



# Novedades

News & Updates

August 2005

## Board of Directors

Silvia Guzman  
Sergio Jaramillo  
Pedro DeJesus  
Cesar Martinez  
Luis Prado  
Gladys Vega  
Tito Meza  
Freddy Gonzales

## Executive Staff

Juan R. Vega  
Executive Director  
  
Bob Boulrice  
Deputy Director—Finance  
  
Ruthie Gomez  
Deputy Director—Programs

Centro Latino de Chelsea  
267 Broadway  
Chelsea, MA 02150

Phone: (617) 884-3238  
Fax: (617) 884-4646

[www.centrolatino.org](http://www.centrolatino.org)

## Centro partners with St. Luke's to train workers

Since 1980, the share of immigrants in the MA workforce has doubled to 17%. In fact, if not for immigrants, the state's population would have shrunk over the last two decades. A 2005 report from MassInc analyzes the trends of immigrants in the workforce and concludes that, in order for the state's economy to continue to grow, public and private entities will have to invest in innovative ways to train these new workers



Javier Galindo takes ESL classes at St. Luke's and is beginning his second computer class at Centro this week.

"The teachers at St. Luke's and Centro have been making sure that we learn. Now when I have to speak English at my job, I can do it without fear; my confidence has gone up tremendously. I hope to gain the same professional level I had reached in my own country."

A Community and Faith-based Initiatives federal grant has resulted in such a collaboration in Chelsea. The 18-month grant was awarded to St. Luke's Episcopal Church through the Metro North Regional Employment Board earlier this year. The program goals call for St. Luke's to prepare 100 immigrant workers for employment, and aid 38 in finding and keeping a job. This will be achieved in collaboration with Centro Latino and Career Source.

St. Luke's provides English as a Second Language instruction, job readiness classes and job search assistance, such as resume writing. Centro Latino provides training in computer skills that participants will use at the job site, such as word processing, spreadsheets, and desktop publishing. Career Source provides further job search resources and job development. So far, 54 workers have enrolled in the training, a quarter of whom have found employment since beginning the program. 26 have come to Centro Latino for 10-week computer classes, many returning to take a second course.

## Upcoming Events...

**Taste of Chelsea**  
September 12, 2005

Sample local cuisines as you support HarborCov in ending domestic violence. Massport Facility, Chelsea. Info: (617) 884-4877

**True Spirit of Mexico**  
September 17, 2005

A presentation of Mexican music and dance by Veronica Robles. The Regent Theater, Arlington. Info: (781) 646-4849

**Celebrate  
Hispanic  
Heritage  
Month**

**September 15 -  
October 15**



CENTRO LATINO DE CHELSEA

MISSION

*To improve the quality of life and promote the self-determination of Latinos in Chelsea and surrounding communities through economic development, education, health and social well-being strategies.*

## Community Care Day

Centro looks forward to participating in the United Way of Mass Bay's Community Care Day 2005. Last year, Centro Latino was matched with IKON Office Solutions, based in Waltham. IKON employees participated in conversation groups with English language learners. Both the students and volunteers enjoyed the experience so much that IKON employees continue to come to Centro weekly, providing a valuable opportunity for Centro students to practice their English.

The goal of the day, which will take place on September 29, is to bring employees from companies to local organizations for a day of learning about pressing needs in the community, the organization's activities to meet those needs, and to volunteer.

This year, employees from Partners + Simons, a marketing firm in South Boston, will come help Centro clients improve their resumes and work on their job search.

## Perfil Client Profile



Elsa poses with Centro employee, Walter Osorno.

**"My life is completely changed from what it was ten years ago. I have become independent and can navigate community resources much easier than before, and I owe that to Centro."**

Elsa Esperias' life now is drastically different from when she first came to Centro ten years ago. She had just arrived from Guatemala and was struggling from an illness that was affecting her and her unborn child. In Centro's Health Department, she found support and referrals to services that helped her find housing, work and health care. Centro's immigration services helped reunite her with her children in Boston. Now, she is enrolled in a Spanish literacy class, where she is strengthening her reading and writing skills. Elsa hopes to begin writing her memoirs to share her amazing story.

## Enfoque Program Highlights

### Youth to benefit from Science Exploration Program

Centro's youth program, Jovenes Latinos Saliendo Adelante (Young Latinos Moving Forward) will have access to science projects through a partnership with AXIS—After-school Explorations in Science—a pilot project run through the Intercultural Center for Research in Education. AXIS will send a Science Coach to Centro weekly to work with the JLSA program staff and train them to present themed modules such as: electricity, habitats, planets and sound. The modules include all the instructional

materials for hands-on activities, experiments and project work. The kids will have the opportunity to learn science concepts and apply them in fun and practical ways. Registration for the JLSA program is currently open to Chelsea seventh graders; the program will be starting in October.

### Centro and ABCD expand services to HIV+ clients

Centro Latino is proud to announce a new collaboration with ABCD, the anti-poverty agency in Boston. Through a grant from the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Centro is providing counsel-

ing and support group sessions for HIV+ women at ABCD. Centro's HIV/AIDS staff is pleased to be able to help more people cope with the disease and access the services they need.

### National Latino Aids Awareness Day

The staff of Centro's Health Department is gearing up to participate in National Latino Aids Awareness Day on October 15, 2005. The day will be filled with outreach and activities aimed at breaking the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS.