



Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago OFFICE OF LATINO AFFAIRS

August 2015

Be a Champion for our Latino Youth Early Childhood Education



Latinos are the largest and fastest-growing minority in the USA, and yet, low-income Latino children have the lowest participation rates in early childhood programs. The City of Chicago along with its partner agencies such as Catholic Charities are collaborating in outreach efforts aimed at encouraging immigrant families to enroll their children in early childhood education programs.

Catholic Charities operates seven child care sites in the Chicago area. Each year, we prepare over 1000 children for kindergarten, over 80% of whom are Latino. Some of our Catholic Charities outreach efforts include:

- Attending health fairs and back-to-school events to inform parents about enrollment processes.
- Facilitating workshops to encourage parents to decrease chronic absenteeism among young students, which harms kindergarten readiness.
- Organizing a group of Latino grandmothers to reflect about the importance of early childhood education for their grandchildren.
- Partnering with the Mexican Consulate in Chicago to share information related to the importance of enrollment, attendance and involvement in early childhood programs.

We invite you to join us in our outreach efforts. If you are interested in getting involved in these outreach efforts, contact Caridad Rositas, Ph.D. at 312.655.7202 or mmontemayor@catholiccharities.net, or Jessica Bird at 312.655.7232 or jbird@catholiccharities.net.

Catholic Charities Health Fairs

Every summer, Catholic Charities offers exam-based Health Fairs in the most medically underserved communities in the Chicago area. The neighborhoods we bring these medical services to are predominantly Latino, where there is limited healthcare access and a lack of knowledge of preventive health practices. Our staff teams up with nurses, physicians, ophthalmologists, dentists, and other professionals who donate their time and talents year after year to make the

Ayudando Nuestras Familias - October 15

The **Catholic Charities Ayudando Nuestras Familias/ Helping Our Families Cocktail Reception** will take place from 6 - 8 p.m. on Thursday, October 15 at **Perillo Chicago**, 834 North Rush Street. Proceeds and donations will benefit our **Casa Catalina Basic Needs Center** in honor of its 10th Anniversary. Sister Joellen Tumas and her dedicated team of staff and volunteers distribute over **525,000 meals each year**, providing much needed nutrition to families that promotes wellness and academic success.

Reservations are \$85 and include an assortment of hearty appetizers, beer, wine, soft drinks, and margaritas to celebrate the evening. Reservations will be \$95 after Monday, October 5. For more information or to register: www.catholiccharities.net/familias.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
LATINO ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PRESENTS

AYUDANDO NUESTRAS FAMILIAS

HELPING OUR FAMILIES

Benefiting Casa Catalina Basic Needs Center

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

of Serving and Strengthening Families

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 15, 2015



highest quality Health Fairs possible. Services provided include free medical screenings for blood pressure and glucose, "Back-to-School" medical physicals and dental exams, children's immunizations, and vision and glaucoma screenings. Confidential HIV rapid testing is also available onsite. Our ultimate goal is to ensure that visitors are connected to on-going primary care, right in their community.

We are grateful to our partners and to the host of community and parish volunteers who help make our events a success. This month, 400 community residents received care at our Health Fairs at St. Gall parish on Chicago's Southwest side and at St. Frances of Rome school in Cicero.

Our final Health Fair of the season will take place at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Des Plaines on September 19th.

We welcome your support! If you want to learn more about how to get involved with the Health Fairs, contact Ilse Zenteno at izenteno@catholiccharities.net or 312-655-7596.



Volunteers support the St. Gall Health Fair

Did You Know?

Last year, over 60% of our Health Fair participants found interpreters helpful when communicating with nurses and doctors.

Do you have interpretation skills or expertise?

Join us at our next Health Fair!

Saturday, September 19 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

1170 N. River Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016

Email or call Ilse Zenteno at izenteno@catholiccharities.net or 312.655.7596 if you are interested in volunteering or learning more.

Reaching out to the Business Community



Roberto Escalante, Chief Operating Officer at the Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, with Jose Melendez, Catholic Charities Board Member, and Ilse Zenteno from the Office of Latino Affairs at Catholic Charities.

On August 6, Catholic Charities participated in the Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Hispanic Business Expo. Our participation helped us raise awareness of our programs and services and invite new businesses and organizations to get involved. Our presence also allowed us to connect people with direct services.

We are grateful to the **Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**

who generously supported our efforts that day.

We also extend thanks to our Latino Advisory Committee members who joined us at the event:

- Stella Gaytan - Monterrey Security Consultants, Inc
- Antonio Guillen - Wintrust Financial
- Jose Lopez - Illinois Department of Child & Family Services
- Clem Martin - Christ the King Jesuit College Preparatory School
- Jose Melendez - Melendez Insurance Group

If your business is interested in learning more about Catholic Charities and our mission, we invite you to contact our Office of Latino Affairs.

Contact Us:

Office of Latino Affairs
Dalia Bagdonas Rocotello
Director
721 North LaSalle
Chicago, IL 60654
P: (312) 655-8492
drocotel@catholiccharities.net

Connect with us

www.catholiccharities.net/latinoaffairs



Catholic Charities fulfills the Church's role in the mission of charity to anyone in need by providing compassionate, competent and professional services that strengthen and support individuals, families and communities based on the value and dignity of human life.

In order to remain faithful to our mission, Catholic Charities is guided by these core values: Respect, Compassion, Competence, and Stewardship.

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