



A brief review of the past year

By Jennifer Long

We are happy to announce a successful and exciting 2008 for Casa Marianella. In the past 12 months at our adult shelter at 821 Gunter, we served 400 people from 19 countries. The largest number of our guests came from Mexico and Honduras, but 23 also came from Somalia, Ethiopia, and Ghana. In addition, we had eight residents from Albania, Singapore, Nepal, Romania, and Bulgaria. We expanded services to political asylees and continued to serve the elderly, people with diabetes and serious health complications, people who have suffered injuries in work and pedestrian accidents.

Casa opened a community center at 828 Gunter

a year ago. The center hosts ESL classes with child care, a women's work training class, three weekly support groups for persons in recovery from alcohol and drugs, a weekly acupuncture clinic, and a distribution center for clothing and household items. The new classroom space has greatly increased Casa's ability to serve the community.

We are grateful to our supporters for the important financial and volunteer aid that we receive regularly. We know that the need for our services will increase with the hard times ahead. While we don't know what challenges the coming year will bring, we are confident that we will be able to maintain the current level of our services.

Posada update

By Patti McCabe

In 2008 Posada Esperanza was home to 27 families from Mexico, Honduras, Cameroon, Puerto Rico, South Africa, Russia, and Argentina. Over sixty-six children played in Posada Esperanza's rooms. Some took their first steps. Others learned to spell their names for the first time or learned new math skills.

Life has been busy for Posada families. Mothers spent their mornings studying English and computer skills and spent their afternoons searching for jobs.

It is important to maintain balance in these challenging days. And so we come together to enjoy life. The families take trips to the theater, participate in photography workshops, play together at staff and resident field days, and visit the Nature Center and Children's Museum. We celebrate quinceañeras and put on dance parties. We are ready for a 2009 filled with hard work and the enjoyment of life together.

Thank you for all that you do to make Posada Esperanza a home and support system for so many families.



▲ Thank you to the *Austin Chronicle* for the "Most excellent expansion" award.

Mock interviews between two participants of the women's work class. Photo by Casa staff. ►



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Women's work classes

By Arely Achenbach

Glad to be back! Our job readiness course for women restarted March 15. This is a course for women looking for jobs, mostly in the areas of babysitting and cleaning. The course included many goals such as supporting and improving women's efforts to

secure good jobs for fair and liveable wages, acquiring self-confidence, developing friendships, and improving labor relations between domestic workers and domestic employers.

The six-week course included topics such as workplace and sexual harassment, how to demand respect, interpersonal communication,

employable qualities, labor rights and practicing the interviewing process. The last class included learning how to leave concise professional voice messages, present one's work and experience, calculate how much to charge, and ask important questions

See page 3

Check it out

Our newsletter through your e-mail: casamarianella.org and click the **News & Events** tab, enter your email address.



Shoes for Austin gives to Casa again

◀ A letter of thanks that Posada resident Safia, 13, made for Shoes for Austin.

Safia earned these new shoes through her diligent participation in Shoes for Austin exercise goals. *Photo by Casa Staff.*



Volunteer Casa Marianella

Opportunities include cooking dinner, house maintenance, office work, and childcare during Saturday ESL classes. Email: casamvols@yahoo.com

Posada Esperanza

Needs volunteers to do homework help; teach ESL, nutrition, and other classes; housework; and plan outings. Email: posadaesperanza@yahoo.com

E.S.L.

Teachers are needed Monday through Thursday. Teachers commit to 1 night a week (7:30pm-9pm) for a 10 week cycle. We also need teachers for our Saturday classes (10:30am-12pm). Email: casael@yahoo.com

Check it out

My Charms for Charity is a design project by Heathcock Clothing. Headed by fashion designer Ashley Heathcock and social media guru Jon Ray, My Charms for Charity promotes the idea that young entrepreneurs can give something back to the community. For every charm purchased, \$3.00 is donated to Casa Marianella. Ashley and Jon produced a video for MySpace that features their project as well as the work of Casa Marianella. Watch it at www.mycharmsforcharity.com.

