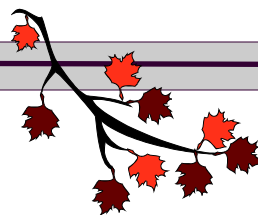


The oldest Latino
non-profit
organization in
New Haven

JUNTA for Progressive Action



Newsletter

Fall 2004

JUNTA would like to thank the Foundations that have supported the organization's efforts in 2004:

Altria Employee Fund, The Carolyn Foundation, The George A. & Grace L. Long Foundation, The Ethel & Abe Lapidet Foundation, Philip Maret Fund, The Mayor's Office - Community Grants and The Northfolk Foundation.

JUNTA'S FALL EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

ESL, GED, Computer, and Adult Literacy

Classes. Starting September 20, JUNTA will once again offer Adult Education classes to community residents wishing to further their education. The Adult Education program is a partnership with New Haven Adult Education Center. **Classes are free of charge and offered in Spanish and English.**

Afterschool Program.

Starting September 27, neighborhood children between the ages of 6 and 12 will begin attending this arts-oriented program after school, enjoying daily classes in painting, drawing, writing, guitar and dancing. Children will also go on field trips to local museums and libraries.

The Afterschool program, which is a partnership with Yale Child Study is free of charge.

The Director's Fall Letter

Fall is one of the busiest times of the year for JUNTA. Many of our programs resume in September, including the Afterschool Program, Adult Education Classes and Yale Law School's Community Lawyering clinic.

This fall, in addition to a busy season we have instituted some organizational changes that I am thrilled to report. For the first time in JUNTA's history, the Board has elected the first ever woman Board President, Pierrette Comulado Silverman. As Board Chair, Pierrette has outlined an ambitious agenda that includes the launching of a capital campaign aimed at continuing and bringing to completion the restoration efforts of JUNTA's historic building. We are grateful for the hard work of former Board President Rafael Ramos, who in 2001 was at the forefront of what we affectionately call the "JUNTA revolution" and as Chair managed to keep a steady

ship, even in choppy waters.

We are also happy to welcome JUNTA's most recent staff member, Ana DeSantiago. Ana is the Program Coordinator for Education and also handles Community Outreach. Ana originally hails from Mexico and is fully bilingual. She is a recent graduate of Yale University, where she majored in Latin American Studies and Ethnicity, Race and Migration. In short time, she has made herself an invaluable part of the JUNTA family, and has already instituted changes that have strengthened the programs that she administers.

Finally, I am happy to report that JUNTA's Economic Development plan is off to a strong start, thanks to the enthusiastic support of Empower New Haven. About two years ago, we formed our first partnership with Empower New Haven in the area of Employ-

ment, and found the relationship to be positive and fruitful. Because of their support, we were able to help hundreds of Latino residents seeking employment or better paying jobs. Under the leadership of Althea Richardson, JUNTA's relationship with Empower New Haven has only strengthened, and we are grateful for their guidance and support of an initiative that we believe will have a significant impact in the lives of many Latinos, substantively improving their quality of life, providing them with an avenue to achieve economic independence and encouraging their contributing to the economic development of their communities.

*Kica Matos
Executive Director*

The Mexican Consulate & JUNTA - working together

Pedestrians and drivers passing by 169 Grand Avenue as early as 6 a.m. on Saturday, August 14 glanced with curiosity at the long lines forming outside the doors of the beautiful Victorian building where JUNTA's offices are located. The occasion: The Mexican Consulate (based in New York City), in partnership with JUNTA, had established a one-day Mobile Consulate in New Haven. The purpose of the consulate was to offer Mexican citizens the opportunity to obtain Mexican passports or Consular ID's, or to renew these forms of identifi-

cation. The response from the Mexican community was overwhelming: approximately 400 Mexican nationals gathered at JUNTA's headquarters to take advantage of this opportunity. After a long and very busy day (the offices were opened from 9:30am to 6:30 pm with no lunch break!), approximately 200 applications were processed, and Mexican citizens were able to leave JUNTA with highly recognized forms of identification from their home country. JUNTA was thrilled to be able to collaborate with the Mexican Consulate on this project and

looks forward to a continuing partnership.



Event participants at JUNTA's back door.

