



EL BUEN PASTOR
LATINO COMMUNITY SERVICES

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LATINO COMMUNITY SERVICES

VISION STATEMENT

We envision a society enriched by the cultural diversity of its members, where all are valued for their contributions and have the opportunity to build their dreams.

MISSION STATEMENT

Con la esperanza de alcanzar un futuro mejor, El Buen Pastor Latino Community Services colabora con las familias apoyando a niños y adultos en el logro de sus metas educacionales y el desarrollo de su potencial económico.

El Buen Pastor Latino Community Services partners with Latino families to equip children and adults to fulfill their educational and economic potential, with hope for a positive and healthy future.

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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.



GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

As the year comes to a close we are grateful for each volunteer and financial donor who has joined in our work this year, and all the families who have blessed us with their precious children.

Peace on earth and good will to all!

..... DECEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

Learning in the 21st Century



When schools and community agencies work together for the benefit of students, everybody wins! That's the consensus of all involved with the 21st Century Community Learning Center partnership that includes the tutoring program at El Buen Pastor Latino Community Services, teachers from Old Town Elementary, and the resources of the local school system. Winston-Salem/Forsyth County

Schools received funding from the U.S. Department of Education for the purpose of supplementing good efforts that are already underway, and so our invitation to participate was an affirmation of the work that our volunteers have been doing with students over the years.

Each of our 60 elementary students works one-on-one with a volunteer tutor twice a week, reading texts that are on their instructional level and practicing comprehension strategies with materials that are specifically prepared for that student. On alternating afternoons each child works in a small group with a teacher from Old Town School, receiving an extra dose of instruction to improve performance in the core areas of math and reading. Tutors and students alike are delighted with the arrangement—veteran volunteers declare this to be “the best year ever” in tutoring, while the students’ eagerness to greet both their tutors and the teachers demonstrates their approval of the new arrangement. Elementary tutoring supervisor Kelly Fortkiewicz is pleased with the support she has received from project administrators and with the enhanced collaboration with the school. Although our organization receives no direct funding from the project, our students are benefitting from the materials and instruction that supplement their school curriculum and enrich our tutoring hour.

End-of-year tests will show whether the program has a measurable impact on academic performance, but interim feedback is positive. The classroom teacher of two of our second graders said that, as a result of the program, they are improving significantly in reading fluency and comprehension. “I have seen their confidence grow in English both in reading as well as in speaking.”

If we teach today as we taught yesterday, we rob our children of tomorrow.

—John Dewey

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Building Community, Together



Since our founding in 2006, the strategies of El Buen Pastor Latino Community Services have been centered on relationships—going deep with families in the neighborhood where we are located rather than offering a variety of programs to a variety of individuals. Honoring the dignity of the community, we have aimed to do *with* people, not *for* them. Our constituent families are among the poorest in our county, even though they are each headed by one or two working adults. Because their hopes are concentrated on their children's futures, we have focused our programs on helping families support their children's academic success. Our tutoring program, which predates our nonprofit status by three years, was developed in response to parents' requests for help with their children's homework.

It can be argued that the essence of poverty is the lack of freedom to make choices that can impact one's own situation. In the past couple of years the El Buen Pastor families have become more settled in the neighborhood with a heightened commitment to our community, creating opportunities for us to leverage the trust we have built with them over the years by including them in various decision-making processes. We are committed to shifting the nature of our organization's processes along a continuum of collaboration between long-time residents and newer immigrants, increasingly involving our Latino families in setting the direction of our work together.

In keeping with our mission, we want to create space for families to equip themselves with tools to fulfill their potential by offering opportunities for children and adults to practice group process and develop leadership skills. We want to strategically transition from *consulting with* community members to a partnership of *cooperation*, while building a framework for future *co-learning* where community members and "outsiders" equally share leadership. As a tradition of community leadership evolves, the second generation—the children of immigrants—will eventually take over and the organization will be led and staffed by people within the community.

We have taken some initial steps in the cooperation stage—involving community members in planning our El Buen Camino 5K race, staffing the annual yard sale, and providing guidance for the tutoring programs through monthly parent meetings. In 2015 we plan to launch both a Parents' Advisory Committee and a Youth Advisory Committee whose members will learn about nonprofit program management while serving as conduits of communication between the Board of Directors and the program participants. The challenge facing our board and staff is to maintain the balance between providing solid programs that have the support of the larger community and our funders, while beginning to transfer decision-making to members of the El Buen Pastor community. **It is a challenge we embrace—our city will benefit from the contributions of these future leaders, and our society will be enriched by the strengths and fresh perspectives they share.**

¡Muchas Gracias!



All learning is understanding relationships.

—George Washington Carver

We want to acknowledge and thank all of the individuals who served beyond-the-call-of-duty during the earliest years

of our programs, before we had a budget or a tutoring staff. Back in the day, we figured things out as we went along, responding to needs as they arose, motivated by the desire to welcome newcomers to the community and rewarded by the smiles of the children and the shy gratitude of their parents.

The volunteers who worked alongside pastors Rosa and Alfredo Miranda transporting children to the church or helping with homework or corralling the littlest ones so their big sisters could study laid the foundation for the work we do today. They used their ingenuity and initiative to respond to needs they saw—creating Kids Club, mothers' groups, report card celebrations, phonics lessons. They arranged and funded field trips, cleared out their own bookshelves to find materials for our students, directed craft projects, coached soccer, baked cupcakes, helped adults practice English, donated coats and car seats and groceries. They shared their hearts with our children and their families. And we all learned firsthand that growth and transformation take place in the context of relationships—for both the volunteer and the child.

Laptop Challenge



How does El Buen Pastor LCS help students equip themselves to fulfill their educational and economic potential? Four days a week we provide space, tutors, and study resources for 25 middle and high school youth who come in daily to get help on their homework. These students are eager learners and, for adolescents, conscientious with their work. Many came to us as preschoolers and some have been part of our community from the beginning.

"Can I use a laptop today?" Unfortunately, every day half of our students who ask this question receive a negative response. Our three laptops can't stretch far enough to serve them all. As 21st century learners our students need access

to online resources and up-to-date operating systems to meet the requirements their teachers and schools set for them. To apply for college and be ready for the workforce these digital natives need to regularly use computers. With their parents' guidance, these students have focused on making choices (such as spending their evenings in tutoring) that will prepare them for a bright future.

On #Giving Tuesday we launched a campaign for the holiday season to ask our friends, families, and online "followers" to contribute the funds to purchase six refurbished, wireless-ready laptops. Each laptop will enable two or more of our students to use their tutoring time effectively each day so that they arrive at school the next morning with the confidence that their work is their best effort, in keeping with the high expectations that their parents, our community, and their teachers have for them.

To see how we are doing on this campaign, please check out our Facebook page, El Buen Pastor LCS Winston-Salem. You can access it from our website, www.elbuenpastorLCS.org. And if you'd like to contribute, we'd love to hear from you!