Casa grows green thumbs

By Lisa Averbek, Casa volunteer

This year right before school got out, I had the privilege of visiting Casa Marianella as a potential volunteer. My friend and I loved the atmosphere and the welcome feeling we got during our first visit. During the visit, we found out that Casa planned to have a garden. I didn't think much of it until later, when I decided I'd like to help build the garden.

I was put in contact with Jenn Svetlik, a staff member at Casa (and an absolutely wonderful person!). She told me that we would be able to build the garden in two weeks. We gathered the materials to build

the garden and a very busy two weeks ensued. We collected dirt from Eco Depot, bricks from a wonderful donor from the Austin Permaculture group, more bricks from a UT professor donor, and endless tools, supplies and plants from my very generous neighbors in Lake Pointe. We ended up with enough supplies and help to build not one, but *three* gardens for Casa Marianella—two for veggies and one for herbs. Part of our group also spent some time sprucing up the yard by weed-eating, trimming the trees and putting brick borders around some of the shrubs in the yard.

Thank you to the many wonderful volunteers, people who donated their time and resources. Thank you to the wonderful staff at Casa, there are now three gardens that will provide fresh produce and herbs for the residents. It was a fantastic experience. Thank you to Jesus and Luis, Casa residents, for all their hard work maintaining the garden during these very hot months. Here's to a beautiful and productive fall gardening season!

◀ Casa would like to extend another warm thanks to *Green Corn Project* for their work making another garden at Casa. *Photo by Casa Staff.*



Holiday Wish List

All items can be dropped off at Casa Marianella 8am-8pm daily

Casa

Work pants and jeans (waist sizes 28-36)

New underwear

New socks

Sneakers/Work Boots (sizes 7-10)

Toothbrushes

Razors

Travel-size toothpaste

Shampoo

Towels

Dishrags

Twin sheets

Pillows

Blankets

Fresh fruit

Vegetables

Milk

Eggs/Chicken/Beef

Office supplies

Exercise equipment

Free weights

Playground equipment

Play sets

Posada

Housewares

Linens

Beds

Towels

Dressers

Car Seats

Diapers/Wipes

Puzzles

Toys/Books (Spanish)

Check it out

Choose Casa as your charity and Yahoo donates a penny to us every time you internet search w/GoodSearch.com. Online shopping at Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's, or Barnes&Noble through GoodSearch gives a percentage to Casa.

During the summer Casa Marianella had two full-time volunteers join the staff. Jenn Svetlik and Sere Sibrian spent June and July working as encargadas. Jenn, a graduate from the University of Texas in May, is now an intern for Sojourners in Washington, D.C. Sere, is currently a junior at Mills College. We thank them both for their contribution!

Enrique and Sere as Sere presents her artwork to Casa. *Photo by Casa Staff.* ▶

Resident Melesech and Jenn at Town lake canoe trip. *Photo by Casa Staff.* ▼



Spotlight on volunteers

By Christie Mechler

Jenn, why did you decide to volunteer at Casa? I first heard about Casa when I was a freshman at UT. I asked one of my mentors to recommend volunteer opportunities at non-profits that were doing really neat things in Austin and he suggested Casa. I began to volunteer off and on for a couple years. It was always a joyful experience that I looked forward to. During my college years, I became increasingly interested in immigration issues and direct service to immigrants, so I was thrilled to have the opportunity to work at Casa for the summer and become a member of the welcoming and supportive community that exists there.

What did you enjoy the most? I enjoyed being able to provide for people's basic needs: physical, emotional, and informational. It was really rewarding to be able to offer a hospitable and safe space for people to find a little shelter from the storm of their often turbulent lives—through a smile or a good conversation, a hearty meal to guests, or a resource referral for literacy classes or much-needed legal assistance.

Was there a specific project that you found particularly interesting? I was really happy to help put in the garden at 828 this summer. My favorite part of the project was the fact that so many entities came together to make it possible: community organizations like the Sustainable Food Center, local businesses like the Natural Gardener, new and old Casa volunteers and financial supporters, and Casa guests all played a crucial part.

