

GETTING INVOLVED: OUR FAMILIES, OUR COMMUNITIES, OUR NATION



The theme of this years Hispanic Heritage Month is Getting Involved: Our Families, Our Communities, Our Nation. All across Connecticut and the U.S communities are celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, the period set aside to recognize the contributions of Hispanic Americans to the United States and to celebrate Hispanic heritage and culture. The observance started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988 on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

September 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala Honduras and Nicaragua. They all declared independence in 1821. In addition, Mexico and Chile and celebrate their independence days on September 26 and September 28, respectively." Public Law 100-402 authorizes and requests the President to issue an annual proclamation designating September 15 through October 15, as "Hispanic Heritage Month". This issue of CAUSA's newsletter highlights several of our member agencies' and how they engaged the community to get involved.

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month: September 15-October 15

CAUSA News Spring-Fall 2008

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GETTING INVOLVED

Message from the Executive Director

This year's theme for Hispanic Heritage Month really hit the mark. **Getting Involved: Our Families, Our Communities, Our Nation** speaks directly to the need for us to stand together, roll up our sleeves and make things happen. The Hispanic community has so much to contribute. Now more than ever, Connecticut's diverse Hispanic people make a difference each day in shaping our future. Many of our member agencies make a special effort to recognize the economic, cultural, and social contributions of the Hispanic/Latino community. Read on to learn more about these celebrations.



One of the most fundamental ways to make a difference is to exercise the right to vote. Latinos are a growing proportion of the U.S. electorate, and our registration and voting rates are growing at a faster rate than those of other racial/ethnic groups. In the 2004 elections, about nine million Latino voters went to the polls; this year as many as ten million may turn out, signaling a need to address the concerns and goals of the 44 million Hispanics in the U.S.

Another way to get involved is to participate in activities, events and volunteer opportunities offered by CAUSA's member agencies, which are listed on the last page of the newsletter. To learn more about what they offer, you can link to the member agencies through CAUSA's website. Please visit our expanded website at www.causainc.org.

*Sincerely,
Carmen Sierra,
Executive Director
CAUSA, Inc.*



**ya es hora
¡VE Y VOTA!**

National Bilingual Voter Hotline:

1-888-Ve-Y-Vota/1-888-839-8682

Election day is Tuesday, November 4th



Need to know where to vote? Find your polling place online by typing in your home address.

Go to www.vote411.org





THE HISPANIC COALITION OF GREATER WATERBURY

The Hispanic Coalition of Greater Waterbury Inc (HCGW) has been in existence since 1988. HCGW provides services that focus on advocacy, collaboration and self-sufficiency to enhance the well-being of Hispanic families.

HCGW currently operates from the new Multi-Service Center located on 135 East Liberty Street in Waterbury, CT. Its programs encompass a wide variety of activities from after-school programming, case management services, intensive respite care, and referral based services.

Cultural Arts Academy Program provides middle-school aged children with after-school programming to help them advance their knowledge of the Latino culture through art, music, and dance.

Social Coaches is a mentoring program where mentors are paired with children from the ages of 6 through 14 who present social, emotional or complex behavioral problems.

Respite Program is a contract with the Department of Developmental Services to provide recreational counseling, assistance, and guidance for a Hispanic male with mental health challenges. The services are provided at home. The client receives job counseling, recreational services, and assistance to help him to be successful in school and in life.

Case Management, provided through the **Spanish Action Council**, provides referral services and case management services for Hispanic families.

Other activities include:

"Entre Familia" Family Support Group - This groups meet monthly the 3rd Friday of the month. It affords parents and children the opportunity to express opinions and discuss concerns pertaining to education, services available to the developmentally delayed and/or disabled children. Guest speakers provide information and identify viable resources. Sessions are bilingual.

Hispanic Heritage Celebration - Friday, October 10th 3:30 pm to 9 pm - A cultural event highlighting the variety of Latino American cultures. A theatrical production " La Flor Campesina" is being presented, as well as Art work from several countries, there will be dancing, indigenous foods, and singing. Both children and adults are welcome!

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) - This tax year The Hispanic Coalition will provide income tax preparation to the community! Make a note of it!

The Computer Lab is fully equipped and ready for young people and adult use. Call to register for computer training classes.

Dance Classes - Register for the eight-week Salsa Dance Classes.



Artemia Vega D'Esgdaille,
Executive Director

**The Hispanic Coalition of
Greater Waterbury
135 East Liberty Street
Waterbury CT 06706**

203-754-6172

LATINAS & POWER SYMPOSIUM

The Latinas & Power Symposium attracted over 500 Latinas and Latinos from the Hartford metro area, New York City, Westchester and surrounding vicinities. Topics are designed to provide participants with hands-on techniques and strategies for success through specialized workshops for women at different stages of their lives.

