



EL BUEN PASTOR
LATINO COMMUNITY SERVICES

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¡Muchas Gracias!



- ✦ To all who donated school supplies. Because of your generosity 93 students were armed with the tools they needed to begin the school year, and their parents could devote their hard-earned cash to school uniforms, backpacks, and new shoes.
- ✦ To the 42 summer volunteer tutors who came twice a week to help elementary students with reading and enrichment activities.

- ✦ To Emma Day, Tori Owens, and Jolene Valoris of Girl Scout Troop 40805 for planning and hosting a summer dance camp for the girls of El Buen Pastor.
- ✦ To the groups who helped with building and grounds projects over the summer—the youth group and Helping Hands from **Highland Presbyterian Church**, and the SPARC and LENS programs from **Wake Forest University**.
- ✦ To the volunteers and donors who made our yard sale a success! Household goods and clothing were repurposed and reused, while excellent bargains were found by many resourceful community members.
- ✦ To the WFU Nonprofit Immersion Program for sharing intern **Colt Mienke** with us this summer, and to Colt for sharing his enthusiasm for learning and his great sense of fun with our kids.
- ✦ To **Kevin and Isaac Oliver of Harmony Ridge Farms** and **Dr. Sara Quandt of the WFBH Translational Science Institute** for making it possible for our families to participate in their Farm Fresh Healthy Living Program this summer.



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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.

4637 TIM ROAD
WINSTON-SALEM, NC 27106
www.elbuenpastorLCS.org
336.924.0401
Info@elbuenpastorLCS.org

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.

..... SEPTEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

¡Listos! We're ready to learn!



The fall routine at El Buen Pastor Latino Community Services includes recruiting members for our mother-child education program called *¡Listos!* Some new participants are referred through community connections like neighborhood friends, El Buen Pastor Church, or Old Town Elementary School, but our staff always saves room for new faces. When school begins in late August we hit the pavement, searching for mothers at home with babies and preschoolers. With their eyes peeled for tiny sneakers beside the mat, strollers, and other signs that toddlers are in residence, our staff members knock on doors of apartments within walking distance of El Buen Pastor with one goal in mind—to find isolated young mothers who can benefit from the social connections and learning opportunities at *¡Listos!* to prepare their little ones for future school success.

Lili smiles when she remembers how timid she was when Francia Cacchione

came knocking one year ago. “When you first came to my door, I didn’t know who you were and didn’t want to open the door. I had no idea that so close to me was this program with so much support available to people like me.” She is delighted with how much her daughter learned in Ms. Francia’s class, and with the knowledge she gained herself from the adult group. Prior to joining the program, Lili rarely talked with adults other than her husband, but she soon came to call her classmates her friends. She became such a valued member of the group that, at the end of the nine-month program, Lili was selected by her new *amigas* to be their class spokesperson at the graduation ceremony.

Lili’s involvement in our community didn’t end with *¡Listos!* She joined our adult English class and this summer took part in the Farm Fresh Healthy Living Program where she learned new ways of preparing fresh produce for her family. This year mother and daughter will take part in the *Más Listos* group, continuing to expand their horizons, deepen relationships, and prepare for kindergarten.

Director of Family Literacy Erika Stewart is excited about the new cohort of women and children who are coming to us this fall. During the most recent neighborhood canvassing expedition, as a guarded young mother cracked the door open to hear what Erika and Francia had to say, Erika saw a small hand reach around the doorframe at the height of the mother’s knees. Erika could only wonder about the hidden little person attached to that reaching hand, and hope that the child’s mother can overcome her shyness to open up new doors for them both.

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Summer in the City



From the first day of garden club to the final family picnic at Tanglewood Park, the summer of 2014 was action-packed for the kids who came to summer programs at El Buen Pastor Latino Community Services!

Always the most labor-intensive and energetic of our endeavors, elementary tutoring was lively. Tutoring Supervisor Kelly Fortkeiwicz was pleased that we were able to offer one-on-one tutoring again. “It is so rewarding to see students and volunteers developing relationships based on reading together,” she said. Volunteer Melissa Klein appreciated getting to know a child with a background different from her own. “Going into it, I thought that I would just be helping a student improve her reading skills, but I was glad that we were able to forge a mutual friendship.” In addition to tutoring, the kids selected from a variety of clubs, and enjoyed presentations by several guest celebrities, including Captain Jim is Magic, Monica the Monkey Hooper, and our creative friend Quique Rodriguez-Pastor.

As the summer wound down, it was time for back-to-school transitions. Ms. Evelyn escorted families to the Children’s Museum for a kindergarten kick-off event, Ms. Elizabeth hosted a sixth grade pre-orientation to calm the nerves of rising middle school students before their official middle school orientation, Ms. Martha and college consultant Julie Cunningham helped high schoolers analyze their schedules and get to Open House, and a host of students of all ages “shopped” for school supplies the week before school began.



Life Goals



During the first week of fall tutoring, elementary students identified their dreams, goals, and wishes for their futures. Here is a cross-section of their objectives:

- ✿ I want to be a doctor.
- ✿ My goal is to be a famous soccer player in history.
- ✿ My dream is to study hard and get a job.
- ✿ I dream of being a vet and a famous singer.
- ✿ I want to be an inventor.
- ✿ I wish I have a bird and cat and dog.
- ✿ My dream is to be a lawyer.
- ✿ I want to be a policia.
- ✿ I wish I had a girlfriend.
- ✿ I want to go to Wake Forest and graduate and be a teacher.

Wings Stretch

Then a fifth grader, now a sixth grade middle school student, Beatriz Baños reproduced this poem in collage form as part of her work during the summer tutoring program.



Nuestra Comunidad



The following articles appeared in the El Buen Pastor students’ summer newspaper, **Nuestra Comunidad...Our Community**. They were written by the Fourth Grade Editor, José Manuel Alonzo Vico, whose assignments included reporting on what the younger students were doing this summer.

Art Activity with Ms. Evelyn

Ms. Evelyn’s art club on July 3, 2014 were making Earths with clay with nine students in her classroom. The students were putting on the Earth a river, houses, land, rocks, mountains, and clouds. Some kids were cutting the clay with plastic knives. Some were spreading the clay on the board. The students were working together with the colors blue, brown, gray, white, and green.

Ms. Evelyn thinks art is a fun subject and you can come up with different ideas. She also says, “it’s a good way to express yourself.” Other activities the art club has done this summer include: making Minions with shampoo bottles, bird houses with paint, bracelets with string, and flower pots with beans and paint.

Ms. Francia’s Class

Ms. Francia was doing a party for the 4th of July on July 3, 2014 with her prekindergarten students. The place they were doing the party was beside the church El Buen Pastor. They had a pool, food, music, decorations, the United States flag, and drinks. All her students were having fun at the party. Student’s parents were invited to the party. Ms. Francia celebrated the 4th of July.

Ms. Francia also cooked with her students. She made smoothies. She included a lot of ingredients. These are a healthy food for her Pre-K students to try. It is important to learn to cook young, because when they are in college with roommates, not living with their parents, they should know how to cook.