



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.

SEPTEMBER 2012

WISE BEYOND THEIR YEARS



¡Cuidate! ...take care of yourself! Twelve teen and preteen girls learned to do just that this summer. *¡Cuidate!* is an evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention curriculum that helps Latino youth develop the knowledge, attitudes, and skills to act in ways that will support good health and protect them from serious risks related to sexual behavior. Financed by a

mini-grant from The Women's Fund of Winston-Salem through our collaboration with Imprints For Families, a local nonprofit agency, the girls received guidance from a Latina instructor while their mothers participated in a parenting group and discussed ways that they could help their daughters make choices that would lead them to a positive future. As one of the young participants put it at the end of the five sessions, "I learned that my body is my own personal property, and I will just say NO!"

To develop the discernment needed to make wise decisions, young people need continuous reinforcement and a variety of positive role models. The chances for this program to have good outcomes are enhanced by these girls' involvement with El Buen Pastor LCS over the years and the mentoring that laid a good foundation for the curriculum. Since they were in the third grade they have participated in Girls on the Run, another nonprofit collaborator that brings its program to our facility. GOTR fosters self-esteem and coaches the girls to lead active, healthy lives. In the weeks before the *¡Cuidate!* class, summer intern Joanna Barbaran helped the girls explore ways that pop culture defines beauty and objectifies women. A Latina herself, Joanna engaged them in conversation about their ethnicity and encouraged them to liberate themselves from the dictates of the media. These lucky *chicas* will enter the middle school world with their eyes wide open and a stronger sense of self than many of their peers.

¡MUCHAS GRACIAS!

- ✂ To the **Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust** for awarding LCS a total of \$103,400 to provide the AVANCE parent-child education program for two years.
- ✂ To **Girl Scout Troop 40076**, whose members "adopted" our children this summer, providing a volleyball camp for girls, a writers' workshop, a prekindergarten camp, and a bright blue bookshelf full of books.
- ✂ To the **Winston-Salem staff of Robert W. Baird and Company** who made our first AVANCE graduation celebration a night to remember.
- ✂ To the **60 volunteers** who gave our students the gift of their time through our summer reading program.
- ✂ To the **Dollar General Literacy Foundation** for a grant of \$2,200 in support of our summer reading program.
- ✂ To the **Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation** for a grant of \$20,000 for general operating support.
- ✂ To our delightful and dedicated summer interns, **Emily Vontsolos**—Furman University, **Olivia Mercer**—Wake Forest University, and **Joanna Barbaran**—University of Colorado.



TUTORS NEEDED!

Tutor training is the week of September 10. After school programs begin September 17. Contact Casey to volunteer: 336.924.0401 or casey@elbuenpastorLCS.org.

SUMMER NONPROFIT IMMERSION

Wake Forest University student Olivia Mercer, one of three interns who blessed our staff and families this summer, wrote this after a few weeks on the job:

I started my internship at El Buen Pastor Latino Community Services expecting it to be just like any other internship...a 9-5 job making copies, answering telephones, and doing general grunt work that needed to be done. I knew that I would be working with the kids of course, but I never imagined that I would completely fall in love with helping the children of this wonderful organization. The kids, while sometimes mischievous and always full of energy, truly come here to learn. It took me a while to learn everyone's name and to know who is in what grade, but it was when they wanted to know MY name and about me that I truly felt I had made a connection. Dalila, an extremely quiet kindergartener (or so I thought), started out in my tutoring class as simply a little girl sitting in a seat. She never spoke, wouldn't answer if I called on her, and seemed actually nervous to even attempt to spell a word. But one afternoon, she grabbed my hand and asked me, in Spanish, to read a story to her. I started

to read, and ever since then she has been a different person. She always participates in class now—sometimes she jumps out of her seat trying to—and sometimes I can't get her to stop talking, a complete change from when I couldn't get her to talk at all! After seeing this transformation, I knew that my placement at LCS was the best thing that could have happened to me this summer. Instead of answering telephones, I feel that I am truly helping make a difference in the lives of these wonderful children. It seems like my time here is flying by, but then again, I guess time flies when you're having fun.



¿ME QUIERES, MAMA?



Thanks to a generous grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, we will continue to offer the AVANCE parent-child education program to Spanish-speaking mothers and their preschool children. With its motto "Home, the First Classroom; Parents, the First Teachers", this program is an excellent fit with our commitment to help families prepare their children for school success.

Since most of women in our first class had limited literacy skills, our staff focused on convincing the mothers that they were qualified to be that important first teacher, encouraging them to provide language-rich environments for their little ones by singing, playing rhyming games, talking constantly about their activities and surroundings, and reading to them.

As the mothers studied holistic child development, learning to nurture their children's physical, social, emotional, and cognitive growth, the topic that most engaged them in discussion was positive discipline methods—a brand-new concept for them.

As we begin recruiting participants for this second year of the program, I keep thinking back to the book that Board Chair Rosa Miranda selected as a gift for the May graduates. *Mama, Do You Love Me?*, by Barbara M. Joossee, tells of a young Inuit girl who tests her independence, seeking assurance that she is loved unconditionally. Rosa knows, from her experience as a pastor and counselor, that this is the most important question a parent answers for her child.

Because of KBR's financial support and our partnership with AVANCE, this fall another group of mothers will learn that the best way to prepare their children for a bright future is to teach them, through positive discipline and intentional nurturing, that they will always have their mother's love.

Mary Bolton, *Executive Director*

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER FOREVER

The whole evening was very emotional for me. The candles on the table and the corsage made me feel like a different woman...not the same person I had been. I could not believe all of this was for me. It was very nice to have the men serving us because usually we are the ones who serve the food. Now I have the diploma and picture on display in my home. My son is proud that the two of us accomplished something together and he looks at the photo of us often. - Roselia, 2012 AVANCE graduate (translated from Spanish)



May 17, 2012 was a life milestone for the fifteen mothers in our first parent-child education program graduating class. Each woman was aglow, her sparkly new outfit topped by carefully styled hair, a home-made mortar board, and a gorgeous smile. Processing into the El Buen Pastor church sanctuary with their mothers, the twenty-three preschoolers and babies (equally decked-out) were on their best behavior, aware that on this evening they had a special status that set them apart from their older siblings and cousins—they were AVANCE graduates.

The women had every right to be proud of their accomplishments—for nine months they had participated in three hours of weekly in-class discussion and regular homework assignments, learning new ways of managing their families to create a framework for their children's future academic success.

In a fellowship hall transformed by twinkle lights and well-laid tables, the women were served a post-graduation meal catered by the Olive Garden. The special touches were made possible by our corporate sponsor for the evening, the Winston-Salem office of Robert W. Baird and Company, whose employees volunteered as part of their annual "Baird Cares" campaign. Not only did the Baird folks make-over the fellowship hall, provide wrist corsages, and serve as waiters, they also presented each woman a photograph of herself and her child framed together with her diploma.

Thank you to our friends at Baird for honoring these women for their courage and persistence in learning new ways of "doing family".

It was my first graduation ever, so it was very special and made me feel very proud. The way the men served us the food at the tables made me feel like I have value. They were so kind and nice to us when they served. It was a night to remember forever. - Nancy, 2012 AVANCE graduate (translated from Spanish)

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