

# El Centro Hispano



201 West Main St.  
Suite 100  
Durham NC, 27701  
(919) 687-4635

## MISSION

El Centro Hispano is a grassroots membership-based organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of the working class Latino community in North Carolina. El Centro Hispano accomplishes its mission by increasing the active participation of local grassroots leaders in the solution of their own problems. To serve that goal, El Centro Hispano develops educational, cultural, and social programs as well as leadership and economic development initiatives in collaboration with other communities and groups.

## ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS

1. Enhance and improve educational opportunities for Latinos.
2. Build and nurture leadership skills of grassroots community members to ensure their equal participation and access to power in the community.
3. Provide spaces where grassroots community members can learn and exercise their abilities for the overall community benefit.
4. Generate change and improve the way community organizations and service agencies provide services to the Hispanic/Latino community.
5. Ensure that El Centro Hispano becomes a community governed and owned institution of the Hispanic/ Latino community.
6. Support Latino families and facilitate their acculturation process and access to services after they arrive to United States.

## HISTORY

El Centro Hispano was founded in 1992 as the Hispanic Resource Center, a joint project of the Catholic and Episcopal churches. The first organizational efforts were the offering of whole-family English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, a women's group, and summer enrichment camps for children.

In June 1996, it was apparent from its growth and population that El Centro Hispano was ready to become an independent organization. El Centro formed a board of directors later that year and on January 1, 1997 El Centro Hispano became an independent nonprofit organization. Its activities and goals blended service, education, leadership development, and community organizing. In the summer of 2000, history was made when El Centro Hispano, in partnership with the Self-Help Credit Union, State Employees Credit Union, and the NC Minority Support Center, opened the first Latino Community Credit Union in North Carolina. This institution, now located in the same convenient downtown location as El Centro Hispano, provides financial services to El Centro's members.

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY, EL CENTRO HISPANO!**

This past December, over 130 members of El Centro Hispano gathered in its offices for the Annual Meeting and the celebration of El Centro's ninth birthday. Members of the Board reported on the organization's different achievements, financial status, and goals for the 2002 year.

New Board members from the community were elected at the meeting. A total of 16 community members participated as candidates in the election. All those present at the meeting had the opportunity to vote. Those elected will serve on the Board for the next three years. This election process helped El Centro Hispano toward its goal to become an organization controlled and directed by its members. The election of community members to serve on the Board ensures that members of El Centro guide and lead the organization and that it works to serve their priorities.

### **Congratulations to the new Board Members!**

Verónica Barredo	Misael Hernández
Margarita Belin	Liana Humphrey
Francisco Castillo	Eduardo Pérez
Carol Gallione	Pedro Salinas
Javier García	Francisco Sánchez
Guadalupe Gembe	Liz Stern
John Heffernan	Sonia Zúñiga

Laura Henaine

\*\*\*Honorary Member: Federico Gómez Robledo

### **COMMUNITY HEALTH FORUM**

The Community Health Forum was held Monday, November 12, 2001 at El Centro Hispano. Over 60 people attended, both from the Latino/Hispanic community and from various health care providers in the Durham area. Project LIFE and El Centro Hispano presented survey results to both communities and held round table discussions on the barriers and challenges facing Hispanics/Latinos and community health providers. Each group shared their ideas on such issues and proposed ways for the communities to work together. Project LIFE and El Centro Hispano are currently working on implementing some of these suggestions to find solutions to some of these barriers and challenges.

Title VI, which helps protect non-English speaking residents of North Carolina when accessing public services, was also discussed at the Forum. The Title was explained to community members and questions were asked and answered. For more information on Title VI or on what took place at the Community Forum, please call Leslie at 687-4635, ext. 30.

# PROGRAMS

## Project LIFE

Project LIFE (Informed Latinos for a Successful Future) is a community outreach program that provides information about HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. Julio Olmos and Beatriz Bravo, the Project LIFE coordinators, prepare brochures for women and men with information about sexual health, protection, and sexually transmitted diseases. They recommend health centers where people can get gynecological examinations or be tested for STDs. Every year, Project LIFE, with El Centro Hispano, organizes the Community Health Forum to educate community members about personal health and to allow them to meet with health care providers in the Durham area.

