



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.

FALL 2010

✿ IT'S MY LIFE

"What does the word *strategy* mean?" During this summer's gang awareness program, *It's My Life*, German, a middle school student, replied, "It's a plan so that we can have success."

For two days a week, for 6 weeks, children in 1st-5th grades met with program leaders Enrique Rodriguez-Pastor, Director of Family Life Programs, and Kathryn Rohrer, EBP/LCS summer intern. Our middle schoolers served as mentors for the younger ones. Using a series of drawings by Quique as discussion-starters, the children explored what it means to take ownership of their lives in order to have a bright future. Through art activities, skits, special guest speakers, games, and story sharing, our children learned to articulate their dreams and plan how they can achieve them. Here are some of their strategies:

- Stay in school and graduate
- Have the courage to say no to gangs and drugs
- Get involved in sports, school clubs, church and your community
- Be your own person
- Remember you are a part of the EBP/LCS family
- Be with friends who also want a bright future
- Have a positive attitude
- Be inclusive of others so that they won't feel lonely and join a gang

The children learned that here at El Buen Pastor we are a loving family and that each of them is part of this family. They discovered that many kids are lonely because they do not feel they have a place they belong. As a result, they mistakenly try to find that feeling in a gang. *It's My Life* helped our children realize that gang involvement would keep them from graduating high school and reaching their dreams. Diego, a rising 6th grader, would like to have a job writing speeches about social justice and immigration reform. Jenny, who will be in 3rd grade, wants to travel the world and be a doctor. With the foundation laid by *It's My Life* and the continuing support of the EBP/LCS family, Diego, Jenny, and all of our children, are on the path to success.

Background Image: *Lonely Child* by Enrique Rodriguez-Pastor

MUCHAS GRACIAS

✿ To the youth of Grace Haven Baptist Fellowship of Wake Forest, NC, for a wonderful week of vacation Bible school and Phase 1 of our pavilion building project. We look forward to a continued relationship with Pastor Dick Graves and his congregation.

✿ To Kenzie Miller of Prudential Carolina Realty for the generous donation of her real estate expertise to one of the El Buen Pastor families.

✿ To Kathryn Rohrer, our summer intern from Wake Forest University's Pro Humanitate Program, for so liberally sharing her creative gifts, administrative skills, and loving heart with our children and staff.

FALL VOLUNTEERS

Training for Youth and Elementary tutors is in September. Please sign up by calling 336.924.0401 or through our email at Info@ElBuenPastorLCS.org. You can make a difference in a child's future!



SUMMER 2010



We've had a great summer here at El Buen Pastor Latino Community Services! At the end of July the students celebrated their six weeks of enrichment with a Summer Showcase. The elementary students showed off their art projects, shared about the books they had read, and reported on what they had learned in our gang awareness program called *It's My Life*.

The teenagers put on a capsulated performance of *The Wizard of Oz* that held everyone spellbound, and presented a new piece that they learned in Music Academy. Parents, friends, and volunteers joined the students for hot dogs and watermelon after the presentation. Thanks to the host of volunteers who made all this happen.

WAYS TO GIVE

✿ We always need office supplies, such as:

- General use copier/printer paper
- All kinds of tape (scotch, masking, duct)
- Staplers/staples
- Sharpie markers/dry erase markers
- Post-it notes
- Scientific calculators for middle schoolers
- Any and all kinds of art supplies

✿ Our Annual Yard Sale is December 3 and December 4:

We are looking for donations of household goods, furniture, winter clothing, sporting and baby equipment, toys, etc. Items will be received at our facility in the afternoons, November 29 through December 2 (unfortunately we don't have anywhere to store donations before that time).

✿ Another way to give:

El Buen Pastor Latino Community Services is not a United Way partner agency but we can benefit from their Fall Campaign. You can write El Buen Pastor Latino Community Services on your gift and use the designation code #2768.

OUR INHERITANCE

I told my daughter that I have no inheritance to leave her...the only legacy I can give her is something that I was never able to have when growing up in Mexico—an education. This is the reason I carry trays and clean tables ten hours a day, six days a week. I cannot read and write, but I want my children to learn.



A young mother of five told me this when she came to enroll her children in our tutoring programs. While she knows instinctively that education is the key to her children's future, she doesn't understand how severely her own illiteracy negatively impacts her young children's readiness for kindergarten and her adolescents' likelihood of graduating from high school.

A high school diploma – that's our goal for every student in our youth, elementary, and preschool programs. It is a lofty goal. The 2008-2009 graduation rate for Hispanic students at North Forsyth High School was 54%. Research is clear that children of low-income under-educated parents are already behind their middle-class peers when they begin school, and continue to fall further behind each year. A report from Action for Children North Carolina states that "reading proficiently by fourth grade is a critical milestone that largely determines future academic outcomes. Students who are not at least moderately skilled readers by fourth grade are unlikely to graduate from high school."

Reading comprehension and vocabulary building – these were the goals of our summer tutoring program as Elementary Tutoring Director Lora Gordon stood against the tide of summer learning loss, another variable that disproportionately impacts low-income students. On the last day of the program students fashioned paper-bag puppets to illustrate the latest book they had read as they chattered with the tutors about their favorite character in the story.

Readiness for kindergarten – that's the goal Preschool Teacher Francia Cacchione has for the four-year-olds who participate in her classes while their older siblings are receiving tutoring. The children learn colors, numbers, the alphabet, shapes, days of the week and months of the year, opposites, etc., in Spanish, so that when they go to kindergarten they can learn the English words for concepts that they have already mastered in their first language.

Our staff is working with children at every developmental stage to help bridge the academic achievement gap that exists between students from low-income Spanish-speaking homes and their more-advantaged classmates. I am willing to wager that in ten years the graduation rate for children from El Buen Pastor is 100%. Wouldn't that be a wonderful inheritance for our whole community?

– Mary Bolton, *Executive Director*

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT ON AUBREY SITLER



Bleached t-shirts, paper mobiles, friendship bracelets and clay sculptures. These are just a few of the art activities in which Aubrey Sitler participated as a volunteer in the EBP/LCS Summer Programs. Aubrey worked with 5th graders and lots of messy

projects. "My job was to get them excited about the activities and get them to think creatively," said Aubrey.

Aubrey is a rising senior with a double major in Spanish and English with a minor in linguistics at Wake Forest University. When she returned from a semester studying in Spain Aubrey discovered EBP/LCS while looking for opportunities to continue practicing Spanish.

In addition to volunteering with the art program, Aubrey tutored Jimmy in reading. Over the six-weeks of the summer program Aubrey saw improvement in Jimmy's vocabulary and reading comprehension.

What would Aubrey say to someone who is thinking about volunteering for the first time at EBP/LCS? "Absolutely yes! Do it! I was a little nervous about doing something new but I am really glad I came here." She plans to be back with us in the fall, tutoring and planning art projects for the kids, not only because she thinks our programs are valuable to the community, but because it's fun! "Everyone is happy here. It's a contagious attitude."

Thank you, Aubrey! It is volunteers like you that help build bridges between the Latino community and the greater community, offering hope to all of us for a positive future.

Training sessions for fall volunteers begin in September. You can make a difference in our community by giving one or two hours a week. Please call us at 336.924.0401 or email Info@ElBuenPastorLCS.org to join us.