

INSIDER

Letter from the Executive Director

PRESERVE THE CORE, STIMULATE PROGRESS— CAUSA LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Since our last newsletter, CAUSA has made significant strides in our work throughout the State of Connecticut. As you can see, we've updated our look and logo to reflect a more vibrant and active organization. Lately, we've been following the advice of Jim Collins, author of *Built to Last* and *Good to Great* as we think about the future of CAUSA and our member agencies. Collins' research with organizations that have endured for at least 125 years (*Built to Last*) and those that demonstrate sustained, exceptional results (*Good to Great*) indicate that the common characteristic of all those organizations is the ability to balance two core actions: preserving the core AND stimulating progress. Preserving the core means that we need to honor the essence of who we are—our values, our mission, our commitment to those we serve. At the same time we need to be willing to “confront the brutal facts” and constantly innovate and reinvent ourselves to be responsive to the needs of the communities we serve.

CAUSA is celebrating our 35th anniversary. Looking back, we're well on our way to being an organization that is “built to last.” But over the last several years and, economic challenges facing our communities, our state and our nation have surfaced new needs. In response to these realities, CAUSA is in the process of reexamining how we work, what we do and how we are structured. The first phase of our planning was completed in the summer of 2010. The project was made possible through the generous support of Hispanics in Philanthropy, which provided a grant to complete the first phase of our capacity building project.

Inside this issue of the new INSIDER, we will share information about several new initiatives we are planning as well as news from our members agencies.

Let us know what you think of our new look. For those of you who have received this newsletter in its printed form, you can “go green” by contacting CAUSA at adelaida@snet.net and letting us know that you'd prefer to receive the newsletter in an electronic version.

In closing, now is the time to look in the mirror and think about your own organization and how well you are doing with preserving the core and stimulating progress

Onward and upward!

Carmen Sierra

Executive Director



CAUSA Receives Award for Census Work



Ana Maria Garcia, Partnership Coordinator Boston Regional Census Center, presenting award to Carmen Sierra and Adelaida Rodriguez of CAUSA

Beginning a year ago, CAUSA and CRT—(Community Renewal Team, Inc.) and the Regional Office of the U.S. Census Bureau partnered to mobilize the community to participate in the 2010 Census. As the lead agency, CRT offered free training and testing services to the community members who were interested in working with the Census. CAUSA provided training in Spanish. Over 138 people registered and were pleased with the services. Training was also provided for people interested in jobs with the Census Bureau. CAUSA also worked with its member agencies to provide outreach and education to the Hispanic/Latino community concerning the critical importance of the Census in establishing accurate population numbers. On behalf of CAUSA's Board, Chair Magali Kupfer extends special thanks to CRT CEO Lena Rodriguez for her partnership, support and the extra resources provided by CRT that helped with the success of the initiative. See page 4 for information about the release of 2010 Census information.

Spanish Speaking Center: New Opportunities

Spanish Speaking Center of New Britain continues to recruit high school Latinas and their moms/caregivers to participate in our Healthy Tomorrows initiatives. The program is designed to involve participants in exercise and nutritional workshops (including healthy refreshments) in an effort to prevent obesity and diabetes and is offered in collaboration with the Community Health Center.

The girls receive a free membership to the YWCA and all may participate in dance, yoga, and other classes. Another part of this initiative involves a research component whereby investigators from U Conn and SSC staff will conduct 2 hour interviews with each of the mom/daughter pairs, identifying healthy habits, risk factors, and other information that will be kept confidential. Each adult and teen participating will receive \$40 to compensate them for their time. Call Maria Borrero for more information (860) 224-2651 x 102

Spanish Speaking Center is working with the YWCA of New Britain to recruit and train bilingual counselor/advocates in the Sexual Assault Crisis Service (SACS). A 40 training will run thru Oct and November meeting a day per week. We will also be providing bilingual support groups to survivors of sexual assault/incest or to the families needing support. Call Mary for more information at (860) 224-2651 x 101. Computer classes are provided at the Center either in English or in Spanish. Basic introduction to computers, Introduction to the Internet and E-mail, as well as Microsoft Office Word and Excel are all taught according to the students needs. Call Rosa for more information on the Spanish classes at (860) 224-2651 x 105 or Karl at x 300 for classes in English.



Spanish Speaking Center in New Britain is seeking young Latinas and their moms/caregivers for Health

Our computer lab is open for educational and job search purposes at different times during the week. Call for schedule of availability.

Other services at the Center include: Food Pantry - Wednesdays and Fridays 1 Tues, Wed, from 10 am to 12 noon; Career Development programs; Case Management/Social Services; Information and Referrals about other services in the community; HS Community Service and Drop-out Prevention activities; Life Skills training such as Stress Management, Budgeting, Problem Solving and others; assistance with entry to community colleges and vocational training programs; job search assistance and referrals including resume and cover letter preparation. We can also facilitate workshops about Racism and Discrimination, Conflict Resolution, Nonviolence and Social Justice, and other related topics. Call the Center for more information on these programs.

Hispanic Coalition of Greater Waterbury: **2010 Annual Coqui Awards Banquet:**

Hispanic Pioneers, Alberto Guadalupe & family, Tomas & Genoveva Rodriguez, Alejandro Lopez and family
Community Service Award, Rachel Perez
Education Award, Elizabeth Burgos
Education Award, Luanelly Iglesias
Parent Award, Felix Manuel Rodriguez
Spirituality Award, St Margaret's RC Church

Scholarships
Bianca Hernandez, Joanna Pizarro, Annysa Rodriguez
CPL. Xhacob LaTorre, Randall Wilson

Friday, October 8, 2010
Mistress of Ceremony: Analeh Ch18/Univision

Registration and cocktail hour begins at 7:00pm
The Group Goza-Jazz will perform during cocktail hour
Program starts promptly at 8:00pm
Villa Rosa
380 Farmwood Road, Waterbury, CT

Tickets \$45.00 per person

No tickets will be sold at the door
(To purchase tickets, please call 203-754-6172 or 203-217-5475)

The Annual Coqui Award is presented to outstanding individuals who have made positive contributions to the Greater Waterbury Hispanic Community.

