

# 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 groups continue to unfold in Northeast Indiana**

We are happy to report that various Bienvenido Facilitators have implemented the Bienvenido Program in Northeast Indiana. Northeastern Center congratulates each one of the facilitators for taking the initiative to work with the Latino community:

Bienvenido at LEAP of Noble County – Ligonier  
**Liliana Quintero, Karie Karasiak, Gilberto Pérez**

Bienvenido at St. Patrick's Catholic Church – Ligonier  
**Araceli Pacheco, Javier Ramos, Juan Ortiz, Karie Karasiak**

Bienvenido at NEC – Ligonier  
**Frank Pizaña**

Bienvenido at Freedom Wire, Inc. – Cromwell, IN  
**Glenis Sundberg**

Bienvenido at Learning Generation – Goshen, IN  
**Maria de la Luz Duran**

Bienvenido at Learning Generation – Elkhart, IN  
**Irma Ortiz and Londy Velazco**

Bienvenido at Learning Generation – LaGrange, IN  
**Mariela Gómez**



## **Bienvenido Facilitator Network**

Individuals from Learning Generation Initiative who participated in the Bienvenido Facilitator Training in August 2007 and March 2008 have organized to create the Bienvenido Facilitator Network. The purpose of the network is to provide moral support to Bienvenido Facilitators, share ideas about program implementation, receive additional behavioral health training, and create opportunities for networking. Londy Velazco coordinates the Bienvenido Facilitator Network. Additional training has been provided by Northeastern Center in the Strength's Perspective and crisis intervention. The network meets once a month in Elkhart, IN.

## **Northeastern Center and Freedom Wire sign MOA**

Northeastern Center (NEC) and Freedom Wire, Inc., signed a memorandum of agreement to have the Bienvenido Program implemented at Freedom Wire in Cromwell, IN. Glenis Sundberg, M.S. is facilitating the Bienvenido classes. NEC appreciates Mr. Michael Hatfield's, owner, willingness to open his business for NEC staff to conduct the Bienvenido lessons with 14 Latino employees. In addition to the Bienvenido lessons, four cross-cultural dialogues will be conducted with all Freedom Wire employees. Mr. Hatfield reports that employees are putting into practice the communication skills they are learning in the Bienvenido classes. NEC values this partnership and the opportunity to engage individuals at their workplace.

## **Celebrate Diversity Project awards training grant to Northeastern Center**

NEC was awarded a grant by the Celebrate Diversity Project, Ligonier, IN to conduct a Bienvenido Facilitator Training with five Latino churches from Noble County. The participating churches are: Templo Betel, Centro Evangelistico Ebenezer, Iglesia Luterana, Dios de Amor, and Iglesia de Dios. The grant dollars will be used for training and education material for the participating churches. It is envisioned that Latino pastors will return to their congregations and find ways to either implement with their church members or use the Bienvenido curriculum as an outreach program for their church.

## **Northeastern Center receives funds from Mennonite congregations**

Walnut Hill Mennonite Church, Assembly Mennonite, and Waterford Mennonite Church contributed to the Bienvenido Fund. The gifts made will be directed to several Latino churches from Elkhart County. The donations will be used to purchase Bienvenido student manuals. On May 30, 2008 Walnut Hill, Assembly Mennonite, and Waterford will have an opportunity to meet with Latino pastors and hand out Bienvenido student manuals. We are grateful to Walnut Hill, Assembly Mennonite, and Waterford for their generous gifts that will assist Latino churches in Elkhart County.

## **Northeastern Center attends Latino Faith-Based Summit, Minnesota**

Northeastern Center participated in a Latino Faith Based Summit sponsored by the Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies (CAPT) in St. Paul, MN on May 2, 2008. Current observations in the field have pointed to a need for specific ATOD prevention resources that will be effective to address substance abuse issues within the faith community of the Latino population. The purpose of the meeting was to interact with Latino clergy and mental health and substance abuse providers in order to better understand the needs of Latino faith based organizations and congregations. A second meeting will take place on May 30, 2008 at the Iglesia Comunidad Cristiana Adulam in Goshen. CAPT representatives will be present.

## **Division of Mental Health and Addiction sponsors Bienvenido Facilitator Trainings**

In April and May 2008 NEC conducted Bienvenido Facilitator Trainings with 23 individuals with bilingual therapists, health workers, pastors, community leaders, a psychologist, and a domestic violence coalition from Indiana. Mental health centers represented were from Kokomo, Merrillville, Gary, Terre Haute, Indianapolis, Batesville, and Warsaw. Pastors and community leaders represented congregations and community organizations from Northeast Indiana. The trainings were sponsored by the Division of Mental Health and Addiction. It is envisioned that the therapists, health workers, pastors, and community leaders work to implement the Bienvenido Program in their community. If you would like to learn more about registering for a Bienvenido Facilitator Training, contact Gilberto Pérez at [gperez@nec.org](mailto:gperez@nec.org) or at 260-318-5042.

## **Northeastern Center invited to serve on a National Community Steering Group**

**Project Description.** The goal of the Community-Defined Evidence Project (CDEP) is to identify and document community-based behavioral health practices available to Latinas/os that are believed to work but have not yet been researched. By doing this, the CDEP plans to address some of the behavioral health care problems faced by Latinas/os and other diverse groups.

NEC will serve on the National Community Steering Group alongside various leaders from the U.S. who are actively engaged in offering mental health services to the Latino community. NEC thanks the National Latino Behavioral Health Association for inviting them to serve on this important steering group.

## **Northeastern Center to launch Spanish mental health radio program**

NEC will launch a Spanish mental health radio program for the Latino community in June 2008. The radio program will address mental health issues in the Latino community and have special guests who will share about community resources. NEC is grateful for the opportunity to partner with WLDC, 105.9 FM.



Ruben Santos, WLDC 105.9  
Station Manager

**If you are interested in learning more about the Bienvenido Program, feel free to visit Northeastern Center's website at: [www.nec.org](http://www.nec.org) (Click Latino Services).**