by the city council and the mayor of a five-year lease of the building for \$1 a year.

Over 30 years later, El Centro owns the building outright. The name, El Centro de la Raza, is best translated as: “The Center of the People of all Races.” El Centro receives and welcomes individuals and families of all races and fights to make a better and more just world for everyone.



WE OFFER SERVICES IN...

Beacon Hill	Bellingham
<i>All Services</i>	<i>Basic Healthcare Plan</i>
2524 16th Avenue South	4455 Cordata Parkway
Seattle, WA 98144	Bellingham, WA 98226
206.957.4634	360.788.7157

WHAT DO WE DO?

We provide culturally competent services to Latino and other low-income families and individuals of all ages, so that we may all develop self-sustainability and may more fully and effectively participate in civic society to affirm and defend our rights.

- « The comprehensive nature of our services allows our participants to address multiple barriers to stability.
- « A large majority of our organization’s multi-ethnic/multi-racial program participants are Latinos and other underserved populations of color.
- « It is through our efforts that we endeavor to establish greater equality and a stronger community for all.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- ... Donate online at www.elcentrodelaraza.org.
- ... Bring in donations for our *Wish List* found on our website.
- ... Donate your car! Call: 206.957.4611 or e-mail donor@elcentrodelaraza.org.
- ... Volunteer at El Centro! Call: 206.957.4605.
- ... Tell your friends, family and community members about *El Centro de la Raza*.

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

*Please unfold this brochure to learn more about our programs and services.

EL CENTRO DE LA RAZA'S PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

HUMAN SERVICES

Senior Nutrition & Wellness: We address six areas of wellness for seniors including: emotional, physical, social, intellectual, spiritual, and vocational health. Seniors receive nutrition education, nutritious daily lunches, home delivered meals, and a weekly grocery bag from our food bank. Seniors partake in various social and educational activities, and exercise classes are offered three times a week. Call: **206.957.4643**



Hours: **8:30-5:30, M-F**

Homeless Assistance: We address the issue of homelessness by providing comprehensive housing assistance to homeless families. Participants receive case management focused on stabilization and maintaining permanent, affordable housing. We focus on issues that cause families to become homeless, and assist with some move-in expenses, rent subsidy and partner with local landlords to place families in affordable, quality housing. Call: **206.957.4608** Hours: **8:30-5:30, M-F**

Infant Mortality Prevention: We address the issue of infant mortality by offering advocacy, access and assistance through case management, outreach and workshops for women of childbearing age, pregnant women and women with children under three to reduce the risk of infant mortality, as well as increase the health of both woman and child. Call: **206.957.4614** Hours: **8:30-5:30, M-F**

Basic Healthcare Plan: This program addresses the current healthcare crisis and lack of access to basic healthcare among low-income families and individuals. Participants' premiums for the state's Basic

Healthcare Plan are subsidized by El Centro de la Raza. This administrative office is located in Bellingham.

Call: **360.788.7157** Hours: **10-3, M-F**

Food Bank: We address the issue of hunger in our community through our Food Bank, which provides emergency and supplemental food to low-income individuals and families in the Seattle area to meet their nutritional

needs. Call: **206.957.4644** Hours: **W 5-7, TH 10:30-12 & 1:30-4:30**

“La Cocina” Latino Meal Program: Our kitchen staff and onsite chef address the issues of hunger and nutrition among homeless and other low-income communities, including students, by providing free nutritious hot lunches to individuals and families in a diverse community setting at our site. Call: **206.957.4631** Hours: **12-1, M-F**



COMMUNITY BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT

Low-Income Housing: We provide low-income housing through our multi-family, tax credit apartments, two transitional houses and one triplex located on Beacon Hill. Participants receive access to affordable, quality housing and are propelled toward self-sustainability.

Call: **206.957.4636** Hours: **9-6, M-F**

Commercial Space: We support independent and local business development by offering commercial spaces available for lease.

Call: **206.957.4636** Hours: **9-6, M-F**

Building Uses & Current Tenants: We have rooms available to rent for meetings and special events with seating capacities of up to 100 people. Our current tenants are: St. Michael Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahdo Church, AIDS Ministry Ecumenical Network (AMEN), Excelsior Travel, Pacific Association for Labor Support (PALS), Open Arms Prenatal Services, IWASIL Boys & Girls Club and an Interagency Public School. Call: **206.957.4601** Hours: **8:30-5:30, M-F**

Volunteerism: El Centro de la Raza relies on volunteers in our programs to keep them sustainable and open to everyone in the community. Please call us to find out more about our volunteer opportunities. Call: **206.957.4605** Hours: **9-6, M-F**

Global Relations: El Centro sends multiracial delegations to many underdeveloped countries, especially in Latin America and presently holds education forums, coordinates student exchanges and works to raise funds for educational and developmental projects in several sister countries including Cuba, Nicaragua, Mexico, Chile and Bolivia.

