



EL BUEN PASTOR
LATINO COMMUNITY SERVICES

4637 Tim Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27106

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 286
Winston-Salem, NC



4637 Tim Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27106
www.elbuenpastorLCS.org
336.924.0401
info@elbuenpastorLCS.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Mary Bolton
mary@elbuenpastorLCS.org

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.

DECEMBER 2013

✿ JUAN AND MS. MARTHA



“This program means so much to me because of all the help I have received and the love that everyone puts into making us feel welcomed and cared for. It has not only helped me in my education but in my life as well. The tutoring program has made me feel like I have an army behind me who will back me up in any situation. Not only has it helped me with school work, it has helped me to always think positively about everything I do and has encouraged me to chase my dreams.”

These are the words of Juan, a junior at North Forsyth High School who has been participating in El Buen Pastor tutoring since he was in first grade. This confident B-student who plays piano, loves books, and plans to become a broadcast journalist bears little resemblance to the struggling reader who joined our very first tutoring session. Juan's family spoke Spanish at home, and the extra effort required to learn to read fluently in English was more than the reluctant student could muster. What young Juan lacked in will, however, his mother made up for with her persistence in bringing him to El Buen Pastor over the years, where our volunteers patiently pointed him in the right direction.

The same year Juan made it to sixth grade, Martha Lowry, who had been a volunteer since that first tutoring session, became Youth Tutoring Director at El Buen Pastor. It was the summer before Juan began high school that Martha first noticed a bright spark of intellectual curiosity beginning to flicker in Juan's eyes. That was the summer Martha led the students through a multi-faceted study of *The Wizard of Oz*, and Juan was pulled into the drama in spite of himself. Since that time Martha has been impressed with his attitude shift and academic effort. “Juan has become very determined and goal-oriented,” she says, smiling about his recent request for a personal agenda book so that he could keep track of his club meeting schedules, volunteer hours, and college requirements. This is a young man who has taken ownership of his future!



¡FELIZ NAVIDAD
Y PROSPERO
AÑO NUEVO!

“For it is good to be
children sometimes,
and never better than
at Christmas, when its
mighty Founder was
a child Himself.”

—Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol

ROBOTICS AND LAB TECHNICIANS



STEM education is alive and well at El Buen Pastor! One recent Thursday afternoon some students got a head start on planning their science fair projects while Ms. Francia’s four-year-olds donned their protective lab gear and delightfully experimented with mixing food coloring. The big excitement, however, centered on the middle school girls’ robotics workshop. With the leadership of first year Wake Forest student Sarah Rudasill, six girls have been putting their heads together to construct a robot using the Lego Inventor’s Guide. When it was completed they advised Sarah on how they wanted her to program it, and then began the process of fine-tuning the mechanics, improvising as they observed the robot’s performance. And where were the guys? Although



several boys showed up for the first day of the workshop, they left when they learned that each one wouldn’t have his own robot to work on individually. Jenny says, however, that the best part of the experience has been collaborating on design and construction, and the squeals of laughter and cheers for the robot’s performance coming from behind the classroom door affirmed her testimony. Mayte didn’t even know what a robot was before Sarah broached the topic, and Cinthia said she had learned the importance of persistence through trial and error. Damarias, Michelle, and Myra all agreed that the project had kindled a new interest in science for them. Curiosity, collaboration, and perseverance—traits that will build successful students and good scientists!

SHARING FOOD AND BOOKS



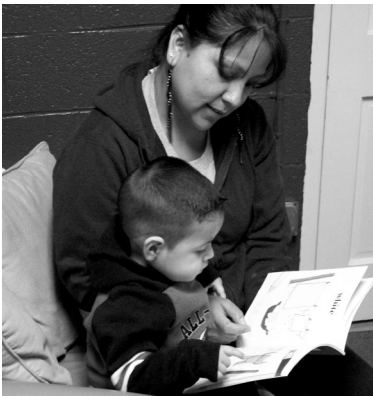
Friday, November 1, was a school holiday for students and a workday for teachers, but at 11:30 a.m. the kids from our tutoring program were not sleeping in, and the teachers from Old Town Elementary School were not grading papers. Instead, they joined the student’s families at El Buen Pastor to share food and books.

