



EL BUEN PASTOR
LATINO COMMUNITY SERVICES

4637 Tim Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27106

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mary Bolton

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VISION STATEMENT

We seek to offer Latino families hope for a positive future, and to build bridges between the Latino community and the greater community as we facilitate relationships that bring new understandings and benefits to all involved.

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

LATINO COMMUNITY SERVICES

strengthening families ... fortaleciendo familias

The Mission of El Buen Pastor Latino Community Services is to strengthen Latino families in the Old Town area and help them adapt to their new lives in Winston-Salem.

COMMUNITY GARDEN



In response to the national call to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with community service activities, we held a ceremony to launch a community gardening venture that we will undertake with the help of the Wake Forest Campus Kitchen. The afternoon of January 18 was a delightfully sunny respite in the midst of an uncharacteristically cold winter as folks from El Buen Pastor and Wake Forest gathered on the grounds to stake out the 25' x 25' plot. To symbolize this collaborative project, one corner stake was hammered in by the children of El Buen Pastor, one by the EBP adults, one by the Board members of EBP Latino Community Services, and one by Wake Forest Campus Kitchen leaders.

Our gardening venture will be based on lessons learned from Campus Kitchen's successful vegetable garden on Polo Road across from the Reynolda campus, and will involve volunteers from El Buen Pastor in the planning process. The planting, maintenance and harvesting will be accomplished by EBP folks working alongside Wake Forest student and faculty volunteers from both the Reynolda campus and the medical school. Since we have benefited in the past from the energy and enthusiasm of Campus Kitchen volunteers, we are confident that this new collaboration will be a fruitful undertaking!

SPRING WISH LIST

✿ FOR THE PRESCHOOL ROOM:

Play Doh, play iron and other housekeeping toys

✿ FOR THE PLAYGROUND:

Jump ropes, hula hoops, playground balls, volleyballs

✿ FOR MUSIC ACADEMY:

Bass and electric acoustic guitars and amps, drum set, PA system equipment



MUCHAS GRACIAS

✿ Carolina Shutters and Blinds for the generous donation of beautiful blinds for our classrooms and offices!

✿ Colvin Consulting's Nancy Colvin who tirelessly donates her professional services by preparing and filing tax returns for EBP/LCS. Nancy, our Board Treasurer, is enrolled to practice before the IRS, and specializes in preparing tax returns for individuals who have lived outside the US.

✿ Carrie Leigh Dickey for her donation of professional design services.

✿ Danielle Lamphier for her help with the website development.

✿ The Youth Group of Parkway Presbyterian Church for painting our classrooms and fellowship hall this summer. If you haven't seen our bright new look, come visit!

The new El Buen Pastor Latino Community Services website is up! Please check us out at www.ElBuenPastorLCS.org.

✿ FAMILY EVENTS

This fall El Buen Pastor Latino Community Services hosted two events for the neighborhood surrounding the church. Under the leadership of Enrique Rodriguez-Pastor, Director of Family Life Programs, these events were planned to give families opportunities to invite their neighbors to join them in some Saturday afternoon fun. The September 12 *festiva* included music by a traditional Mexican band as well as the home-grown talent of our Music Academy students and inter-generational dance team, and Quique and his wife Nicole. The inflated bouncing room was a kid-magnet and the food prepared by the women of El Buen Pastor was



plentiful and delicious. *Maestro de ceremonias* Ramón, who partnered with Quique to plan the event, kept the crowd engaged with his cheerful patter and corny jokes, and by staging dancing competitions among the young people.

On November 2 the families gathered for an informal story time around an outdoor fire. Listening to each other's *historias* while roasting marshmallows and sipping hot chocolate, folks lingered under the stars. There's just something about

gazing into the fire that encourages fellowship and leisurely conversation. A second *fogata* was held on a cold February Saturday, and was so much fun that we have decided to make these informal family gatherings a regular event.

✿ A VIEW FROM THE HILL

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. - Matthew 5:14-15



The building that houses El Buen Pastor Church and Latino Community Services sits on a crest of land overlooking the apartments on Yarbrough Street and, one block beyond, Reynolda Road. On the other side of Reynolda the land begins to rise again toward the northeast. I recently met with a landscape planner who is helping us decide where to locate our community garden, volleyball court, and picnic pavilion. As we talked about how a pavilion nestled by the trees in the "front yard" would be an appealing draw for the neighborhood, I was struck by her comment that positioning a structure on a rise of land is always a plus because everyone likes to be on a hill.

Looking back over the years since the first Hispanic ministry programs were offered in this building that was once the home of Old Town Presbyterian Church, I am awed by the ways God has blessed the activity here. For the work of transforming a near-empty building into a place of light and life, God has used the hands and minds of countless volunteers ... the welcoming arms and strong backs, creativity and persistence, checkbooks and connections of dozens of supporters and encouragers. As folks from all over Winston-Salem have extended a welcome to newcomers from Latin America, the neighborhood has begun to reflect the light of this building on the hill. Neighbors are reaching out to neighbors, helping each other find their way in a new community, making thoughtful choices about which parts of their old culture to keep, and which pieces of their new culture to embrace as they hold on to the hope that their families will have a positive future.

From the viewpoint on the hill I have had the privilege of seeing friendships bloom and cross-cultural relationships develop ... of watching children grow in wisdom and stature as their once-wary parents enjoy fellowship in a setting of kindness and respect. Thank you for partnering with us in the work to bring hope into this community.

– Mary Bolton, *Executive Director*



✿ VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT ON SUZANNE CLARK



The success of our after school tutoring program is due to the dozens of dedicated volunteers who come week after week to help the children of El Buen Pastor

wrestle with their school assignments, doggedly pursuing spelling words, math facts, and reading comprehension exercises. Among the most courageous and devoted volunteers is Suzanne Clark. As Lead Tutor in the first grade room, Ms. Suzanne faithfully appears four afternoons a week and, with a supporting cast of college and high school students, she transforms the small fuchsia classroom into a cozy space where learning and laughter, encouragement and affirmation abound.

The three girls and seven boys who bounce in each Monday through Thursday are greeted with her warm smile and patient admonition to settle down and get to work. The stickers they earn for following the rules and completing assignments are traded in for prizes from Ms. Suzanne's treasure chest every few weeks, and if they work quickly to complete their work on Thursday they are rewarded with outdoor story time and a snack under the trees. Suzanne's three sons – Boston University junior Alex, NCSU freshman Trey and Forsyth Country Day junior Nick – have all been regular EBP volunteers during their high school careers, and have prepared their mother well for her current after-school duty. A member of First Presbyterian Church and a leader in the Women's Bible Study there, Suzanne is a blessing to the families of El Buen Pastor as well as to the LCS staff!

If you would like more information on volunteering with one of the many programs offered at El Buen Pastor Latino Community Services, please contact Mary Bolton at 336.924.0401 or Mary@ElBuenPastorLCS.org.

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