



Vision Statement

Northeastern Center is committed to providing a caring and supportive environment where individuals can achieve their full potential, give and receive respect, and develop personal responsibility, and self-determination.

December 2007

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

In this the fourth year of the Bienvenido Program we honor the Bienvenido participants who have completed the program and our Bienvenido Facilitators who serve our community in Northeast Indiana. It is these participants and facilitators that deserve great applause for their hard work and dedication. Our participants come to us from Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, El Salvador and the United States. Our participants share with us that their Bienvenido classmates are like family and their time together meets their emotional needs. Our participants serve our communities as welders, construction workers, stay-at-home mother's, factory workers, interpreters, and students. We celebrate and honor our participants for sharing their migration stories and being open to learn about mental health education.

We also take this time to honor our Bienvenido Facilitators who have worked this year at implementing the Bienvenido Program. Ellen Krulewitch, Melanie Tijerina, Frank Pizaña, Liliana Quintero, Laura Prado, and José Luis Rivera have worked to implement the Bienvenido Program in various settings in Northeast Indiana. Their devotion to implementing the program as well as their dedication to being available to the Latino community is to be commended. Thank you Bienvenido Facilitators!!

As we conclude another year allow us to share this year's accomplishments and upcoming 2008 activities.

- Northeastern Center received the Clarian Health Award for Excellence in Hispanic/Latino Health Care in Indiana.
- 13 Latino community members were trained in the Bienvenido curriculum.
- The Bienvenido Program evaluation was completed and the implementation steps are underway.
- The 3rd Annual Latino Behavioral Health Summit brought together 109 individuals representing over 35 organizations.

- 12 community agencies joined Northeastern Center in hosting the Latino Behavioral Health Summit.
- Northeastern Center was invited by Cambridge Health Alliance and Harvard Medical School to participate in their research grant proposal to the National Institute of Health.
- 381 Latino community members were served at various Northeastern Center outpatient offices and inpatient hospital.
- Facilitated several Ligonier Community Dialogues that brought together over 150 Ligonier residents to discuss issues such as after school activities for youth, building trusting relationships, and parental involvement in the their children's education.

Upcoming 2008 activities

Capacity Building

- Bienvenido Facilitator Trainings sponsored by the Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction for up to 31 community mental health centers in Indiana.
- Completion of the Bienvenido Facilitator Trainings with the Learning Generation Initiative. A total of 40 community residents will receive the facilitator training.
- Bienvenido Facilitator Training with the Hispanic Mennonite Church in Akron, PA.

Strengthening rural community

- Creation of a Bienvenido Teen Advisory Committee.
- Continued collaboration with the Ligonier Community Dialogues.

Finally, I thank you for your interest in Latino behavioral health at Northeastern Center. We encourage you to become involved with leaders who work daily with the Latino community. Visit your local social service agencies, community mental health centers, schools, and churches to ask how you may serve Latinos who are in need.

Sincerely,

Gilberto Pérez Jr., MSW, ACSW
Director