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## Full Baskets Program Receives Women's Fund Grant

For the past two years, a group of women in the El Buen Pastor community have had the opportunity to explore their dreams of starting their own businesses. In collaboration with Dr. Angéla Kóczé, a visiting assistant professor in the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department at Wake Forest University, the women from El Buen Pastor have been meeting with university students to learn from each other and to push forward this dream. In classes such as "Women Entrepreneurship: Innovation, Sustainability, and Social Responsibility," Dr. Kóczé laid the groundwork for the women and students alike to identify their dreams, fears, strengths, and obstacles as they realized the depth of the issue they were undertaking. Each semester built upon the last as the participants learned about each other's situations, discovered differences, and yet also surprised themselves by finding much in common.

Under Dr. Kóczé's leadership, she and her students took the ideas and information gathered from the previous semesters and developed a grant proposal to launch a new project at El Buen Pastor entitled "Canastos Llenos – Full Baskets: Economic Empowerment in the Latino Community." This grant was submitted to the Women's Fund of Winston-Salem, and we are thrilled to announce that it has been accepted. The one year grant, in the amount of \$24,500, will provide support for a program coordinator, training, workshops, networking, seed-funding, and hands-on experiences to the initial group of 10 women entrepreneurs. In addition, some workshops will be open to the greater El Buen Pastor community as we work to empower all through the efforts and examples of the initial cohort.

We are so grateful to the Women's Fund of Winston-Salem for the opportunity this grant gives us. When Veronica, one of the project participants, learned of the grant, she told us, "Since the beginning, this seemed like an impossible dream. We kept going to the class, but I really didn't have faith that this idea would be realized. But now that we have gotten this grant, I have the feeling that it really will happen. I have the feeling that anything is possible!"



## Principal of the Year

"We model a lot of what we do the same way that El Buen Pastor does. We work with the whole child, and try to get the parents more involved." Meet Rusty Hall, the principal of Old Town Elementary School and the 2014-2015 Principal of the Year for Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools. Since he began working at Old Town, where the majority of LCS elementary schoolers attend, Hall has seen a lot of progress made within the school. "There's been a large increase in trust between families and the school over the past couple years. It's all about relationships." One way in which Hall and Old Town have built these relationships is through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning grant, which over the past year and a half has brought the talent and resources of Old Town teachers into LCS's programming. This partnership has allowed us to more effectively track the progress of our students, and Hall calls LCS Old Town's "strongest partnership in supporting families."

When we asked Hall to comment on the award, he remained humble. "I have the luckiest job," he says, "because I get to be the spokesperson for an awesome staff. This is a recognition of everyone who works at Old Town." We certainly appreciate everything he has done for our students, and we wish him many more happy years at Old Town Elementary School. Congratulations, Mr. Hall!



Photo credit:  
Winston-Salem  
Journal

## A Bright Spot in the Community

*The strength of America's education system is undoubtedly connected to the academic success of Latinos. With the shift in demographics taking place in our nation's schools, securing an adequate and equal education for all students, including Latinos, should be a priority not just for the federal government but for every person in this country.*

-US Department of Education

This September, the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics named LCS as a Bright Spot in Hispanic Education. We were one of two organizations in Winston-Salem to receive the honor, and one of just over 230 nationwide. Bright Spots is one of the many ways in which the Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Since 1990, this initiative has helped our country make huge strides in high school graduation rates and college degree attainment for Hispanics. The Bright Spots designation was given to organizations that work toward facilitating Latino educational attainment and closing the achievement gap between Hispanic Students and their peers. Specifically, LCS was cited for their efforts in early childhood education, K-12 education, and college access. LCS and the rest of these Bright Spots are now part of an online catalog and map on the US Department of Education website, and this database will serve to connect these organizations and allow them to reach more people in their community. We are honored to have been nominated and selected as a Bright Spot in Hispanic Education. Thanks to everyone who helps make our programs possible!



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LATINO COMMUNITY SERVICES

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## December 2015 Newsletter

### *Full Days of Activities at LCS*

Miguel: *"I like working with my tutor because he's cool and nice, and he likes to read funny stories with me."*

This type of statement, made by one of our elementary school students, is representative of the value that our students place on their interactions with our committed volunteer tutors. Each day, dozens of students pair up with volunteers during our tutoring hour, part of our afterschool program. Currently, more than 60 elementary school students come to us each day to improve their reading and math skills, do homework, explore music and gardening, and learn to build personal and professional relationships that will help them achieve in social situations later on. In addition, around 30 middle school and high school students come for help with challenges in their homework, as well as guidance in furthering their education.



In the mornings, just as much is happening in our building. With *¡Listos!* and *Más Listos* (our Parent-Child Education classes), Story Hour, English classes for adults, and nearly 20 Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten students, there is rarely a dull moment at LCS.



*Upper right—Pre-K learns new songs and choreography with Miss Kendra, an ArtistCorps member.*

*Bottom—First and second grade students work through tutoring materials with committed community volunteers.*

#### Vision Statement

We envision a society enriched by the cultural diversity of its members, where all are valued for their contributions and have the opportunity to build their dreams.

#### Mission Statement

Con la esperanza de alcanzar un futuro mejor, El Buen Pastor Latino Community Services colabora con las familias apoyando a niños y adultos en el logro de sus metas educacionales y el desarrollo de su potencial económico.

El Buen Pastor Latino Community Services partners with Latino families to equip children and adults to fulfill their educational and economic potential, with hope for a positive and healthy future.

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Incorporated in 2006, El Buen Pastor Latino Community Services is a 501(c)(3) organization and a member of the N.C. Center for Nonprofits

### *El Buen Pastor Wish List for 2016*

As we move into 2016, there are some things that we could use to make our space a more welcoming and educational environment. If you are able to donate any of these items, or if you know someone that can, please do not hesitate to let us know! This coming year, we would like to have:

- A flat screen TV for our Youth Room.
- A rolling bookshelf to move books to different locations in our building for our students to enjoy.
- Gently used laptop computers for our students to use to learn and enjoy.
- Copies of Microsoft Office
- Digital Cameras so we can capture all of the special moments at LCS!
- Tutors! We are always looking for more volunteer tutors that can help us provide one-on-one mentorship and help with reading, math and more.

### *Thank You!*

A special **¡Gracias!** to all of our families, volunteers, donors, and community partners that have supported us in 2015. We could not offer our services without the support of each one of you. We are grateful for all that you do for us, and we look forward to working with you again in 2016!