~ CULTURA CRIOLLA ~

On Thursday June 17th approximately 150 guests attended JUNTA's Annual Fundraising Event 2004, titled "Cultura Criolla". This lively annual celebration brings together JUNTA's donors, friends and supporters, while raising funds to benefit JUNTA's programs. *Cultura Criolla's* other purpose was to celebrate the variety of Latino cultures that converge in New Haven.

Dr. James Boger, director of New Haven Adult Education, received this year's JUNTA Award. The Award recognized Dr. Boger's tireless efforts to bring literacy and education to the community, particularly Latino immigrants residing in Fair Haven. For many years, JUNTA and New Haven Adult Education have been partners

in this endeavor, and it is because of Dr. Boger's efforts that literally thousands of immigrants have learned to speak English, obtained a GED or have become computer literate. In a short, but very moving speech, Dr. Boger talked about his work and the future of education in our community.

The party was a huge success. Guests enjoyed the flavorful Mexican buffet, the open bar and of course, JUNTA's signature drink: the homemade fresh Cuban "Mojito", which was served throughout the night. Live music filled the room, and the dance floor quickly filled when the Latino band *Agua P'a Chocolate* started playing.

Some guests visited JUNTA's "silent auction corner" and bid on some

of the wonderful items donated to JUNTA by New Haven merchants.

Whether dancing, chatting, eating, drinking or just relaxing, everybody had a great time, confirming once again that JUNTA's "family" is stronger and more united than ever.

JUNTA would like to thank the following sponsors: *Albertus Magnus College, Citizen's Bank, Hospital of Saint Raphael, Drs. Jerry and Ross Meyer, New Alliance Foundation, The Suzio L. Concrete Company, The United Illuminating Company, SBC-SNET, Scillia, Dowling & Ntarelli LLC and Yale-New Haven Hospital*, as well as our program book advertisers, auction item donors and wonderful guests for making this event a success.

Big Turtle Village '04

The Camp

JUNTA's held its third summer camp this year, which proved to be the biggest and most successful camp to date. Forty neighborhood children, in the company of 5 junior counselors and 10 volunteer adults, spent one wonderful week camping, sharing and learning at Devil's Hopyard State Park in East Haddam, CT. Children went on field trips, took regular hikes and excursions and attended daily educational workshops.

Caitlin Martha

Farrell

This year JUNTA's summer camp benefited from a very special fundraiser: Caitlin Martha Farrell, a 17 years-old Hamden Hall student who spent several weeks in the summer raising money to make

the camp a reality. She heard about JUNTA through a friend, and learned about the camp, the children involved and the existing needs. She decided to do something about it, and reached out to friends, family, classmates, teachers, administrators at Hamden Hall and Hamden Hall softball team members, soliciting support for the camp. Her efforts were remarkable, and in short time she had raised \$1,875, or approximately 25% of the budget needed to run the camp.



Caitlin Farrell and Rafael Ramos.

JUNTA was the direct beneficiary of Caitlin's commitment to working in the community, and we are grateful for her extraordinary efforts.

Come visit us!

JUNTA for Progressive Action, Inc.

169 Grand Avenue

New Haven, CT 06513

Ph: (203) 787-0191 • Fax: (203) 787-4934 • www.juntainc.org

Board of Directors -

- Pierrette Comulado Silverman - President
- Angel Bruno • Anne T. Calabresi • Brett Dignam
- Norma Franceschi • Guillermo Irizarry • Carlos Reyes

JUNTA is a non-profit 501 (C) 3 tax-exempt organization.

Your contribution is tax deductible.

JUNTA & the Arts

In the last few years, JUNTA has been involved in a number of exciting arts-related activities. Recently, in addition to helping coordinate the Latino community's participation in the Arts & Ideas Carnival 2004, JUNTA and Arts & Ideas co-hosted a community workshop with Danny Hoch. Mr. Hoch is a globally acclaimed actor, hip-hop artist, writer and performer whose solo shows "Pot Melting", "Some People", and "Jails, Hospitals, Hip-Hop" have toured over 50 cities and won several awards. Mr. Hoch has also appeared in several movies, including "Thin Red line", "Black Hawk down" and "American splendor".



Puerto Rican masks at the Arts & Ideas Carnival 2004. Grand Avenue, Fair Haven.

The workshop, which was held at JUNTA, drew over 25 multi-generational, multi ethnic community-residents. After doing several readings, Mr. Hoch and workshop participants engaged in a lively discussion covering the arts, race, artistic integrity and hip-hop culture.