This year, the event took place May 1st and 2nd at the Hartford Hilton Hotel.

Latinas & Power Symposium offers corporate sponsors a chance to showcase their products and services to the decision makers of the fastest growing group of consumers in the country. It also allows corporations to scout topnotch talent among the participants. Latinas & Power Symposium featured Ms. Julie Stav, an expert in the financial field who appears regularly on television talk shows, has her own radio program and is the author of a New York Times bestseller on the topic, as the keynote speaker for this event. Ms. Stav joins an impressive “who’s who” list of speakers and panelists who have riveted audiences with their rags to riches experiences and who now motivate others through their talks and example.

The luncheon speaker on May 2nd was the acclaimed motivational speaker, Ms. Deborah Deras, who is the co-founder of Odunton & Deras-Synergy Unlimited, a self-mastery company that uses the power of the mind to get at productivity challenges.

The event was sponsored by a number of companies. State Farm insurance was the lead sponsor. “This event inspires and motivates Latinas to realize their dreams. It brings together women from many walks of life under one roof for one power-packed day where they can hear from high achievers and connect with women with similar goals,” stated Ms. Diana Rael, Director of Multi-cultural Markets for State Farm. “We are proud to be the key sponsor for this event and that we have formed a true alliance with Ethnic Marketing Solutions, the producer of this event, to continue to grow this symposium into a national affair,” concluded Ms. Rael.



Yolanda Castillo (former Hartford City Council and Deputy Mayor) and Carmen Sierra, CAUSA's Executive Director at the Latina & Power Symposium





SAVE THE DATE! Teens, Tweens & Leadership Summit- April 2009

CAUSA will partner with its member agencies, Department of Social Services, State Farm Insurance and Capital Community College for a groundbreaking conference in April 2009. The event, "Teens, Tweens & Leadership Summit" will be held Capital Community College in Hartford, CT on a Saturday in April from 8:30 until 2:45. The program will focus on attracting middle and high school youth to highlight challenges and opportunities facing today's youth. In addition to concurrent workshops on nutrition & health, secrets to safety in a online environment, teen parent relationships, community involvement and youth & money, the symposium will feature a networking lunch, exhibitors and a youth keynote speaker. Agencies that offer youth services and information as well as companies that offer internships and mentoring programs can become exhibitors.

Hispanic Center of Greater Danbury's Annual Gala

The Hispanic Center of Greater Danbury will hold its Annual Gala on Saturday, October 4th, 2008, at the Hotel Danbury Plaza from 7:00 pm to 12:00 a.m. This is fund raiser event will support the programs the Hispanic Center offers to the Latino community in the Greater Danbury area. The tickets fro this Gala are \$65 per person, before September 5th, 2008. After this date, they are \$75 per person.

The Gala entertainment will be Trio Serenata, Karibe Mambo Orchestra, and DJ.

The silent auction will start at 7:00 pm, at 8:00 p.m. dinner will be served. Dance lessons will be at 9:00 pm by Disdances - Baile Feliz, directed by Jaqueline Escobar.

For more information please call the Hispanic Center of Greater Danbury, 203.798.2855.



Grant Mastery Training

As part of CAUSA's training and technical assistance program for member agencies, and other Latino organizations in Connecticut, CAUSA offered a training program on how to master the art of grant writing. Grants are an important part of every nonprofit organization's ability to provide services to the community. Yet grants are quite intimidating for many people—in part because they are asked to "write proposals" without any training or previous experience.

This intensive, hands-on program covered all the basics of grant writing for foundation, corporate, state and federal funding opportunities. Participant learned how to conduct **research on funding sources**, plan and develop **proposals** for programs, operational support and capacity building. Also covered were the ins and outs of **budget** preparation, justification and sustainability. The funding landscape is increasingly competitive, and agencies are now required to include **logic models**, measureable **outcomes** and **evaluation** plans in their proposals. During the training, participants developed draft proposals, received feedback and **technical assistance**, and learned **advanced techniques** for formatting, visual presentation and management of electronic submissions.

The training was conducted by *Eve Berry of SigniCor, LLC*. Eve is one of the most experienced grant writers and trainers in the U.S.

MEMBER AGENCIES and PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



Casa Boricua

Magali Kupfer, 203-235-1082
204 Colony St. Meriden, CT 06451

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San Juan Center

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Remember to Vote on November 4th!



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