The food was *pozole*—Mexican chicken soup with a rich, flavorful broth yielded from hours of simmering. Nancy and Simona, who have six children at Old Town between them, arrived at 4:00 in the morning to prepare the soup using

ingredients contributed by the other *madres*. Like many of our folks, these two *muchachas* grew up in rural Guerrero, a mountainous state southwest of Mexico City, and in preparing *pozole* they shared one of their most beloved food traditions as a way of expressing gratitude to the teachers.

The books were in abundance, as small groups of children, teachers, and parents spent an hour after lunch reading together for the pure pleasure of sharing a good story. It was a beautiful scene, this collaboration of school, nonprofit and parents for the benefit of the children.

A NEW YEAR ON A NEW ROAD



As I consider the brief history of Latino Community Services it seems that some things can only be recognized for what they are when seen in the rear view mirror.

Although we were chartered as a nonprofit in 2006, the after school tutoring program that is our flagship began in 2003 in response to the Hispanic parents who sent their children to ask Pastors Rosa and Alfredo Miranda for homework help. In those early years there were multiple challenges revolving around the tutoring

hour. Back then many of the students could not communicate well in English, and there was no staff to support the volunteer tutors, few of whom spoke Spanish. The students had received only spotty education in Mexico, and so were abysmally behind their peers academically. The parents who had initiated the process were rarely seen, giving their boys the freedom to choose whether or not to participate on any given day, and often insisting that the girls stay home to babysit or clean house. Many of the older children among those first students eventually dropped out of school—the gulf between where they were academically and where they needed to be was just too wide. In contrast, those who started with us in the early grades have acquired critical skills and support that keep them in the game.

In response to parent requests, we began adding programs to bracket the elementary tutoring, including preschoolers and secondary school students. After we initiated adult English and parenting classes and offered volunteer opportunities for parents, we began to notice a distinct pattern—if a student’s mother wasn’t regularly engaged in some way, that child would eventually drop out of our programs. So we began to *require* that parents volunteer an hour a week and make a monthly financial contribution for their children to participate—\$2 per month per child.

Looking in the rear view mirror I see that our insistence on parent engagement was a course adjustment. We left the route of providing direct assistance to children and began navigating to a place where parents are active participants in their children’s education...a space where families equip themselves for the pursuit of happiness. Two-generation programming has become our standard: mother-daughter sex education classes, a parent-child program where mothers discover how to prepare their babies for academic success, a family literacy initiative that promotes shared reading, and a healthy living initiative built around our own *El Buen Camino* 5K race.

This route is taking us in an exciting new direction. We’re just on the first leg of the journey and already there are dads reading with their little ones, families adopting new bedtime routines and discipline strategies, mothers chaperoning school field trips and taking their little ones to museums, children teaching their parents healthy food choices, and moms running with their daughters to train for the next 5K. I am eager to see where 2014 will take us!

— Mary Bolton, *Executive Director*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Rosa Miranda, *Chair*
- Alfredo Miranda, *Vice Chair*
- Nancy Colvin, *Treasurer*
- Suzanne Clark, *Secretary*
- Adolfo Briceño
- Judy Davis
- Jorge Mendéz Estrada
- Norma-May Isakow
- Molly Lineberger
- Doris Páez
- Sara A. Quandt
- Betina Cutaia Wilkinson

STAFF

- Mary Bolton
- Executive Director*
- Elizabeth Schiemann
- Director of Operations*
- Erika Stewart
- Director of Family Literacy*
- Francia Cacchione
- Child Development Supervisor*
- Martha Lowry
- Youth Tutoring Supervisor*
- Kelly Fortkiewicz
- Elementary Tutoring Supervisor*
- Sandra Castro
- Parenting Coach*
- Evelyn Garcia
- Children’s Programming*
- Thane Campbell
- Volunteer Coordinator*
- Ana Lucia
- Administrative Assistant*
- Cindy Stubblefield
- Community Relations Director*