Project LIFE offers free information and condoms to anyone who needs them. Project LIFE team members are available for individual counseling, workshops, or talks in your home or neighborhood. For more information on HIV/AIDS and STDs, please contact Project LIFE at El Centro Hispano, 687-4634, ext. 30, 31, or 43.



**Julio Olmos and Beatriz Bravo**

## Youth Leaders in Action

Youth Leaders in Action develops leadership and provides community organizing training for Hispanic youth. The new youth coordinator, Houda El Idrissi, worked with the Art and Culture club on a presentation about the dangers of tobacco use, a topic that affects many Latino youth. In cooperation with and with funds from the Tobacco Prevention Grant, they gave an educational talk about the dangers of smoking. Members of JLA were also invited to speak on a radio station about their research on the dangers of smoking. For information about Youth Leaders in Action, contact Houda El Idrissi at 687-4635.

# PROGRAMS

## Women's Program

*Women's Café* is a group for support and leadership for Latina women that meets weekly from 11:30am to 1:00pm. Each week there are different activities and informative talks about health, family, relationships, and other topics of interest. Childcare is provided during the group's activities.



**Maritza Chirinos and Tana Hoffman**



**Turning soil at a nearby farm**

*Let's Talk about our Health* offers English classes and health information for Latina women. The group meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 to 7:30pm. The group's mission is to develop leadership and strengthen the abilities of the Hispanic woman in relation to health. The program is based in four areas:

1. Education: Weekly information workshops on information with respect to physical health (pregnancy, cancer, etc.) and emotional health (self-esteem, personal development, depression, etc.)
2. Leadership: Support for developing and reinforcing women's abilities
3. Emotional Support: The opportunity to get to know more women and make new friendships to share feelings and put loneliness aside
4. Strengthening (Empowerment): Learning new information develops self-confidence, which gives women the opportunity to transfer their knowledge about health to the general community

The programs goals include:

- To strengthen and better the health of the Hispanic woman and mother
- To initiate the development of health programs based on Hispanic women's needs and expectations
- To support the leadership ability in the Hispanic women through these different programs



**Easter Sunday in the Duke Gardens**

For more information about the Women's Program, contact Maritza Chirinos or Tana Hoffman at 687-4635, ext. 33.

## LATINO COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

The Latino Community Credit Union (LCCU) is a community-based and member-owned nonprofit financial institution that provides protection of financial assets, better credit options, financial independence and financial education. With central offices in Durham, North Carolina, LCCU is the first fully bilingual financial institution in the state. Since its members own the credit union, each deposit in LCCU is an investment in the Latino community.

### **LCCU can offer you:**

- Bilingual, friendly customer service by staff willing to assist you in meeting your financial goals
- A package of financial services that allows you to manage your money today, while building your financial future
- Financial education classes in Spanish that help you get the most out of your credit union, such as:
  - How to manage your accounts
  - How to use an ATM card
  - Managing your finances
  - Financial planning for your future and the future of your family

- Assistance in developing a good credit history
- Opportunity to participate in the Annual Meeting and elect the Board of Directors of your Credit Union

### **To become a member of LCCU:**

- Bring an official signed photo identification card
- Pay the membership fee of \$20
- Open a savings account with a minimum balance of \$10

\*\*\*To open an interest-bearing account, you must have a social security number of taxpayer identification number (ITIN) issued in the United States. For information on how to obtain an ITIN, see the section on ITIN in this publication.

For more information on LCCU, please call 530-8800.

## ITIN SERVICE OFFERED

El Centro Hispano can now help you apply for your individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN). Below are the answers to some commonly asked questions about ITIN:

*What does ITIN stand for?*

ITIN stands for Individual Taxpayer Identification Number

*What can I use it for?*

The ITIN is used to declare income taxes, to collect interest on your accounts, to look for loans, to establish a history of credit, and to get or renew a driver license or North Carolina state identification.

*Who can get an ITIN?*

People that cannot get a valid social security number can apply for an ITIN. If you have a valid social security number, you don't need an ITIN.