Junta's 41st Anniversary Gala "La Independencia" –

Over 200 people supported Junta's 41st Anniversary Gala. Their theme was "La Independencia/The Independence" a movement towards individual and family independence from poverty, economic disparities, and human injustice. We commend the Executive Director Sandra Trevino, the staff and the board for their hard work and commitment to all community.



CAUSA's Board of Directors participates in a retreat to envision the next phase of CAUSA's development with consultant John Padilla.



Bestselling Latina author Esmeralda Santiago with Conference participants.

FACT:

Connecticut's achievement gap for Latino children is the worst in the nation.

PARENTS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



CAUSA is pleased to announce the formation of a new organization to help address the achievement gap among Latino children in Connecticut. During the last several years, the Hartford Parent Organization Council--a grassroots group of parents representing all 48 Hartford Public Schools--has **grown momentum and has launched a new initiative to empower parents to make a difference** for their children and for their own lives. **With the technical assistance of CAUSA and the partnership of the Hartford Public Schools**, the group has established a new nonprofit organization called the Hartford Parent University. Parent Universities organized and led by parents are a growing movement throughout the U.S. and we are pleased that Hartford will be home to our own Parent University. For more information, contact Milly Arciniegas

A recent study by the National Center for Family and Community Connections with Schools shows that parent and community involvement improves student achievement. Results include:

HIGHER GRADES, BETTER TEST SCORES

Students achieve better grades and test scores when parents are more actively engaged in their education.

HIGHER ENROLLMENT IN CHALLENGING ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Children are more likely to be interested in and seek out academic programs that are more challenging.

MORE CLASSES PASSED, CREDITS EARNED

Students earn more credits and pass more classes.

BETTER ATTENDANCE

Increased engagement results in better school attendance.

IMPROVED BEHAVIOR

When parents are more active behavior at home and school proves.

CAUSA worked with Latinas & Power & Travelers and organized a high-school student youth conference. Eighty-five Middle and High School students participated in a day-long conference on empowering young



Latinas to succeed in their lives by developing leadership skills that match their interests and potential. The event provided these young women with an opportunity to discuss leadership competencies, ask questions and discuss the challenges that they are facing in a safe environment. The journey began with a pre-assessment tool that identified their skills. The workshops then focused on providing the students with tools and resources that could help them meet their goals and dream. Carmen Sierra and other professional Latinas participated in a panel that allowed the students to hear stories of success as well as challenges that they may face when they begin their own career.

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO TO CLOSE THE GAP

one

EMPHASIZE EDUCATION.

If the importance of education is instilled early on, your children will know the expectations you have for them in terms of completing their education.

two

PROVIDE SUPPORT.

You may not be able to help your children with their homework or their college applications, but children appreciate the support and encouragement they receive from their parents.

three

A QUIET PLACE.

Provide your children with a quiet place to study. If your family lives in a one-bedroom apartment, monitor the noise level of other family members or assigning the bedroom as the study room.

four

EXPRESS PRIDE.

Express pride in their work. Celebrate their achievement no matter how small they may seem.

five

PAY ATTENTION.

Keep an eye on your children's activities. When parents monitor adolescents' school work, school attendance, and other school related activities, adolescents may perceive their parents as having a higher value of academics.

six

GET INVOLVED.

Many schools have programs to help ethnic minority parents navigate the school system that their children attend. It may be intimidating, but many schools want and have programs specifically targeted to promote the involvement of ethnic minority parents.

seven

KEEP LEARNING.

Studies have shown that parents that advance their own literacy and education positively influence their children as role models.

eight

BE AN ADVOCATE.

New legislation in Connecticut provides parents with more power in addressing the issues of failing school. Learn how to make the system work better.



Election Day is right around the corner. Please remember to vote. If you aren't registered, give us a call and we can provide you with information about registering.

Latino Advocacy Day

Last year our Latino State Representatives worked with all of the Hispanic agencies state-wide and the Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs Commission in organizing the first Latino Advocacy Day at the Capitol. It was an opportunity to discuss the Latino community concerns and to provide information about the agencies to other legislators. The Advocacy Day addressed, in part, the Connecticut investment in Community-based agencies of less than 1% of the multi-billion dollar annual budget. On September 22, 2010 the group met again with State Rep. Ayala to begin the process and discussion about our 2nd Latino Advocacy Day. It is also a great opportunity of networking and empowering the community to participate and voice their concerns at the Capitol.

Many thanks to State Representative Andres Ayala for leading the Latino Advocacy Day.



State Representative Andres Ayala and Marilyn Alverio, CEO of Ethnic Marking Solutions, at Latino Advocacy Day.

Key Dates for Release of Census Data 2010-2011

By December 31, 2010

The *apportionment counts* will be delivered to the President within nine months of Census Day (on or before December 31, 2010), as required by law. This report will show the apportionment population counts, by state, and the number of seats in the US House of Representatives apportioned to each state.

June-August 2011

Summary File 1 (SF 1) for States:

- * Population counts for 63 race categories and Hispanic or Latino down to block level.
- * Population counts for many detailed race and Hispanic or Latino categories, and American Indian and Alaska Native tribes down to Census tracts.
- * Selected population and housing characteristics down to blocks/Census tracts.

For more information, visit www.census.gov

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Please contact us if you have any questions.

860-424-0077

Visit our website:

www.causainc.org