What are your future plans? Currently I have an internship with Sojourners, a Christian social justice organization. As Organizing Assistant, I provide a supportive role for our Christians for Comprehensive Immigration Reform campaign, and I am really excited to still be working on immigration issues. Although at this point I am unsure what my future will hold, immigration issues con-

tinue to be one of my passions, and I hope to find opportunities to support immigrants.

Sere, why did you decide to start volunteering at Casa? I was enamored with Casa Marianella from the moment I heard that the shelter was mainly for recently-arrived immigrants and people seeking political refuge. I really couldn't believe that these types of services existed for the immigrant population. I feel personally involved in the struggle for immigrant rights because I grew up hearing awful stories from my family. Like my grandmother who was sprayed down with a hose while in a detention center before she was deported, to raids in churches.

What did you enjoy the most? Is there a favorite memory you have? I just enjoyed being able to talk to different people and getting to know their stories. My favorite memory would have to be a certain impromptu little jam session residents and I had after junta. We played guitar and sang old songs. I'll always remember that.

Was there a specific project that you found particularly interesting? I was assisting Hector Kuhn, the acupuncturist at Casa, and accompanying residents to their medical appointments. I got to see the reality of the health care system and how doctors almost never spoke Spanish, were very reluctant to discuss the residents' questions or concerns, and in total spent no more than 10 minutes with each patient. I was able to learn a lot about the kind of doctor that I want to be and about the importance of relating to patients as people and not as bullet points on a to-do list.

What are your future plans? Because of my history and my self-identity as an activist, I plan to continue my work helping others. I plan on attending medical school at the Latin American School of Medicine in Havana, Cuba and returning to Pacoima, California, the community I grew up in, and practice medicine in a manner that is accessible to people with limited resources.

before accepting a job. The last class is the basic English class where we study words and verbs that housekeepers and babysitters or elder care givers need at their jobs, how to give important notices in advance and in English, and how to conjugate verbs.

After two job readiness courses, fifteen wonderful women graduated and most of them found jobs. Others kept the jobs they had, but feel more confident.

The majority of these women are interested in getting together periodically. The following are some of the participants' answers when asked what it was that they most enjoyed about the course. "I liked learning about my rights, making new friends, and the topic on sexual harassment at work;" "I enjoyed meeting people with different personal histories and also the topic on sexual harassment at work;" "Learning about our values, self-confidence and assertiveness, learning that, we need to call and give notices in advance" "I really liked that we must learn to see our own qualities and feel confident."

This program is available through a generous grant from the **Silverton Foundation**

Check it out

Thank you to the Therapy Sisters for throwing a benefit for Casa. You can find them at: 512-HISSY or <http://www.myspace.com/thetherapysisters>.

The Casa/Posada Board of Directors

Karen Lyons	Maggie Cochran	Robert Rankin
Leti Bueno	Jerry Brohman	Kevin Jewell
Carol Walker	Susan Bradshaw	Paula Del Carmen
Wayne Krause	Elise Harriger	

The Casa/Posada Staff

Emergency Shelter Directors

Jennifer Long	Jonathan Hurley	Kate Melman
Christina Mechler		

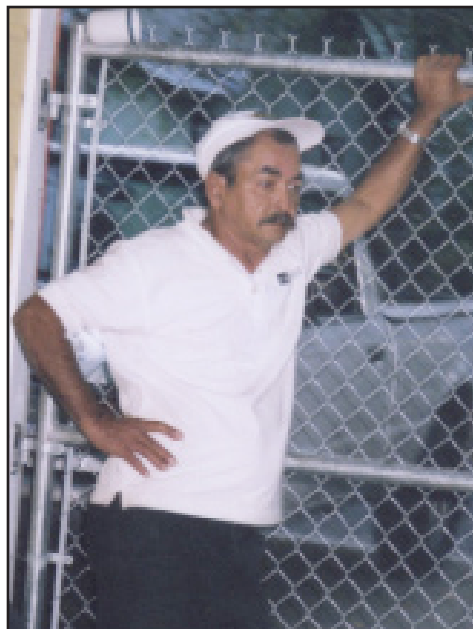
Posada Esperanza Directors

Patti McCabe	Hannah Brosnik	Becca Holtz
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Staff