Call: **206.957.4605** Hours: **9-6, M-F**



EDUCATION & SKILL BUILDING

First Time Homebuyer Education: We seek to prepare new Americans for homeownership by empowering them through Homebuyer Counseling and First Time Homebuyer Seminars. Our homeownership education workshops cover down-payment assistance, mortgages, predatory lending, and credit building. Call: **206.957.4633**

Hours: **9-6, M-F**

Financial Literacy: Financial literacy education workshops help our participants anticipate purchases and generate a budget to strengthen their awareness of spending habits. Participants can enroll in an Individual Development

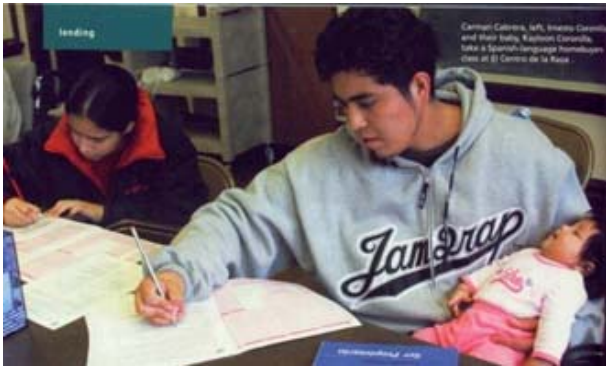
Account (IDA) which is an asset-building, matching funds program. Call: **206.957.4633** Hours: **9-6, M-F**

Job Readiness & Life Skills Training: To help end the cycle of homelessness, this multi-layered program provides employment assistance and soft skills training relevant to homeless, low-income families so that they increase their wages, maintain employment, and know their rights. Call: **206.957.4607** Hours: **9-5, M-F**

ESL & Citizenship Classes: Addressing the language barriers regarding citizenship and everyday life, we offer English classes for beginner and intermediate students to improve proficiency and to study for the citizenship exam. Participants receive bilingual assistance with the entire citizenship process. Call: **206.957.4634** Hours: **8:30-5:30, M-F**

Bilingual Legal Clinics: The Law Offices of Schroeter, Goldmark and Bender provide free, monthly, bilingual orientation and consultation on various legal matters at El Centro de la Raza.

Call: **206.957.4634** Hours: **8:30-5:30, M-F**



CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAMS

José Martí Child Development

Center: Addressing the issues of accessible, affordable, quality childcare, we provide childcare that nurtures the self-awareness, self-esteem, and cultural pride of our children using a bilingual, multicultural curriculum. We are the only nationally accredited bilingual child development center on the West

Coast. Call: **206.957.4619** Hours: **9-6, M-F**

Luis Alfonso Velasquez Flores After School Program: Our after school program provides bilingual, multicultural mentoring and tutoring to children ages 5 to 12 to improve school attendance, homework completion and academic performance. The children engage in a variety of activities that afford them the opportunity for academic success



and positive interaction with students of all backgrounds. Call: **206.957.4623** Hours: **9-6, M-F**

Hope For Youth: We provide true ethnic history, poetry and service-learning classes that meet graduation requirements through Proyecto Saber to students at Ballard and Chief Sealth High Schools, Denny Middle School and the Bilingual Center, to promote positive self-expression, improve academic performance and give Latino youth and youth of color the opportunity to learn more about their community and the contributions their communities have made in the U.S.

Call: **206.957.4622** Hours: **8:30-5:30, M-F**



Seattle Team for Youth: In partnership with Seattle Public Schools, we offer comprehensive case management services to, but not limited to, Latino youth ages 11-21 who reside in Seattle and are at-risk of dropping out or have dropped out of school. We have offices at Chief Sealth and Cleveland High Schools and Denny Middle School. The objective of this program is to provide youth with the tools and resources they need to succeed academically.

Call: **206.957.4612** Hours: **8:30-5:30, M-F**

Pregnant & Parenting Teen Program: This program works to biligually educate male and female youth to address the challenges associated with teenage pregnancy and parenting. This program focuses on delaying and preventing second births to teenage mothers who are pregnant or are current parents, so that they may have the opportunity to finish school and pursue goals that will stabilize and prepare them for a secure future. Call: **206.957.4634** Hours: **8:30-5:30, M-F**