



Mano a Mano Family Resource Center

A look at what we are achieving

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New Grants

- * Bright Horizons Foundation for Children (June 2008)
- * CVS Caremark Volunteer Challenge Grant (December 2008)
- * Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Eliminate the Digital Divide -In partnership with College of Lake County (June 2008)
- * Lake County Community Foundation (July 2008)

Dates to Remember

Mascarada Gala Fundraiser,
April 18

Kermes, August 30

Greetings!

Welcome to the Winter issue of the Mano a Mano Family Resource Center electronic newsletter. It is our goal to provide information on programs and events sponsored by Mano a Mano.

For more information, go to our new website:

www.manoamanofamilyresourcecenter.org. The financial support for the website was provided by the Chicago Community Trust - Nuestro Futuro.

Mano a Mano Appoints New Board Members

Mano a Mano is excited to announce the appointment of six new directors. They are Hal Coxon, Vice President of Sales & Marketing at Consumers Credit Union; Edgar Vargas, Director of Global Commercial Training at Abbott Laboratories; Mary Charuhas, Dean of Adult Basic Education, GED & ESL at College of Lake County; Edna Molina, ADD Assistant Controller at Abbott Laboratories, Maria Teresa Rodriguez, Tax Professional at H&R Block; and Volney Rodriguez, Technical Staff at Motorola. These past six months Mano a Mano embarked on this project of recruiting new board members and we exceeded the expectation. We are excited to bring on board enthusiastic and charismatic people, committed to our mission.

Free Spanish Classes

Mano a Mano began a Spanish program in January. Classes meet twice a week for two hours. We hope to be able to expand the program in the future to be able to offer different and more convenient schedules.

The response from the community has been great and we invite volunteer Spanish teachers to join us in this effort to teach Spanish to the community. Classes fill quickly so please call (847) 201-1521 to enroll.

Eliminate the Digital Divide" Grant awarded for computer equipment & training

A grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity through the College of Lake County has allowed Mano a Mano to update its existing computer lab to become a Community Technology Center. Qualified staff will train low-income individuals in this part of the county. Students will have access to technology and computer training, including job readiness classes using Illinois WorkNet, the free portal that provides career, education, and work support information for Illinois residents and businesses.

The primary learning objectives include understanding basic technology terminology and equipment, using computers and productivity software to organize and create information, and utilizing computer and communications software to access and transmit information.

The Center will provide general access to computers to the public as well as computer classes and job readiness workshops that will include sessions on resume writing, career planning and job search. Students will also be linked to other advanced educational programs as well as Mano a Mano's GED and ESL classes.



Thank you to all Kermes Sponsors

The 2008 Annual Kermes festival helped raise funds to sustain Mano a Mano's programs. This year the event raised over \$10,000. We could not have held the event without our sponsors.

Special thanks to all of them. They are listed below:

Raymond Chevrolet and Kia	Consumers Credit Union	Saddlebrook Farms
United Way of Lake County	Baxter	Office Max
Alejandro Pizarro Insurance Agency	Hernandez Grocery & Liquors	Home Depot
Nueva Semana Newspaper	Great Lake Credit Union	US Army
Catholic Charities	University of Illinois	Manjarres & Associates
Hospice of Northern Illinois	Cuna's Formal Wear	College of Lake County
E.O Schweitzer Manufacturing	Hon. Mark and Dee Beaubien	LTN Staffing
Vianney Hair Salon	Acres Group	U.S Marketing Inc.
Great Oaks Landscaping Inc.	NorStates Bank	Ace Hardware
A-J Self Storage	Pro/Data Payroll Services, Inc.	Select Remedy
Vision of Beauty Salon	Azteca Pizza & Taqueria	Dulceria Mundo Nuevo
Comida Don Lupe	Tasty Concessions	Oscar's Mix Productions
Golden Fence	Harter & Schottland	Bruce Johnson

Please save the date, **Sunday August 30th** for the 2009 Mano a Mano Kermes.

Bright Spaces give children a cozy place to play

Bright Spaces enables children to discover the magic of childhood in cozy, comfortable surroundings. Mano a Mano proudly opened this safe and beautiful new space for children. Thanks to the Bright Horizons Foundation for Children, Mano a Mano's Bright Space room was transformed into a warm, inviting area where children at risk can simply be children.

"Mano a Mano is excited about this safe and beautiful new space where our children will be able to play and learn. We feel fortunate to have been approved as a Bright Space location," said Carolina Duque, Executive Director for Mano a Mano.

Studies have shown that children of all ages thrive when they have a safe place in which to explore the world around them, filled with books, toys and activities that are developmentally appropriate and provide an opportunity for them to discover the magic of childhood. A special playroom designed just to meet their needs can become a valuable tool for children and families trying to maintain a sense of normalcy and routine in a very difficult situation.



**Mano a Mano
Family Resource Center**

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STAFF MEMBERS

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HR Case Manager

Mayra Mena
Receptionist A.M.

Carla Rodriguez
Receptionist P. M.

Maria Garcia
Caritina Ayala
Childcare Providers



State Farm Insurance Companies becomes one of Mano a Mano's Friends

State Farm, through agent Alejandro Pizarro, donated \$2,000 to Mano a Mano to support its GED program. A plaque will be displayed at the Family Resource Center's lobby for two years in recognition for their generous contribution. Mano a Mano has provided GED classes since its inception in 2000. Last fiscal year, 15 students graduated and obtained their GED diploma.

"State Farm believes in giving back to the community," said Alejandro Pizarro. "We know Mano a Mano makes an impact in the Hispanic/Latino community and that's what attracted us to them."

If you or your company are interested in supporting one of our programs and becoming one of Mano a Mano's Friends, please contact Mano a Mano at (847) 201-1521.

"The Mission of Mano a Mano is to empower immigrant and underserved families of Lake County to become full participants in American life by providing quality programs and services that educate and establish links to essential community resources. Our mission is sustained by our respect for human dignity and our belief in the equality of all people."