



EL BUEN PASTOR
LATINO COMMUNITY SERVICES

4637 Tim Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27106

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mary Bolton

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WELCOME!

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Robert and Kay Landry as new members of our Board of Directors. Robert is a native of Puerto Rico and Kay is from Greensboro, NC. Their rich experience as leaders in education in North Carolina is a real asset to our organization.

Robert is one of seven state commissioners appointed by Gov. Purdue to serve on the national Education Commission of the States. He also serves on the Hispanics in Philanthropy and the NC Public Charter Schools Advisory Councils. Robert retired as a District Superintendent, after 36 years with the public schools. He is currently pursuing his love of teaching as a professor with Gardner-Webb University.

A nationally certified counselor, Kay retired as Director of Student Services, after 30 years in public education. A focus of her career was serving the educational and personal needs of Latino students. Together, Robert and Kay founded ChoiceGrowth, LLC, a consulting firm that assists educational organizations improve their leadership and instructional skills.

CANTAMOS – LET’S SING!



The Central Carolina Children’s Chorus (CCCC) is a welcome new community partner, bringing classical music education to the children and youth of El Buen Pastor. Founder and Director Anne Saxon developed this new outreach choir in the fall, tapping our own Jonorys Beriguete as her assistant. Daniela, a sixth grader,

is delighted with her experience in Cantamos, reporting that singing with Ms. Anne is fun because they learn so much.

“We all started off sounding so bad, but now we know how to sing together. Ms. Anne taught us vocal exercises that help us reach the high notes.” Dani’s favorite piece that the group has worked on is a spiritual called “Carry Me Home”. She believes it is correctly labeled, because singing this song always lifts her spirits. We are grateful for Mrs. Saxon’s professional leadership and her generosity in bringing this enriching experience to our community.

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.

SPRING 2012

A COMMUNITY OF GARDENERS



Community gardening is a hot trend in Winston-Salem, and El Buen Pastor Latino Community Services (LCS) is in the heat of it. In this our third season of raising vegetables it is clear that community gardening is as much about “community” as it is about “gardening”. It’s about planting the seeds of friendships, watering them with conversation and time spent together, and fertilizing them with shared meals and laughter. Director of Family Life Programs Enrique Rodriguez-Pastor, better known as Quique, says that the level of commitment from the LCS gardeners has grown in proportion to the time spent investing in relationships among them. This year there is a marked increase in buy-in from Alex, Simona, Angela, Luis, Veronica, and the others as they assign garden chores after sharing personal histories over a pot-luck supper, or enjoy Quique’s Peruvian cuisine while discussing what and when to plant.

Besides the fellowship among the LCS gardeners, the community aspect is validated through several partnerships. After participating in the Forsyth County Cooperative Extension Service’s garden mentor training, Corinne Causby and Stewart Ellis volunteered to serve as hands-on resources for the El Buen Pastor garden, and apply their horticultural expertise to such issues as the campaign against Bermuda grass as they share in the meals and work. Wallace Williamson of the local nonprofit Reap More Than You Sow tirelessly provides seeds, wisdom, and encouragement, and the Extension Service’s Mary Jac Brennan is always available for advice.

Since our gardeners live in apartments or trailer parks, they value the opportunity to grow food for their families. This summer they will also have the chance to take a nutrition class and be introduced to new produce varieties by sharing a Community Supported Agriculture subscription. People gathering around food...it’s a beautiful thing.

CONFLICT MEDIATION

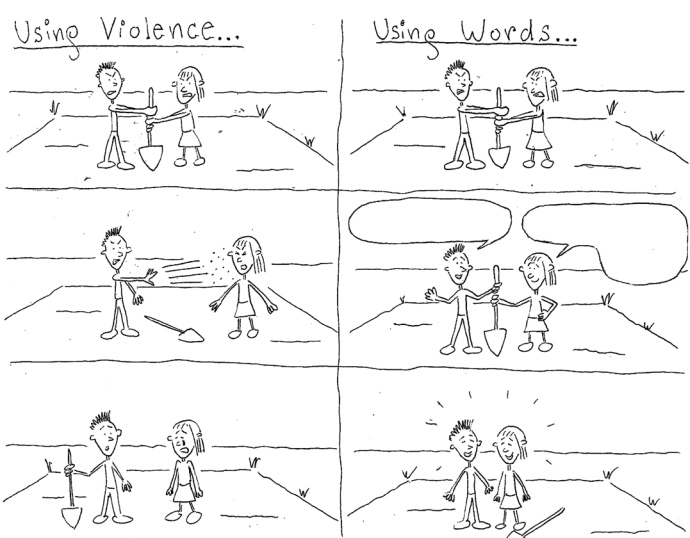
This winter Director of Family Life Programs Enrique Rodriguez-Pastor began peer conflict mediation training for the elementary students who attend our after school tutoring program. Recent bouts of spring fever among the kids have resulted in many opportunities for the young facilitators to hone their skills.