Elizabeth Roehm	Sarah Fankhauser	Laura Martin
Adam Wright	Enrique Carbonell	Irene Beeman
Christopher Newton	Joshua Collier	Robin Schwartz

Casa Marianella Staff. Photo by Casa staff. ▼



◀ En memoria de Juan Rivera.

In memory of

Juan Rivera

Spotlight on Hector

By Christopher Newton

Since the spring-time, Hector Rene Kuhn Naranjo provided free acupuncture to residents of Casa Marianella, as well as consultations in holistic medicine to the entire Austin community.

Hector was born in Bolivia, and grew up in Peru and Columbia. He later spent 30 years in Germany studying holistic medicine, acupuncture, and homeopathy, and eventually received a degree in Oriental Medicine. Hector migrated to Austin to study at the Academy of Oriental Medicine at Austin (AOMA), where he earned a Master's Degree in Oriental Medicine. He first heard about Casa through his friend, staff member Kari Cain. "She explained the work she does there and the needs of [Casa] residents--that was really inspiring," Hector recalls. "I thought that I really have to make

my contribution to the Hispanic community. There are not many Spanish speaking acupuncturists in Austin, and I knew this was something I could do for them."

Hector frequently witnesses situations where immigrants in need of care are medically mistreated or untreated, due to language barriers or lack of health insurance. "If uninsured people self-medicate with over-the-counter drugs and don't get results, they may go to the E.R. and end up with a bill of thousands of dollars."

Hector's self-empowering approach to medicine is focused on listening carefully to patients' complaints and on detailed explanations of the treatments he proposes for them. He has noticed an unfortunate trend in holistic medicine in the U.S. where care is available

exclusively to the upper classes. He says that education in holistic medicine is very expensive, and oftentimes graduates are saddled with loans, and therefore, pressured to focus on profits. This has inspired Hector to not only provide free treatment to residents of Casa, but also consultations on a sliding scale basis to anyone who is in need. Hector's mission is ambitious, and he pursues it vibrantly: "We have a lot of work to do to inform the community about this medicine; it is very powerful."

Hector also offers the Austin community walk-in appointments at Casa on Wednesdays from one to four p.m. and also practices at the Ana Casares Oriental Medicine Clinic.

This program is available because of a generous grant from the **Silverton Foundation**.



▲ Maria and her family. Photo by Posada staff.

By Maria and translated by Patti McCabe

To: Mommie Mixers,

Thank you, to each of you, from Maria Reveles and her family. May God care for you and bless your program that helps people in need. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all of your generosity and willingness to help. Thank you for being people with big hearts and feelings and thank you for choosing our family. Thank you for all of the beautiful gifts.

Casa sends a warm thanks to:

Albert Milhomme
Allan Elementary
Austin Community Foundation
Austin Free Net
Austin Junior Forum
Boggy Creek Farms
The Border Fund
Carol Edwards
Community Shares of Texas
Heather Kohout
International Cooperatives
Mary Blackstock
Muslim American Society
Onramp Access
Randall's
Shoes for Austin
Silverton Foundation
Spansion
St. Catherine's Knights of Columbus
Still Water Foundation

Dreamers Anonymous:

A new program for every day of the week



▲ Dreamers Anonymous meeting at 828 house. Photo by Casa staff.

By Enrique Carbonell and Jennifer Long

Sonadores Anonimos (Dreamers Anonymous) is a new project to promote the recovery of alcoholics and drug addicts. Co-coordinated by Enrique Carbonell, the group meets three times a week to promote sobriety and share both positive and negative experiences related to recovery. The classes are both for residents of Casa Marianella and all those who want to participate in the program. On Tuesdays there is a therapist who specializes in addictions. Every other night there is a support group with mutual sharing.

