



Mano a Mano Family Resource Center

May 2007

Volume 2, Issue 1

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT—SHERRY RIDGE

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MANO A MANO OFFICERS

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I'm often asked, "What does Mano a Mano do?" My natural response is, "We change lives and we help make our community better."

Upon further thought of this question I recall words from our founders, Bruce Johnson and the late Village of Round Lake Park Mayor, Ila Bauer. Bruce once wrote that Mano a Mano is the **most significant initiative** he has been associated with. Ila's son shared at her funeral service that she wanted the community to, "**Don't go backwards.**" These sentiments represent, for me, what Mano a Mano

does...**Moves forward and makes a significant difference.**

We have made a significant difference in the lives of those we have served and the communities they live in. But we could not have done it without the support of our donors, grantors, volunteers, staff and dedicated community leaders that promote and support our mission.

We have had a great year, we increased the number of our volunteers, we served more community members, we built bridges to and with other local organizations, we strengthened relationships

with surrounding municipalities, we added new services, we broke fundraising records with our annual gala, we added new board members, we dedicated time and resources (through our volunteers) to training our staff and board of directors, we celebrated many accomplishments of our clients, we distributed over 900 presents to children at Christmas time and much more.

As we continue to move forward we need help, please consider volunteering at Mano a Mano. I can promise that it will be rewarding, fulfilling and appreciated. Your time and efforts can make a significant difference.

Sherry Ridge

"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."

GED GRADUATE EARNS CLC SCHOLARSHIP



"The GED Program, Mano a Mano and C.L.C. are the tools that will take me to succeed in accomplishing what I now believe is a dream "A Bachelor's degree" Felipe Padilla

Felipe Padilla celebrated earning his GED at a CLC graduation on Mother's Day.

As a child he finished his education at his elementary school graduation so that he could work to help his family, he never thought he would go back to school, let alone earn a GED. He enrolled in our GED program

and humbly gives credit for his success to Mano a Mano and his teachers; Everardo Sanchez and Olinda Duque.

Felipe earned the highest score on the GED test and is receiving a scholarship from CLC to continue his studies

Great job, Felipe, your Mano a Mano family is proud of you!!

What our clients are saying about US...

"I won this award because of Mano a Mano."
Juan Amador



Juan is an ESL/Citizenship class graduate that earned an award for most improved at his work. He also was our guest speaker at this year's annual gala.

Juan shared that when he came to Mano a Mano he could speak some English but could not read or write it and after completing the ESL, English as a Second Language, classes he was able to speak better and read and write English. This allowed him to go from a dishwasher to a kitchen manager for Uno's Pizzeria in Gurnee.

He is also happy that as a homeowner in Round Lake he can now read all the mail that comes to his home.

"I want to congratulate you guys from Mano a Mano you are doing an excellent job. I have learned a lot from you. You touch my heart; you are a good example for all people."
Francisco Salgado

CARNIVALE CALIENTE ~ 2007 ANNUAL GALA

Mano a Mano Family Resource Center Foundation held its 6th Annual 2007 Gala, *Carnivale Caliente*, on Saturday, April 28, at the Round Lake Beach Cultural & Civic Center.

To date this was our most successful Gala, over 180 guests attended and we raised over \$30,000 (see page 3 for our top sponsors) which will be

used to directly benefit the community members who use our programs and services.

Thanks go to Judy Armstrong, Gala Chairwoman and her committee as well as to the many sponsors, attendees and board members who helped make this a success!

Mark your calendars for next years fun filled event...April 12, 2008!



Lake Forest Hospital CareCoach nurse Terri Klowden and Robert Andronowitz

Information and Referral / Outreach and Interpretation Program

By Wendy Guerrero-Rivera

WERE YOU CAN FIND INFORMATION ABOUT:

This program helps people with information and referrals to other agencies and services such as, legal services, food pantries, clothing, housing, domestic violence cases, immigration, medical services, education, school district information, social security administration, etc.

We also provide assistance with making phone calls, interpreting in court, translating documents, reading and making sure clients understand letters they receive. We have a great collaborative relationship with many local

agencies and institutions like the Round Lake Area public library and park district.

We help clients that need to apply for Public Assistance or DHS programs such as Food Stamps, Medicaid and Allkids. We provide public benefit meetings to make sure that the information about these services and programs are known to the people that need it. We do everything we can to help our clients that come through our doors and are in many cases in desperate need and have nowhere else to turn. Sometimes all we

can do is listen and provide a general orientation.

Clients always leave our office with some kind of information and/or referral and possible options they may have not had before.

We genuinely look forward to serving and assisting **everyone** that comes to Mano a Mano!

As an Allkids Authorized Agent, we have completed 196 Allkids applications with an approval rate of 98%, since July of 2006



CALL US...WE CAN HELP YOU

Wendy Guerrero-Rivera, Case Manager

847-201-1521

This program is supported by the Illinois Department of Human Services and ICIRR

THE EASTER BUNNY VISITS MANO A MANO

On March 29, ESL volunteer teacher, Kaya Demaree along with her son and his Cub Scout den hosted an Easter celebration for the children of our staff, volunteers and clients.