This is how it works: when children have a disagreement on the playground or during free time, they find Quique to request mediation, and he calls on two of the trained volunteers to hear the case. Referring to a simple prepared script, the mediators allow each complainant in turn to share his or her point of view without interruption. After both positions have been heard and repeated back, the mediators ask those involved for suggestions on how to resolve the issue. In most cases “peace breaks out” as soon as both parties feel that they have been heard and understood.

The fourth graders, in particular, have fully adopted a mediation mindset. With wisdom beyond her years, ten-year-old Jenny said this during a session she was facilitating for first grade boys: “If you are having a problem don’t use your

fists to try to solve it—use your words. And before you use words, be sure that you choose kind words so that you don’t hurt each other.”

Allowing others to be heard, and choosing kind words. Are there any life habits more important than these for children...or for any of us?



✿DON’T SIT UNDER THE APPLE TREE



A sure sign of spring at El Buen Pastor Latino Community Services is the action at the three picnic tables under the pear tree. Depending on the time of day, a visitor arriving in the parking lot might see little girls playing school, or boys and girls hopping from table to bench trying to reach the tree branches, or students shouting out math facts in response to their tutor’s flash cards. If it is a Tuesday or Thursday mid-morning, perhaps the tables are spread with green-checked cloths and a hot meal, and the toddlers from our parent-child education program are folding their hands to give thanks. Or perhaps the children are all in their classrooms for tutoring and a few mothers sit in the shade with their babies, enjoying some rare moments of tranquility. This is the favorite spot for language-learning pairs like Luis and Jean to delve into their textbooks, and, all too infrequently, for staff to share lunch. The community garden plot is in sight from this vantage point, as are the soccer field and the playground. Someone sitting there on a weekday afternoon would see an endless stream of activity, beginning with the arrival of the school bus from Old Town Elementary at 2:30 and ending at dusk when the last soccer players drift off toward home. Some who first came to El Buen Pastor LCS to participate in a planned program or receive services have now immersed themselves in the life of the community, gathering here with family and friends throughout the week. Some who came to donate their time to educate others now find themselves on the receiving end of friendship and life lessons. I am grateful for the countless volunteers and donors who come with open minds and open hearts to make this a place of welcome and peace for Spanish-speaking immigrant families in the midst of our community. You have a standing invitation to come sit under the tree for a few peaceful moments to celebrate the vibrancy of shared lives.

Mary Bolton, *Executive Director*

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- Casey Carroll
- Community Relations Coordinator*

LANGUAGE LEARNING PARTNERS



Mastering a new language as an adult is a monumental task. There is no path to fluency that doesn’t involve endless hours of repetitive practice, as English-learner Luis Bello and Spanish student Jean Sohmer can testify. Although you wouldn’t know it to look at them, Luis and Jean have much in common. Both grew up in “the sticks”—Jean in Franklinville in eastern North Carolina, and Luis in a tiny village in Oaxaca, Mexico. Both have too much time on their hands because of unwelcome circumstances—Luis’ weekly chemotherapy keeps him from employment, and Jean became

a widow three years ago. Both fill their days by volunteering at El Buen Pastor for 15 or 20 hours a week—Luis works on grounds and building upkeep and helps with the tutoring program, while Jean leads adult activities in the parent-child program and helps with preschool.

This spring they are helping each other learn a new language, scheduling sessions around their volunteer duties and Luis’ treatments. They take turns reading aloud, patiently giving and receiving coaching on pronunciation. Vowel sounds are the most difficult for each of them, especially the “a” and “e” sounds, which are flipped for the two languages. Luis and Jean appreciate the lack of pressure and the freedom to make mistakes in their shared learning experience. Only a couple of times have they gotten completely stuck in their conversation, one not being able to understand what the other was talking about, and they resolved those stalemates with an on-line translation tool.

Like iron sharpening iron, practicing with a friend in a safe place has given them the confidence to try their second language with others.