



HISPANOS UNIDOS BIDS FAREWELL TO LONG-TIME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One of New Haven's largest community based agencies celebrated its 20th Anniversary on September 27th, 2007 and said good-bye to their beloved Executive Director. Luz Gonzalez has served the agency for more than fifteen years and is attributed with its expansion of services, larger facility and name recognition within the general community.

During the agencies anniversary dinner on Thursday, September 27th, Ms. Gonzalez received a loving "roast" that highlighted many of her accomplishments. CAUSA agency members attended the event and participated in the well deserved accolades.



Above: From left, Adelaida Rodriguez (CAUSA), Luz Gonzalez (Hispanos Unidos) Carmen Sierra (CAUSA) and Mary Sanders, (Spanish Speaking Center of New Britain).

Congratulations, Luz!

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Message from the Executive Director

In keeping with the CAUSA's mission to improve the quality of life for Latinos in Connecticut, we recognize the importance of helping our agencies create an infrastructure and develop processes that can support the mission. With this in mind, we are offering new initiatives that are supporting our members at various levels. Over the past year, our member agencies have participated in several capacity building activities including workshops focusing on case management, marketing, customer service, media and training for new OPM cost standards. The response to these opportunities has been extremely encouraging.

We have been able to bring individuals from the various agencies throughout the state together to network in a spirit of camaraderie. Sharing their experience and knowledge has helped them make new connections and collaborate on issues. The workshops have also created opportunities to receive feedback on current projects and activities taking place in each agency.

We have also provided training on a new client service system (CSS). This system was created to enhance the agencies capability to track client services which provides ease for ongoing reporting. Our financial support to agencies includes several grants including a second round of funding from the League of United American Citizens (LULAC) which updates our technology centers located in CAUSA member agencies throughout the state.

We continue to grow and expand capacity through the support and assistance of our sponsors, grant makers and the State of Connecticut. To these entities, we extend our appreciation and continue to look forward to partnerships and new alliances.

God Bless,
Carmen Sierra, Executive Director CAUSA, INC.

Young Latina Attends Latinas and Power Workshop

The following letter was submitted to CAUSA, Inc. this past summer after the organization sent a young Latina to attend a powerful leadership event in Hartford, CT.

"First of all, the conference was very exciting to attend. In the beginning of the conference Marisa Rivera-Albert, the President of the National Hispana Leadership Institute, spoke on the statistics on Hispanics' income, professions, etc. It was shocking to hear the low numbers. She also spoke about how Latina women and men can be successful and make a change or difference. There was another speaker, Zulma X. Barrios, L.H.D. She is a Multicultural Consultant and Senior Advisor for Gallup University. She explained the Seven Demands of Leadership used to shape a persons' leadership. The Seven Demands of Leadership are Visioning, Maximizing Values, Challenging Experience, Mentoring, Building a Constituency, Making Sense of Experience, and Knowing Self. Ms. Barrios also prepared a workshop in which everyone evaluated themselves based on each of the Demands. Many of the Latinas whom attended the event were very successful in maintaining a positive and well-being career and goal. If not, they had a vision in which they knew will succeed and help their community. For example a young Latina stated she was courageous in making a non-profit organization called Latina Army in which would help young Latinas. Hearing how enthusiastic she was and her dedication in making the organization motivated me to think, 'What can I do to help Latinas like me?' Many Latinas also mentioned they struggled to get to their position now, there I noticed I won't just become someone I have to make someone out of myself. I believe there was a huge turnout for the conference it was very motivating.

Ms. Ebelisse Robles in a student in the Hartford school system.

CAUSA Offers Marketing Basics to Community Agencies

As financial resources in the grassroot nonprofit sector continues to vanish, the competition for sorely needed funds to serve constituents has prompted many agencies to embrace new skills that can improve their position. Over the past six months, CAUSA offered marketing workshops to all community based agencies in Connecticut. The process of marketing can help define who your constituents are, how to measure those needs and then help you use these results to design effective and cost saving programs to suit those needs. Ultimately, this is part of the information that your potential donor or sponsor will want to hear when determining who they will fund. CAUSA will continue to provide these workshops to the agency community in 2008. If interested please contact Adelaida Rodriguez at 860-424-0077.





GET OUT THE VOTE! STATE ELECTION TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH, 2007

The Latino Vote, Counts Now More than Ever!

Over the next twelve months, Latinos are well positioned to have candidates listen to the issues they care about most the 2008 Presidential election race takes hold. In a recent study by the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund (NALEO), the report highlights the fact that states with high Latino population's offers our community an opportunity to influence local and national elections.

John Bueno president of NALEO states "It is clear that this years presidential race will be a contest for the hearts and minds of Latinos, the increase in Latino participation, the high profile of the issues the community cares about and the growing Latino population in the early states mean serious candidates are going to engage." Over the past ten years the Latino vote has grown nearly 50 percent, In the 2004 presidential election nearly eight million Latinos voted representing six percent of the total vote and translates into three million more participants over 1996 elections.

Waterbury Member Agency Welcomes New Executive Director

The Hispanic Coalition of Waterbury established in 1988 is delighted to welcome its Executive Director, Ramey Acosta. After a long and successful career with the State of Connecticut Correction Department as a Warden, Mr. Acosta stated that "this is something I have wanted to do for a very long time..I am glad this opportunity has come my way".

The agency is part of a collation that includes Casa Bienvenida (services for the elderly), Rivera Hughes (After School Youth Projects) the Naugatuck Valley Project and the Hispanic Coalition which serves families and children. Most recently the organization presented a fundraiser and presented the "Coqui Awards" at dinner attended by more than 350 people. We will keep you posted on all the great things we can expect to see out of the Waterbury area.

*"The key is to get out the Latino vote. It is important for all local leaders and advocates to encourage our community in all of our towns. Exercise Your Rights. Vote Tuesday, November 6th."
Carmen Sierra,
Executive Director
CAUSA, Inc.*

Upcoming Fundraiser San Juan Sports Center

has dedicated that past several decades to after school boxing programs for Hartford City kids. Many of the graduates have gone on to compete in national and world championships. The center is in need of funds to keep it going. In the fall of 2008 the center will host a fundraiser to benefit several after school program.

We invite you to join us on a committee or as a sponsor. Please call the San Juan Sports Center and ask for Andrea at 860-525-0360

MEMBER AGENCIES and PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



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Centro de la Comunidad Norwich Office Elizabeth Garcia Gonzalez 860-886-0001
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Spanish Community of Wallingford Blanca Santana 203-265-5866 284 Washington St. Wallingford, CT 06492
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