

*Creciendo Juntos – Growing Together*



# *CJ Update: Que pasa?*

April 26, 2007

# *Mission Statement*



*“We are a network of organizations and people working to support and strengthen the Charlottesville regional community through the integration and development of its Latino/Hispanic members.”*

*“Somos una red de organizaciones y personas que trabajamos para apoyar y fortalecer la comunidad de la región de Charlottesville a través de la integración y desarrollo de sus miembros Latinos/Hispanos.”*

# *2006 Retreat: Aligning Goals and Resources*



## *GOALS:*

- Expand service providers' capacity to deliver to Latino households.*
- Reach out to Latinos to educate, empower and connect them to the community and services.*
- Integrate Latino and non-Latino communities; celebrate diversity.*

# *2006 Retreat: Aligning Goals and Resources*



## *RESOURCES:*

- *City/County funding of \$25,000 for FY07/08.*
- *Base support from Piedmont Housing Alliance.*
- *Volunteers from the community and UVA.*
- *Front line professionals and service provider staff.*
- *Service providers and their programs.*
- *Churches.*
- *State agencies.*
- *Private sector and foundations.*

# *Who's Involved*



- *More than 70 different agencies and organizations.*
- *Over 150 people.*
- *Latinos and non-Latinos; monolingual and multilingual.*
- *Various sectors represented, including: health, housing, communications media, business, legal, the University of Virginia, local and regional planning, public safety, education, public transportation, social services, churches, chambers of commerce, and real estate, among others.*

# *Some Current Activities*



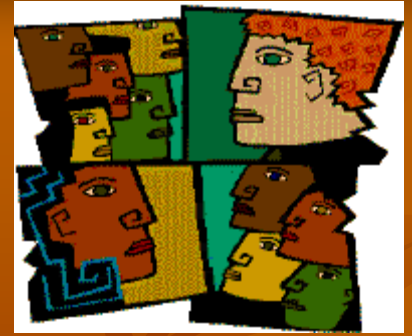
- *Website.*
- *News Alerts.*
- *Plenary meetings to train, educate and network.*
- *Working Group activities.*
- *Research.*
- *Education of local leaders, decision makers and institutions.*
- *Mexican consulate visit this Summer. Honduran consulate back in January.*

# *Some Current Activities*



- *May 24 plenary with US Attorney.*
- *CJ on the Governor's Latino Advisory Board.*
- *Networking statewide with CJ-like groups (Harrisonburg, Richmond).*
- *Helping UVA connect to the community.*
- *Networking to assist CCF focus groups.*
- *Advising Habitat for Humanity on Southwood trailer park.*
- *Participating in May 12 International Day Fair.*

# *Working Groups*



- *Community Services*
- *Southwood*
- *Health Promoters*
- *Education on Immigration Law*
- *Workforce and Business*
- *Member Orientation*
- *Parent Outreach*
- *Mental Health Initiative*
- *CJ Website*
- *CJ News Alerts*

# *Community Services Working Group*



- *Enhancing interpretation services at MJH and UVA.*
- *Preparing for an agency staff training event.*
- *Planning for Help Fair 2007.*
- *Coordinator: Rhonda Miska (Church of the Incarnation).*

# *Southwood Working Group*



- For two years the working group has been the reference point for information and networking related to Southwood trailer park, home to several hundred Hispanic households.*
- The WG operates a comprehensive web page about Southwood.*
- The group's present focus is identifying needs of Latino residents and facilitating a response to them. The coordinator serves as a member of Habitat's Southwood Strategic Committee, advocating on behalf of Latino residents.*
- Coordinator: Linda Hemby (Albemarle County Social Services).*

# *Health Promoters Working Group*



- *An initiative of health professionals who have experience in the "Promotores de Salud" model and/or have worked in Southwood.*
- *Working towards training Southwood Latinos/as as health promoters.*
- *The group will also organize a panel on the Promoter model.*
- *Coordinator: Lindsey Holcomb (Sexual Assault Resource Agency/SARA).*

# *Education on Immigrant Law Working Group*



- Recent initiative to help Hispanics organize their documentation related to changes in immigration law, and to ensure they know their rights.*
- Educational workshop for Latinos set for Monday, May 14, 6-8 pm at Church of the Incarnation.*
- Coordinator: Rhonda Miska (Church of the Incarnation).*

# *Workforce and Business Working Group*



- *Job Fair with Virginia Employment Commission, Chamber of Commerce, among others, Summer 2007.*
- *Educating employers seeking to hire and retain Hispanic workers.*
- *Assisting Hispanic-owned businesses.*
- *Coordinator: Peter Loach (Piedmont Housing Alliance)*

# *Member Orientation Working Group*



- *Outreach to new CJ members and their agencies to provide orientation to CJ goals and activities.*
- *Coordinators: Jo Olsen (Piedmont Housing Alliance) and Rebecca Schmidt (Planned Parenthood of the Blue Ridge).*

# *Parent Outreach Program for Latinos*



- *A pilot program beginning in the fall, oriented to parents of children learning English, and consisting of monthly meetings at Burley Middle School that afford opportunities to learn about community resources and network with bilingual service providers.*
- *Coordinator: Courtney Stewart (Albemarle County Public Schools).*

# *Mental Health Initiative*



- *An effort to identify local bilingual mental health therapists, create a directory of services and fees, and to plan a forum on Latinos and mental health.*
- *Coordinator: Linda Hemby (Albemarle County Social Services).*

# *CJ Website*



- *Since April 2006, the CJ web site has functioned as a bilingual clearinghouse of information and resources, to increase awareness among service providers about the local Latino population, and to share resources, facilitate networking, and in other ways enhance the capacity of service providers to respond to our ever increasing Spanish language residents.*
- *[www.cj-network.org](http://www.cj-network.org).*
- *Coordinator: Linda Hemby (Albemarle County Social Services);  
Webmaster: Rolando Mendez (UVA student).*

# *CJ News Alerts*



- *Provides service providers working with Latinos an opportunity to learn about or share information, announcements, and resources about and for our local Latino population, as well as to advertise for or search for bilingual job vacancies.*
- *Coordinator: Linda Hemby (Albemarle County Social Services).*

# *Getting Involved*



- *Meet colleagues and connect. Share questions, share best practices.*
- *Meet and connect with Hispanic clients.*
- *Utilize web site to educate and share.*
- *Use news alerts to educate and share.*
- *Team up through working groups on concrete activities.*
- *Take the initiative.*