



EL BUEN PASTOR
LATINO COMMUNITY SERVICES

4637 Tim Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27106

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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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.

JUNE 2014

✿ BUILDING DREAMS

In recognition of our community's growth, the Board of Directors of El Buen Pastor Latino Community Services (LCS) recently adopted revised mission and vision statements. When the original statements, above and to the left of this message, were drafted in 2006, Forsyth County was in the midst of an immigration boom. As families from Mexico settled in the Old Town area in increasing numbers, LCS was created by the Presbyterian *Mision Hispana El Buen Pastor* to help Spanish-speaking children succeed in school, help Latino parents understand their role in their children's education, and help native North Carolinians develop relationships with the newcomers.

From the beginning, our focus has been on relationships—going deep with families in the neighborhood rather than offering a variety of programs to a variety of individuals. We have been inspired by the hope and courage of the capable, resilient, and hard-working immigrants who contribute to the vibrancy of our society and the strength of our economy. Honoring the dignity of the entire community and partnering with El Buen Pastor Church, we do *with* people, not *for* them. We have a yard sale rather than a clothing closet, so families can select and purchase items. We offer a variety of nutrition and cooking classes rather than a food pantry, so women learn to modify traditional cuisine for healthier family outcomes. We don't provide daycare—instead, parents volunteer in our tutoring program and pay \$2 a month per child. We don't cater a meal for our volunteer appreciation lunch—rather, each mother contributes a dish to express her family's gratitude.

This new mission statement reflects the continued positive development of our organization and our participants:

*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.*

Our work would not be possible without the army of volunteers, financial donors, community partners, and foundations who join us on the journey. We are deeply grateful for each one, knowing that you share our vision:

*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.*

Rosa Miranda, Board Chair

Mary Bolton, Executive Director

¡MUCHAS GRACIAS!

- ✿ To the **local office of Robert W. Baird and Company** for hosting our *¡Listos!* graduation celebration.
- ✿ To **The Winston-Salem Foundation** for a \$12,000 grant in support of our Family Literacy Initiative for the second year.
- ✿ To **Wake Forest University Campus Life** for selecting us as their Pro Humanitate in Action Community Partner of Excellence.
- ✿ To **Anne Saxon and the Central Carolina Children's Chorus** for founding and directing Cantamos, and including our girls in their 15th anniversary concert on April 27.
- ✿ To **Cindy Stubblefield**, who for five years moonlighted as our Director of Community Relations, sharing her expertise in the wee hours of the morning before she reported for her real job. Cindy set up our website, developed our print and electronic newsletters, established our donor database and annual appeal process, and tutored our Executive Director on grant-application etiquette. As she moves on to focus on her new position as Regional Executive with Girl Scouts Carolinas Peaks to Piedmont, Cindy leaves us in good shape—she has taught us well!



SUMMER TUTORS NEEDED!

Join us for a summer of learning and enrichment as we help students prevent summer learning loss. The six-week program begins June 23 and ends July 31. Volunteers tutor two days a week, Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday, from 3:45-5:00pm, and attend training during the week of June 16. Tutors must be 16 or older, although middle school students may volunteer alongside their parent. **Contact Thane Campbell, 924-0401 or thane@elbuenpastorLCS.org.**

✿ ANGELS AMONG US



Angéla Kóczé, a WFU visiting professor who recently won the Ion Ratiu Democracy Award from the Woodrow Wilson International Center for her human rights work with the Roma people of Hungary, invited women from El Buen Pastor to participate in an entrepreneurship project. Utilizing a framework of Dr. Kóczé's design, undergraduate students and our *muchachas* worked together to identify each woman's future career possibilities, evaluating personal assets and challenges to find her best path forward. The students and women were all surprised to discover many similarities in their life situations, and the *muchachas* feel honored by the ongoing process and are enthusiastic about future endeavors.

