



Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago OFFICE OF LATINO AFFAIRS

October 2015

A "Taste of Latin America"

Latino families are encouraged to enroll their young children to preschool when the program is bilingual.

During this past month, **Chicago Lawn Head Start Center** organized the event "Taste of Latin America" to celebrate the kick-off of its bilingual program, which seeks proficiency in English through what young children already know in their home language, Spanish.



In this event, the parents recognized the advantages of being bilingual and danced and sang to the rhythms of Nelson Gill's songs. The teachers prepared exhibitions of costumes and crafts from various states of México and Latin American countries.

To learn more about Chicago Lawn Head Start, [click here](#).

Did You Know?

* Along with early education programs, our centers, such as **St. Mary of Celle**, offer family strengthening programming for the community at large, including English as a Second Language, Wellness and Music classes.

* **1,111 children** ages 6 weeks to 5 years old attended nine of our Child Development Centers.

* **95% of 3 to 5 year olds** and **96% of 0 to 3 year olds** met or exceeded cognitive milestones.

St. Mary of Celle Child Development Center

Do you have a child between the ages of 2 and 5?

Open enrollment is still available!

In 2008, St. Mary of Celle Child Development Center opened its doors to the families of North Berwyn and beyond. Seven years later, it continues to provide high quality early childhood education - earning accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the Gold Circle of Quality in the State of Illinois' Excelerate Quality Rating System.



At St. Mary of Celle, children can learn two languages through the Dual Language Learners program, and they are adequately prepared for kindergarten through the Creative Curriculum. With a Registered Dietician on staff, the center can also accommodate menus for most allergies and food preferences.

Providing Emotional Support to Immigrant Women

This fall, in a collaboration with **Iberoamericana University in Mexico City** and **Loyola University in Chicago**, a psychology undergraduate student and a social work graduate student are meeting weekly to facilitate *Mujeres Floreciendo*, a women's support group in our City Southwest Region. Women are given a safe and free space to express their feelings and thoughts on migrating and adjusting to an American culture and community. A licensed social worker is on-site to provide individual and ongoing support.

The two group facilitators are **Gabriela Bacon**, a Guatemalan native studying at Loyola, and **Silvia (Sisi) Ramirez** from Mexico, who both have training and experience working with migrants.



Gabriela Bacon (left) and Sisi Ramirez (center) reflecting on their first day facilitating the group with Marilu Gonzalez (right), Director of the City Southwest Region.

Catholic Charities Board Member and Professor at Loyola, **Dr. Marta Lundy**, mentors and prepares the students each week. Next semester, Gabriela will continue Phase Two of the project.

Given that the Latino population in Illinois has increased by over 30% since 2000, these placements allow Catholic Charities to increase its capacity to serve the growing Latino population

in a culturally responsive way.

To learn more about the **Ibero Transnational Service Project (ITSP)**, contact the ITSP coordinator, Ilse Zenteno at izenteno@catholiccharities.net or 312-655-7596.

To learn more about the services offered at our City of Chicago - Southwest Regional Office, [click here](#).

Thank you for Your Support *Ayudando Nuestras Familias / Helping Our Families*

On October 15th, our Catholic Charities Latino Advisory Committee hosted its annual *Ayudando Nuestras Familias / Helping Our Families* fundraiser at Perillo Chicago, 834 North Rush Street.

Every year, proceeds benefit Catholic Charities programs that serve and strengthen Latino families. This year, in honor of its 10 year anniversary, all proceeds benefited **Casa Catalina Basic Needs Center**.

Throughout the event, guests participated in our Pick-A-Prize and Grand Raffle that included Bears, Bulls, White Sox, and Chicago Fire tickets, an evening in a chauffeured driven Rolls Royce, original artwork, jewelry and gift baskets. In total, **over \$35,000 was raised to provide food and emergency services** to the residents of the Back of the Yards community in Chicago.



Board Member Ben Jagoe with Dalia Rocotello, Director of Latino Affairs, and Clem Martin, Chair of the Catholic Charities Latino Advisory Committee

We extend our thanks to all our sponsors and donors who partnered with us in making the evening a success:

Perillo, Wintrust, Azteca Foods, Inc., BGK Security, Chicago Title, @properties, Security, Chicago Title, @properties, Thomas & Gregoria Vega-Byrnes, BMO Harris Bank, Claretian Missionaries, Dr. Jorge & Karen Saucedo, Dutch Farms, Gustavo and Isabell Abello, Hero- Beech Nut, Holy Cross Hospital, Manufacturers Sales Solutions -- Goode Foods, Arias Information Solutions, LLC, Silvercreek Finance, Abt, Alfred Bedia and David Herrera, Carmen Velasquez, Clem & Norma Martin, Elizabeth Florez, Friends of Catholic Charities Legal Assistance, Hughes-Socol-Piers-Resnick-Dym Ltd, Illinois Hispanic Nurses Association, Joseph Gonzalez, Kimball and Karen Anderson, La Criolla Inc, Rita Arias Jirasek & Arnold Jirasek, Saint Cletus Church, Wallin/Gomez Architects, Ltd., Central Printers & Graphics, Inc., Constellation Brands, Hispanic Pro, Melendez Insurance, and Monterrey Security, All Natural Chicago Catering, Angel Gutierrez, Beatriz Cervantes & Mario Benavidez, Chicago White Sox, DePaul Athletics Department, Estudio La Storia, European Wax Center, Irazu Restaurant, Kohl Children's Museum of Greater Chicago, Lakeview Salon, Lou Malnati, Louis Glunz Wines, Lourdes Duarte, Maria Kaminski, Maria Ramos, Isabel Coronel, Maria Christina Torres, MG Rejuvenation, Milton Coronado, Naomi Avendano, Pam Cima, Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, Salon Envy, Teatro Vista, Theatre School of DePaul University, and Trixie Girl Blow Dry Bar.

If you or your company are interested in supporting Casa Catalina - which serves over 525,000 meals a year to the Back of the Yards community -- visit our website [here](#).

To volunteer at Casa Catalina, call Sister Joellen at (773) 376-9425.

Casa Catalina Basic Needs Center
4537 S. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60609

Full and part time programs are available, and fees are affordable.

For a tour or to learn more, call (708) 303-3650. Our friendly staff look forward to speaking with you!

**St. Mary of Celle
Child Development Center**
1448 Wesley (entrance on 15th St.)
Berwyn, IL 60402

Serving the Needs of the Latino Population in the Des Plaines Area: Challenges & Opportunities

You Are Invited to Join Us

Friday, November 6, 2015
8:30 am breakfast; 9-11 am session

Stevens Center, Maryville Academy
1150 N. River Road, Des Plaines, IL

As human services organizations, how can we best serve the immigrant population in our neighborhood? What are the dreams, difficulties and priorities of Latino immigrants?

Maryville Academy & Catholic Charities invite your organization to join us.

RSVP by Monday, November 2nd to Nancy Woulfe at 847.294.1910 or woulfen@maryvilleacademy.org.

For further information, contact: Jose Sanchez, Director of Latino Affairs: 847.294.1799 / 312.491.3530 or sanchezj2@maryvilleacademy.org

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.*