



# Mano a Mano Family Resource Center

*A look at what we are achieving*

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## Greetings!

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

For more information, go to our website  
[www.manoamanofamilyresourcecenter.org](http://www.manoamanofamilyresourcecenter.org)

Financial support for the website was provided by the Chicago Community Trust - Nuestro Futuro.

### Thanks to our GED team

We thank our GED team who helped these 22 students obtain the GED diploma. They are:

Olinda Duque - GED teacher and program coordinator

Diana Cardenas - GED teacher

Volunteer Tutors:

Angel Garcia

Andres Jacobi

Monica Velasco

## Mano a Mano Graduates 22 Students

On Sunday May 17th, 18 out of the 22 Mano a Mano students who obtained their GED attended the College of Lake County graduation ceremony. This is the biggest group of Mano a Mano graduates since the program started in 2001. "We are so proud of them and excited to see them succeed. They made great efforts to obtain this diploma, this truly is a great accomplishment" said Olinda Duque, GED program coordinator. Mano a Mano also provides career counseling and connects GED graduates with educational programs in the area so they can continue and move on to professional careers. As of May 2009, 87 students are on a waiting list for GED classes at Mano a Mano.



### Dates to Remember

Mano a Mano  
6th Annual Kermés and Health Fair

August 30, 2009 from 1pm to 7pm at the Round Lake Beach Cultural & Civic Center.

For Sponsorship opportunities contact Mano a Mano at 847-201-1521

## Mano a Mano has a new *Promotoras de Salud* (Community Health Educators) Program



Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County

Mano a Mano obtained a \$35,000 grant from Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County to expand its existing Health Education Program. The program will continue to provide health education seminars and workshops, information and referral services and will continue to help people apply for government programs including AllKids, Medicaid and Medicare. The expansion of the program will include the training of up to 10 Community Health Educators (CHE)/Promotoras de Salud that will work under the supervision of Mano a Mano's Health Education Program Manager. These CHEs will be members of the community that will go out and educate community members on health related issues including diabetes, exercise, nutrition, hypertension, first aid, reproductive health, HIV, depression, and domestic violence, among others. "Community Health Educators are the best trainers since they come from the community, know the community needs, and can better communicate with people from their own immigrant community" said Carolina Duque, Executive Director of Mano a Mano. "They will be role models for their communities and will be empowered through training and education" Duque added. Our goal is that Promotoras will continue their education in the Health field. Mano a Mano will work with College of Lake County to help Promotoras obtain scholarships and all the assistance they need to continue their academic work.

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## Mano a Mano's Executive Director receives United Way "Be Bold Award"



On April 23rd, Carolina Duque, Mano a Mano's Executive Director received the "Be Bold Award" presented by the Women's Leadership Council of United Way of Lake County. Carolina received the award under the Community category. The Women's Leadership Council honors courageous and compassionate women who take action to make a difference for Lake County women and children. The program is designed to motivate other women to be bold and become actively engaged in efforts that provide women and children of Lake County opportunities to succeed. The Community Award was given to Carolina for being a "leader

who creatively advances positive social change that uplifts the consciousness of her community to the needs of those less fortunate".

### Staff Spotlight

#### Mano a Mano's New Graduate

Congratulations to Jose Ruiz, Mano a Mano Business Manager who recently graduated from National Louis University. He obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management. Jose is now taking classes at North Park University to obtain a Master's Degree in Business Administration.



## New Grant to Expand Employment Connection Program

**GRAND VICTORIA  
FOUNDATION**

With the support of Grand Victoria Foundation, Mano a Mano will expand its Employment Connection Program. The program will help low income Latino immigrants obtain and maintain employment by providing job readiness workshops, career development training, and employment connection services. We will also connect students with adult education programs at Mano a Mano or at outside institutions that can help them develop the skills they need to become employed or improve their employment situation. As employment in the Chicago area continues to shift from manufacturing to service and technology industries, Spanish-speaking immigrants must be prepared to be competitive in the labor market. This project addresses the need for a qualified and prepared labor force that responds to the challenges of the current global economy. These immigrants need to be able to use a computer, speak English and have - as a minimum - their GED diploma. This project will not only link them to employment opportunities but will help them to be better prepared and more competitive in the labor market by providing the training and resources they need to succeed. This project will help Mano a Mano ensure that Latino immigrants in Lake County can rise through the employment hierarchy and become more prosperous. By advancing their careers, they will be able to more fully contribute to the prosperity of the entire region.

