

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 begin in Northeast Indiana

On January 24, 2008 three Bienvenido groups began in Goshen, Elkhart, and LaGrange, IN. Each group had between 8-10 participants. Learning Generation Initiative Instructors who were trained in the Bienvenido Curriculum: Rocío Díaz, Irma Ortiz, Mariela Gómez, Londy Velazco, and Maria Luz received training in August 2006. On February 7, 2008 a fourth Bienvenido group will begin in Ligonier, IN at LEAP of Noble County. Frank Pizana, Northeastern Center staff and Liliana Quintero of the Hispanic/Latino Health Coalition of Elkhart County (HLHCEC) will co-facilitate the Bienvenido group in Ligonier. 28 Latino community members have registered.

Bienvenido Teen Advisory Committee Takes Form

As part of the program evaluation implementation steps Northeastern Center continues to move forward in creating a Bienvenido Teen Advisory Committee. Latino youth will represent Noble County and Elkhart County and will be from Elkhart, Goshen, and Ligonier. The role of the teen advisory committee will be to work with Northeastern Center clinical staff to develop culturally and linguistically appropriate prevention interventions that address mental health of Latino youth.

We are excited to report that the Noble County Community Foundation will offer youth leadership training for Bienvenido Teen Advisory Committee members at their Teens on Boards retreat in June 2008.

Northeastern Center to meet with Ápan, Hidalgo Community Based Organizations

Northeast Indiana has become home to many Latino immigrants from Ápan Hidalgo, Mexico. Many have come to work and begin a new life. In recent months two Hidalgo groups have organized and they meet on a regular basis in Goshen and Elkhart, IN.

Northeastern Center has supported the Hidalgo Community Center in Elkhart, IN by attending several cultural programs they have sponsored. A second Ápan Group that meets in Goshen co-coordinates an immigration task force. Northeastern Center will meet with both Ápan Groups in January and early February to gauge interest in participating in the Bienvenido Program.

Northeastern Center, Noble County and Elkhart County Churches discuss Facilitator Training Possibilities

Noble County Churches: Iglesia Dios de Amor, Templo Betel, Iglesia Luterana, Centro Ebenezer, and Iglesia de Dios have shared they are interested in participating in Northeastern Center's Bienvenido Facilitator Training. A proposal was submitted to the Celebrate Diversity Project with hopes of receiving grant dollars to train pastors and youth pastors from the Noble County Latino churches. Pastor Pedro Tamayo stated that training could help him address the issues of immigration and mental health of his congregants. Pastor Ramiro Macías of Iglesia Dios commented, "I meet with a lot of people and sometimes I feel like I need additional skills to deal with members who are depressed."

Northeastern Center in conjunction with the Iglesia Adulam of Elkhart County submitted a proposal to the Goshen Ministerial Alliance (GMA) with hopes of having GMA financially support a Bienvenido Facilitator Training for Latino pastors and youth pastors of Elkhart County. It is envisioned that GMA churches and sponsored Latino churches would interact with one another as the Bienvenido groups take place. A meeting with Goshen Mennonite Ministerial Council will be held on February 5, 2008 to present this same proposal.

Northeastern Center provides clinical consultation to the Latino Community

Over 25 Latino community members from Ligonier, Goshen, Elkhart, and Nappanee have received clinical consultation for anxiety and worry. Individuals who cannot match their social security number to their driver's license will lose their driving privileges on February 1, 2008. Northeastern Center offers a one-time free consultation with individuals who are experiencing crisis situations with the intention of providing positive alternatives to their current crisis. The Latino's who have taken advantage of the clinical consultation have shared they are concerned about what they will do once their driver's license expires. Northeastern Center clinical staff has encouraged community members to think about car pool options, use of public transportation, and have offered education on relaxation techniques.

Latino Behavioral Health Summit a Success

On November 8-9, 2007 over 109 individuals gathered to attend workshops and hear keynote speakers from the University of Notre Dame, Indiana State Department of Health, and Northeastern Center. The 3rd Annual Latino Behavioral Health Summit brought together individuals from different parts of Indiana as well as Illinois to address issues of Latino behavioral health. This year's summit theme was "Building Sustainable Latino Behavioral Health Issues in the Latino Community." Undergraduate social work students and psychology graduate students from Goshen College, Grace College, and the University of Notre Dame led a student forum that addressed immigration issues. Special guests included Hispanic Liaison staff from Senator Evan Bayh and Senator Richard Lugar.

Northeastern Center facilitates Ligonier Community Dialogue

In December 2007 the Celebrate Diversity Project held another Ligonier Community Dialogue. Gilberto Pérez facilitated the Ligonier Community Dialogue. The dialogue was held at Ligonier Elementary. Over 35 participants were present. The topic of discussion was parental involvement in the child's education. Parents, school administrators, teachers, and one school board member were divided into groups and asked to discuss what each member could do to become more involved in the education of the student at West Noble School Corporation. Several parents offered to volunteer in school-sponsored activities and three parents engaged in dialogue with a school board member regarding school uniforms. Both parents and school officials shared they would like to continue having community dialogues in order to better communicate with each other. The purpose of the Ligonier Community Dialogues has been to foster open communication between members of the Ligonier community.

Indiana Minority Health Coalition Invites Northeastern Center to serve on Conference Committee

Northeastern Center was invited by the Indiana Minority Health Coalition (IMHC) to serve on its Cultural Competency Conference Planning Committee. IMHC in partnership with the Division of Mental Health and Addiction hold an annual cultural competency conference. The conference will take place in June 2008 in Indianapolis.

Bienvenido Facilitator Trainings Taking Shape

Learning Generation Initiative – February 2008 (Indiana)

Learning Generation Initiative – March 2008 (Indiana)

Division of Mental Health and Addiction – April 2008 (Indianapolis)

Division of Mental Health and Addiction – May 2008 (Northern Indiana pastors, youth pastors, and community leaders)

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

If you would like to learn more about registering for a Bienvenido Facilitator Training, contact Gilberto Pérez at gperez@nec.org or at 260-318-5042.