

BIENVENIDO

The Bienvenido Program is a prevention intervention program that increases access to mental health services, improves mental health, and quality of life of Latino immigrants.

Bienvenido Facilitator Trainings Launched

On July 26, 2007 Northeastern Center launched its Bienvenido Facilitator Trainings in partnership with the Learning Generation Initiative (LGI) of Elkhart and LaGrange County. A total of 15 LGI students were present. The LGI students will receive 16 hours of class instruction and 10 hours of consultation support for implementation of the Bienvenido Program. Enthusiasm is high and the facilitators are engaging each other and working hard at preparing to become facilitators of the Bienvenido curriculum. A total of 40 LGI students will be trained throughout the course of 2007-2008. For training information, contact Gilberto Pérez at gperez@nec.org

Bienvenido Program Engaging the Community

West Noble School Corporation - Melanie Tijerina, ENL Director at West Noble School Corporation in Ligonier, IN reports she will begin the Bienvenido Program in October. Melanie has conducted the Bienvenido Program at West Noble High School and continues to be motivated in helping West Noble students adjust to the school setting.

Hidalgo Community Center – On September 6, 2007 Northeastern Center (NEC) will meet with the several leaders and members of the Hidalgo Community Center located in Elkhart, IN. The Center was recently founded by Álvaro Márquez and other leaders of Elkhart, IN. Mr. Márquez, coordinator, has invited NEC to present the Bienvenido Program to their board of directors.

Elkhart Community Soccer Complex – On August 16, 2007 NEC personnel met with Rene Torres, Pedro Manríquez, and Carlos Torres, staff of the Elkhart Community Soccer Complex in Elkhart with the purpose of sharing the Bienvenido Program goals and objectives. Our gathering revolved around the idea of training soccer coaches as Bienvenido Facilitators. A second meeting will be held in September that will begin to outline our intentions of a community collaboration project.

Noble County Superior Court – NEC continues to receive referrals from Noble Superior Court for the Bienvenido Program at the Ligonier Outpatient Office in Ligonier, IN. During the last four months we have received 22 referrals. Noble County Probation reports the following data: of the 95 persons (over the last three years) who have been referred to the Bienvenido Program, 85% have successfully completed probation or are currently in compliance while still serving probation.

NEC participates in UNIVISION-Indianapolis Television Program

Carolin Requiz, Office of Minority Health, Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), invited NEC to Participate in a television program for the Latino Community titled, "La Salud de Nuestra Comunidad" (The Health of our Community). The program was directed by Marco Domínguez, Director of Univisión and produced by Mari Yamaguchi, Univisión Indianapolis. The program was directed at providing information on diabetes, mental health, and how to access services in Indiana. The program aired on July 14, 2007 in Central Indiana. The Office of Minority Health will make available copies of the program to health centers, mental health centers, and other community agencies. Pictured from left to right are: Dr. Javier Sevilla, M.D., IUPUI Medical School, Carolin Requiz, ISDH, and Gilberto Pérez Jr., NEC.



NEC sponsors local youth soccer team

On July 7, 2007, Frank Pizaña, NEC Bienvenido Facilitator, was part of a community soccer game that brought together a local youth soccer team and FC Indiana, a semi-professional women's soccer team. NEC sponsored the local youth soccer team with t-shirts. The two played at the Cross Walk, United Methodist Church, soccer field for a friendly game of soccer. The youth were excited to play against a semi-professional team.



Bienvenido Program staff volunteer at Operation Foundation, Ligonier

On July 27, 2007 Frank Pizaña and Gilberto Pérez volunteered at the Operation Foundation project in Ligonier. The Future Ligonier Alliance coordinated the week long work project. The Operation Foundation project brought over 200 volunteers to work on various work projects in Ligonier. Individuals scraped and painted downtown buildings, shingled roofs, cleaned the river, and did many other tasks. Many congratulations to the planning committee of Operation Foundation. We look forward to hearing more from the Future Ligonier Alliance and collaborating with future community projects.

NEC invited to submit an article to NAMI Avanzamos

Majose Carrasco, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Multicultural Action Center, has invited NEC to submit an article on the Bienvenido Facilitator Trainings. The article will highlight a brief history of the Bienvenido Program, its current work with LGI students, and its vision for the Bienvenido Empowerment Training Center.

Upcoming Bienvenido Presentations and Meetings

- August 28 – Healthy Families, LaGrange
- September 6 – Hidalgo Community Center, Elkhart
- September 12 – NE Indiana Area Health Education Center, Fort Wayne
- September 18 – Ligonier Chamber of Commerce
- September 19 – Drug-Free Noble County, Albion
- October 4 – Latino Coalition, Indianapolis
- October 25 – Celebrate Diversity Project, Ligonier

Bienvenido Advisory Committee Members

Juliana Casillas - El Rincón Latino/News Sun
Frank Pizaña - Northeastern Center
Margarita White - Celebrate Diversity Project
Ryan McCarty – NAMI Indiana
Melanie Tijerina - West Noble Elementary
Matt Bell – LEAP of Noble County
Lilliana Quintero – Hispanic/Latino Health Coalition Elkhart County
José Luis Rivera - Center for Nonviolence
Cris Torres - Goshen College social work student
Marcia Good, Ph.D – Indiana University South Bend
Pablo Hernández, M.D. Wyoming State Hospital

For more information on the Bienvenido Program please contact Gilberto Pérez at gperez@nec.org

Latino Behavioral Health Summit

The summit is scheduled for November 8-9, 2007 at Pokagon State Park in Angola, IN. Our summit theme is ***Building Sustainable Latino Behavioral Health Initiatives in the Latino Community***. This year's summit will feature a university student led forum. Universities participating in the student led forum include: Goshen College, Grace College, St. Mary's College, University of Notre Dame, and Indiana Purdue University Fort Wayne.

Our keynote speakers are:

Dr. Judith A. Monroe, M.D. Indiana State Department of Health
Cheryl Shearer, ACSW, LCSW, Family Social Services Administration
Dr. Daniel Lende, Ph.D., University of Notre Dame, Department of Anthropology
Dr. Delia Saldaña, Ph.D., University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, TX

If you would like a registration form email Stacey West at swest@nec.org or call 1-800-229-5510.