*Where can I get an ITIN?*

The forms are available in Spanish and English from the Internal Revenue Service offices. Some local organizations can help you fill out the forms, make photocopies, translate for a notary public, and send the documents by mail. Organizations that provide these services are El Centro Hispano in Durham, El Centro Latino in Carrboro, and El Centro Católico Hispano in Charlotte. The fee is generally between \$5 and \$20 for this service. El Centro Hispano charges \$10 for its members and \$15 for non-members.

*What do I need to get an ITIN?*

You need two forms of identification: state identification or driver license, birth certificate, passport, military identification, or identity card authorized by a government authority from your country.

*Do I have to wait a long time to get my ITIN?*

The IRS will send it to you by mail in six to eight weeks.

*Can I use the ITIN as a work permit?*

No. The ITIN is only for people that don't have a valid social security number. You shouldn't give the ITIN to your employer. The ITIN is not a work permit or a social security number.

*If I have the ITIN, do I have to declare my taxes?*

It is recommended that when you have this number, you declare your taxes.

*Why is the ITIN especially important now?*

Beginning the January 1, 2002, you need a valid social security number or the ITIN to get or renew a driver license or North Carolina state identification. In November 2001, it also became mandatory to show a document with your North Carolina address printed on it. NEVER go to the DMV office to apply for your license with false documents.

## **BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP**

Members of El Centro Hispano can receive the following discounts at these local businesses by presenting a valid membership card. If you do not yet have a card, contact the Membership Coordinator at 687-4635, ext. 32, or come to our offices to receive your membership ID.

We would like to thank the following businesses:

### **STORES**

TIENDA LA VILLITA 402-0950  
2501 University Drive, Durham, NC 27701  
\*\*10% discount on party favors

CARNICERIA LA SUPERIOR 220-9884  
302 Bon Air Avenue, Durham, NC  
\*\*7% discount on kitchen utensils, soaps, shampoos,  
pork sausage, enchilada meat, meat for tamales

COLOR DE MEXICO 660-3308  
905 W. Main St., Durham, NC 27701  
\*\*10% discount on handcrafts

### **RESTAURANTS**

TOREROS RESTAURANT 682-4197  
800 W. Main St., Durham, NC 27701  
\*\*15% discount, alcoholic beverages excluded

EL RODEO RESTAURANT 638-2417  
905 W. Main St., Durham, NC 27701  
\*\*15% discount

EL CUSCATLECO RESTAURANT 401-5245  
4215 Garrett Rd., Durham, NC 27707  
\*\*10% discount

RESTAURANT LA ISLA 680-3399  
1013 W. Main St., Durham, NC 27701  
\*\*10% discount

RESTAURANT BREAD AND KABOB 680-3399  
1013 W. Main St., Durham, NC 27701  
\*\*10% discount

NINTH ST. BAKERY 286-0303  
136 E. Chapel Hill St., Durham, NC 27701  
\*\*10% discount

DURHAM FOOD CO-OP 490-0929  
1101 W. Chapel Hill St., Durham, NC 27701  
\*\*10% discount

### **LEGAL ASSISTANCE**

FRANCES MIRANDA 956-6444  
201 N. Church St., Durham, NC 27701  
\*\*Various discounts on legal services

COSTRAN, INC. - DWI SERVICES  
667-1880/403-8338  
311 E. Main St., Durham, NC 27701  
\*\*50% discount on services

ROBERTI, WITTENBERG, LAUFFER & WICKER  
683-2436  
200 Chancellor Building  
100 E. Parish St., Durham, NC 27702  
\*\*various discounts on legal services

### **BEAUTY SALONS**

STAGE 1 SALON DE CORTES DE PELO  
286-0055  
758 Ninth St., Durham, NC 27705  
\*\*\$5 off haircuts and \$10 off coloring

PELUQUERIA Y SALA DE BELLEZA ANA  
688-3035  
325 E. Trinity Ave, Durham, NC 27701  
2500 Guess Rd., Durham, NC 27704

## Hours of Operation

Monday - 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Tuesday - 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Wednesday - 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Thursday - 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Friday - 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

## How to get to El Centro Hispano