Office Manager, Jose Ruiz, received a wonderful gift, an Easter Bunny costume. Jose wears many hats at the center and now has a new pair of ears to wear as well.

Much fun was had by all. The scouts made sure that all the children left with a goody bag



and fond memories. For some it was their first experience of American Easter traditions.

It is special people like Kaya that help to make it possible for our doors to remain open. She has been teaching English to our clients for almost a year and is an active parishioner of The Chapel, she has been instrumental with helping Mano a Mano.

For our Children's Holiday Celebration The Chapel and their youth group were responsible for wrapping the more than 900 gifts that we distributed to the children of Mano a Mano.

We are confident that Kaya, would strongly encourage you to join our volunteers and



Guadalupe Zepeda, Easter Bunny, Carolina Duque and Cub Scouts from Den 8 Pack 72

share how rewarding giving back to the community can be.

A BIG THANKS TO KAYA AND HER FAMILY!!

Carnivale Caliente Sponsors

Caliente Sponsor \$5,000 and above
Commonwealth Edison

Hot Sponsor \$1,000 - \$4,999
Honorable and Mrs. Mark Beaubien Consumers Credit Union Harter & Schottland P.C. William and Cheryl Johnson Family Nicor Reflejos Newspaper Sherrydebtfree.com Village of Round Lake Beach Sam Yingling-New Century Real Estate

Sponsor \$500 - \$999
Advocate Health Care Armstrong Family Baxter Healthcare College of Lake County George & Jan Filenko Harris Bank Round Lake/Fox Lake Bruce and D. D. Johnson Lake Forest Hospital Landecon Inc. Chief Doug Larsson Saddlebrook Farms

(See our annual report this fall for a complete listing of all Gala donations)

WHAT'S NEW AT MANO A MANO...

So far this fiscal year we have been able to implement new initiatives, services and programs all to the credit of our Executive Director, staff, volunteers and donors. Here are some examples:

- * Conversational English
- * Lake Forest Hospital Care-Coach
- * Staff & Board training
- * Job Fairs
- * Cub Scout Den Sponsor

- * Ellis School Progressive learning collaboration
- * Community Action partnership
- * RL Exchange Club Freedom Shrine
- * A date with your health seminars: Anxiety, Diabetes, Gardening
- * Rummage Sale
- * Voter Registration
- * Children's Holiday Celebration
- * Completion and implementation of Strategic Plan
- * GNHS Spanish Speaking Parent Night partnering
- * Money smart workshop

As you can see we keep busy working to make this a better community for all.

MANO A MANO'S KERMESSE ~ JUNE 23, 2007

Don't miss our annual family street fair, Kermesse on Saturday, June 23 from 3-10 p.m. at Mano a Mano. Parking will be at Murphy School.

Entrance fee's are only \$1.00 for adults and \$.50 for children. Come out and have a fun family day!! Current Sponsors are:

Red-Hot Habanero

American Family Ins., Carrie Espinosa Agency
BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois
Consumers Credit Union
Grand Mortgage
Great Lakes Credit Union

Hernandez Grocery
LTN Staffing
Mendoza Grocery II
New Century, Martina Cortes
Perez Auto Center, Inc.
Protecta Home Loans
Sherrydebtfree.com
State Farm Insurance,
Alejandro Pizarro Agency

Habanero

McGinty, Inc
RL Area Chamber

Jalapeno

A-J Self Storage

Cambridge Courts
Chicky Johnson, ReMax
I Love Pets
Londono's Auto
Norstates Bank
Xavier Parreno
The Home Depot RL & VH

Poblano

Joyeria El Dorado & Western Wear
Round Lake Market
Supermercado Azteca

See our next issue for all 2007 Kermesse sponsors!!

**Mano a Mano
Family Resource Center**

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*Empowering
Lake County*

STAMP

STAFF MEMBERS

Carolina Duque
Executive Director

Jose Ruiz
Office Manager

Patty Chairez
Childcare Provider

Wendy Guerrero-Rivera
I & R Case Manager

Mayra Mena
Receptionist P. M.

Celina Rodriguez
HR Case Manager

Olinda Torres
Program Manager

Guadalupe Zepeda
Receptionist A.M.



STAFF / BOARD SPOTLIGHT

EMBRACING OUR DIVERSITY

Over 10 countries are represented through our staff and board of directors, while we work to empower new comers to our country we also celebrate and embrace our own diversity.

The following countries

represent the family heritage of our staff and board of directors:

Chile
Colombia
Czechoslovakia
Denmark
El Salvador
France

Germany
Ireland
Italy
Mexico
Poland
Russia
Spain
Sweden
Ukraine

MAJOR DONOR CORNER

While each and every donation to Mano a Mano Family Resource Center Foundation is valued, we are appreciative to those who have made significant monetary donations (over \$1,500) to our mission this fiscal year:

Honorable & Mrs. Mark Beaubien
ComEd
Arthur Johnson
Bruce and D.D. Johnson
William & Cheryl Johnson Family

Chuck Fanaro
Horizon's Unlimited Foundation
R. J. Mullen Family Foundation
Randy & Sherry Ridge

(This list does not include grants received, see our annual report for complete listing)