

Junta for Progressive Action

Celebrating 40 years in the New Haven community.

Spring
2009
Newsletter

JUNTA Provides Assistance During Tough Economic Times

It has been a tough road for so many families in this economic climate. JUNTA has witnessed it firsthand, with many more families requesting food assistance, and help with rent and utilities. In fact, we have seen a 50% increase in need over 2008.

Thanks to the support of the United Way's Neighbor To-Neighbor Lifeline and Yale University's Hunger and Homelessness Auction, JUNTA's Family Management Program now offers direct financial assistance to those in the community who are in need of basic assistance. The initiative provides one time grocery vouchers, assistance with rent payments and security deposits, heating bill assistance during the winter and fall months, and emergency funds and toiletries for those who are currently homeless.

The Family Management Program is the lifeblood for so many in the community. In collaboration with the Diaper Bank, we provide free diapers to families with young children, and guidance in determining eligibility and obtaining state assistance, if needed. Our staff work hard to ensure positive outcomes for all that enter our doors.

The economic climate has had its impact on JUNTA, yet we continue to drive our mission of improving the social and economic conditions of our community. Please do your part to help the community, whether it is volunteering, donating goods, or a financial contribution. It takes everyone working collectively to get over this hurdle.

Staff Spotlight Angela Moreira



When Angela, an accountant from Nicaragua, first came to Junta in 2007, she was depressed from not finding a job, and worried about her future. She took the initiative to enroll in Junta's English classes, and through that, has become a dedicated community advocate.

Angela now uses her computer skills as the assistant for Junta's computer classes by providing students with one-on-one computer tutoring, and is also an integral part of the Worker Center. She continues to take Junta's English classes in the morning and at night, while also working with an English tutor through Junta's partnership with the Jewish Community Relations Council.

Congratulations, Angela, for being a shining example of empowerment, and an integral part of Junta!

SAVE THE DATE!

HUELLAS/FOOTPRINTS

JUNTA'S 40TH

ANNIVERSARY GALA

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2ND, 7 PM
AMARANTE'S SEA CLIFF

The Neighborhood Place

The Neighborhood Place is a therapeutic arts youth program, in partnership with Yale Child Study Center, launched its after-school and summer arts program on July 7, 2000, operating out of a community center in one of New Haven's most disadvantaged neighborhoods, Fair Haven. This summer will mark its 9th year in our community. The partnership between Junta and the Yale Child Study Center is essential for the success of this program, our youth and our community.

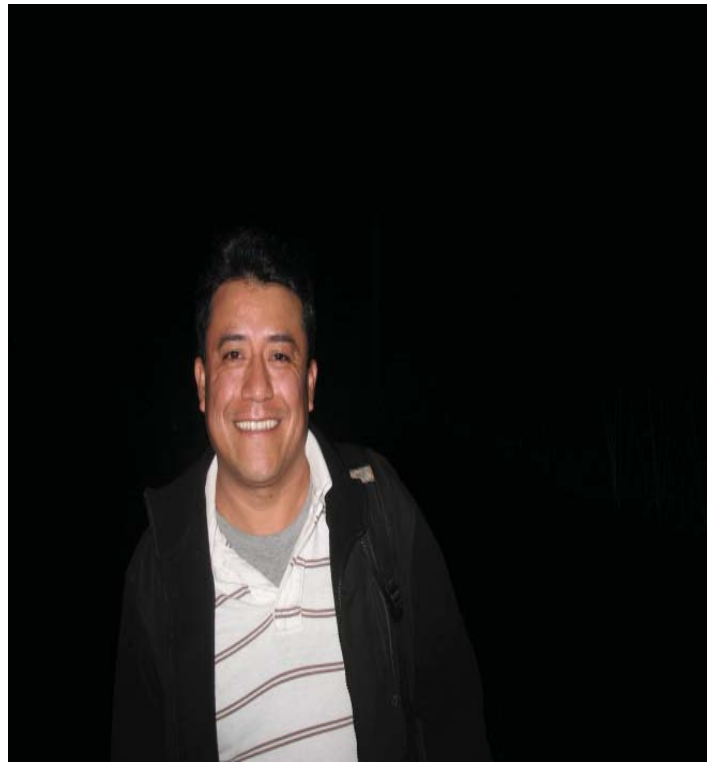
The culmination of The Neighborhood Place semesters end every year with a family picnic. This is an essential activity where youth, their parents, their family members and our staff have the opportunity to spend time together. It's a great opportunity to share recommendations, opinions and anecdotes about the children's progress and the program.

Each year parents cook traditional foods from their country of origin such as:

rice, beans, chicken, tacos, and potato salad for the delight of our children and families. This year the picnic was held inside because it was raining, but nothing stopped the children and parents from having a fun time and enjoying the warm family environment.

"This activity makes a difference in our lives because it brings us together and it encourages the children to communicate with their family and friends," said Agueda Ocasio, Assistant Director.

Currently our program has a waiting list of over 100 youth. "Every week I receive calls from parents, principals, teachers, counselors and clinicians referring children to the Neighborhood Place, it's heartbreaking that the need is beyond our means," said Sandra Trevino, Director. We hope that every year we can continue to help our youth and their family through The Neighborhood Place program. For now, we are grateful for such a festive end to the school year.



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I am really grateful to JUNTA"

Client Spotlight: Julio Hernandez

When Julio arrived at JUNTA he had a problem of non-paid wages with his last employer. He attended a Worker Center meeting and we sent his case to the Labor Department. Also, we invited Julio to participate in one of our workshops "Trabajadores Embajadores" or "Worker Ambassadors" so he could learn more about his rights and be prepared to deal with a possible abusive employer in the future. After that, he participated in many of JUNTA's events, courses and trainings.

He participated in a Facilitator Training, Computer Literacy Course, attended our film series, protested in support of other workers cases, attended meetings to advocate for JUNTA and was part of the group discussing immigration issues at the Fair

Haven Summit on May 2. He is also taking mid level English classes.

Julio declares:

"JUNTA has given me a lot: Now I know more about my rights as a worker, I am improving my English and I know how to navigate in the internet, write to my family in México by e-mail ... I am a better person, more self confident and optimistic with my future and my family's future. Like we say in my country: Bad things bring about good things. I arrived at JUNTA because I had a problem with my former employer, and they not only recovered my non-paid wages, but he offered me several chances to study, learn and be a better individual. I am really grateful to JUNTA and her staff."



Interested in donating to JUNTA?

Go to our website at www.juntainc.org, or send to:

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