Last spring WFBMC medical students **Corey Bradley** and **John Lutrell** received a prestigious Schweitzer Fellowship to work with the teens of El Buen Pastor. They met weekly

with our students for 8 months, coaching them on habits that impact mental and physical health. Their project was a success, as 18 of the 20 participating students adopted two or more of these practices within the year: replacing at least one snack food with a healthy option every day; participating in any form of physical activity at least four times a week for 30 minutes; improving their total score on the Pediatrics Symptoms Checklist Youth Report by at least seven points; and eliminating any drug, cigarette or alcohol use. We are delighted that John and Corey will continue their work by pairing med student mentors with El Buen Pastor students.



The mothers of preschoolers in our *¡Listos!* programs always enjoy their time together, but when raucous laughter travels down the hall from their meeting room throughout the morning, it's a good guess that **Angélica Guzmán** of Wake Forest Baptist Health's Brenner FIT is leading the group through a session of the Positive Discipline curriculum. A peek through the window might reveal a role-play in session, with one mother dressed up as a good fairy delivering candy and hugs to her "children," while a woman in black storms around scolding her unfortunate "daughter." The lesson that children need consistency from their parents is dramatized effectively, and the door is opened for women to share their struggles to manage their families' well-being in an unfamiliar culture.

Angélica's program is the lynch-pin of the *¡Listos!* curriculum. According to Erika Stewart, Director of Family

Literacy, Ms. Guzmán has a special talent for meeting women where they are and helping them adopt new behaviors, step by step. Because her relationship with our community stretches back to 2005, Angélica has earned our families' trust. An immigrant herself, coming from Chili with her husband and four children in 2004, she has a deep understanding of their struggles and admires their ability to maintain a positive attitude in difficult situations. She says they have a beautiful combination of vulnerability and strength that comes from facing hardships.

In addition to the parenting curriculum, this year Angélica hosted our *Más Listos* group for cooking classes at the new Brenner FIT kitchen at the YMCA, and trained the Latinas who are classroom assistants in our children's rooms.

We are grateful for Angélica's long-term commitment to our families.

✿ HOPE FOR A POSITIVE AND HEALTHY FUTURE



The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust has awarded El Buen Pastor Latino Community Services a two-year grant totaling \$112,200 in support of the *¡Listos!* mother-child education program. *Listos* means "ready," and particularly implies "ready to learn," identifying the program's purpose of equipping women with knowledge to prepare their babies for future academic success. While mothers learn to nurture their children's cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development, their babies and preschoolers experience a stimulating morning in their own groups, developing socialization and skills. The concept of parents as teachers is an exciting one for the women. They eagerly apply themselves to crafting educational toys and soak up lessons about stimulating children's curiosity. "I now do more things with my children and look for solutions together with them," said one.

The *Más Listos* class, "more ready," builds on the first-year foundation to deepen the impact on families by continuing the parenting conversation. Because a woman with a healthy self-image and confidence in her own abilities is better equipped to meet the developing needs of her children, this class also includes an emphasis on building the self-esteem of the mothers and broadening their experiences.

Three local field trips in May did just that. One morning was spent cooking with Angélica, another touring Old Town Elementary to meet staff and observe classes, and another visiting the Amani Children's Foundation to deliver T-shirt scarves the women made during their craft time. Their donated handiwork would be sold at the Robinhood Road shop to benefit Kenyan children orphaned by AIDS. After admiring the exotic merchandize on display, they learned of the broken systems and the defenselessness of women that led to so many babies being abandoned and orphaned in Africa. Back at El Buen Pastor, as the women discussed their Amani experience, a theme emerged—gratitude. They were grateful to live in a country that protects its most vulnerable members, and they were grateful for the opportunity to help people less fortunate than themselves. *They were grateful to be able to give.*

At the end-of-year celebration for *¡Listos!* each of the 45 children received a new book, and each of the 27 mothers received an Amani necklace—a heart-shaped red bead on a black cord. The beads were molded by the hands of Kenyan women and will be worn with pride by Latin American immigrants in North Carolina...a reminder that every community's children are its hope and its future.

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