## New Police Consultation Sessions

Mano a Mano recently introduced a new service to the already extensive lineup of programs available to the community. Partnering with the Round Lake Park Police Department, we are offering an opportunity for residents to discuss community issues with the local Police Department. The discussion sessions are offered every Monday from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. A bilingual officer answers any questions people might have regarding local ordinances and laws. Items for discussion include questions regarding gangs, police tickets, what police officers can and cannot do, along with your rights as a local resident.



The goal of the discussion group is to build a bridge between law enforcement and the immigrant community. Many community members have questions regarding laws but are unsure where to find answers - and now they can come to Mano a Mano to get them.

In addition to answering questions, a Round Lake Park Police Officer will also go over how to file a police report, obtain an order of protection and file a complaint at the police department.

## Do not miss Kermes 2009

Mano a Mano Family Resource Center will host its 6th Annual Kermés Festival on Sunday, August 30, 2009 from 1pm to 7pm at the Round Lake Beach Cultural & Civic Center. A Kermes is a community festival, traditional in many Latin American countries, where families come together to enjoy games, music, food, raffles and much more. This year's festival will be featuring a "BE HEALTHY!" Mano a Mano annual Health Fair, where different healthcare providers will be conducting health screenings and providing health education.

The proceeds from the event will be used to support our programs which include GED, computer, English as a Second Language and Spanish classes, Employment Connection, Homework Help, Information and Referral, Health Education, Kindergarten Readiness and Child-care.

For Sponsorship Opportunities contact Mano a Mano at 847-201-1521

## Mano a Mano Appoints New Board Member

On June 2009, Mano a Mano Board of Directors unanimously voted to appoint Jorge Contreras as a board of directors for a three year term. Jorge has been involved with Mano a Mano since its inception, as his parents have been clients of the center since the year 2000. Jorge is the founder of Astros del Futbol soccer school that currently has 68 active participants of all ages. He works as the Maintenance Production Manager for Mariani Landscape. Bruce Johnson, Founder and Chair of its Development Committee stated that Mano a Mano is truly blessed to have such a passionate and committed community member join our Board of Directors. Many have benefited from Jorge's volunteer community efforts and we look forward to his leadership in furthering Mano a Mano's important life, family, and community enhancing mission. Jorge lives in Round Lake and is the father of 3 children with another one on the way!

**Mano a Mano  
Family Resource Center**

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Round Lake Park, Illinois  
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English: 847-201-1521  
Spanish: 847-201-1522

www.manoamanofamilyresourcecenter.org



*"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."*

**STAFF MEMBERS**

**Caritina Ayala**  
*Childcare Provider*

**Ericka Barrientos**  
*HR Case Manager*

**Carolina Duque**  
*Executive Director*

**Olinda Duque**  
*Program Manager*

**Mayra Mena**  
*Receptionist A.M.*

**Maria Garcia**  
*Childcare Provider*

**Rafael Garcia**  
*Outreach Coordinator*

**Carla Rodriguez**  
*Receptionist P. M.*

**Jose Ruiz**  
*Business Manager*

**Guadalupe Zepeda**  
*I & R Case Manager*

**Mano a Mano Gala was a Total Success**

Together, we raised over \$30,000 that will help support Mano a Mano's GED classes, Kindergarten Camps, Citizenship Classes, and other programs.

Special thanks to our Sponsors

**Fantástico \$2,500 - \$4,999**  
ComEd

**Maravilloso \$1,000 - \$2,499**  
Baxter

Hon. & Mrs. Mark and Dee Beaubien  
Consumers Credit Union  
Harris Bank

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce and Dee Dee Johnson  
NorStates Bank  
Saddlebrook Farms  
Turks' greenhouses  
Village of Round Lake Beach

**Supporters \$500 - \$999**

Mr. & Hon. Jim and Judy Armstrong, Cherokee Printing, College of Lake County, Mr. Darl E. Drummond, Harter & Schottland, P.C., Lake Forest Hospital, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sands and Betsy Dietel, Valsamas & Associates

and our dedicated Board of Directors for their constant and generous support.  
On behalf of Mano a Mano and all those who have been helped by your support of Mano a Mano's mission, we send our grateful "thanks" to each and every one of you!