Sonadores Anonimos has opened

a sober house at 747 Cherico, around the corner from Casa Marianella. The house's residents have maintained their sobriety for at least three months. They have to obey rules which include the fundamental requirement that no one will drink or use drugs. Everyone lives in a brotherly manner: working, sharing household expenses, and participating in the project's classes.

The staff at Casa Marianella are happy about this new project for years we have observed the need for a support community that addresses alcoholism and drug abuse. We are happy to see the impressive spiritual, physical, and mental growth of the participants.

Resident Story, Netsanet

By Christopher Newton

Netsanet, a native of Debre Berhan, Ethiopia, immigrated to the United States to avoid the threat of political persecution and torture.

In May 2008 Netsanet migrated to Kenya and lived there for one year. From there she launched an incredible journey to the U.S., via Johannesburg, South Africa; Sao Paulo, Brazil; Mexico City, Mexico; and finally to the border at Reynosa and Hidalgo. As she expected, Netsanet was detained immediately upon crossing the river. Netsanet's cousin, who resides in Ohio, notified

an Ethiopian Orthodox Church in Austin of the situation, and the church sought legal assistance for Netsanet.

Now, in her case for political asylum, Netsanet is being represented by Edna Yang of American Gateways (formerly the Political Asylum Project of Austin, or PAPA). Netsanet recalls meeting with Edna at the South Texas Detention Center in Pearsall, TX: "Her face has this happiness, from the first time I saw her. She is my angel; I am made free by her."

Upon her release from detention in August, Netsanet came

directly to Casa Marianella. Incredibly, she recalls being more frightened upon her arrival at Casa than at any other point on her flight from Ethiopia. But, within minutes, her anxiety faded: "On the outside it was scary, but inside it's peace." Netsanet has a bright vision for both her short-term and long-term future in the U.S. "First I need my freedom, so that I can work. Then, if I get a chance, I need to learn. I was interested in Computer Science, but, right now, what I think is good for me is nursing. I would be happy to help the sick, and it would be good for my health, too."

Las organizaciones religiosas que nos han apoyado

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic

Poima

Congregational Church of Littleton

Prince of Peace Lutheran

Hyde Park Christian Church

St. Austin Catholic Church

St. Martin's Lutheran Church

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

St. Paul's Catholic Church

St. Teresa's Catholic Church

The Catholic Diocese of Austin

San Jose Catholic Church

Cristo Rey Catholic Church

Faith Presbyterian Church

St. David's Episcopal Church

Northwest Hills United Methodist

Oak Hill United Methodist

St. Paul's United Methodist

Good Shepard Episcopal Church

St. Catherine of Sienna Catholic Church

Knights of Columbus of St. Catherine

St. Thomas More Catholic Church

St. Julia Catholic Church

Highland Park Baptist Church

Memorial Methodist Church

Daughters of Charity Fairlane Residence

Unitarian Universalist Church

St. Luke's on the Lake Episcopal

Trinity United Methodist Church

Wildflower Church

Hyde Park United Methodist

Soñadores anónimos

Por Enrique Carbonell y Jennifer Long

Soñadores Anónimos es un proyecto nuevo de recuperación para los adictos de alcohol y droga. Coordinado por Enrique Carbonell, el grupo se reúne tres veces a la semana para mantener la sobriedad y compartir las experiencias positivas y negativas de la recuperación. Las clases son para residentes de Casa Marianella y también para todos los que desean participar en el programa. Los Martes hay terapia de una psicóloga especialista en adicciones. Las demás noches se reciben las terapias intergrupales. Este proyecto se ha iniciado con una casa para la sobriedad que reside en 747 Chericó, muy cerca de Casa Marianella. Las personas que pueden vivir en dicha casa deben por regla general mantener la sobriedad a través de un tratamiento de 3 meses. Tienen reglas que cumplir y una de ellas es la fundamental que no se puede tomar. Todos viven como hermanos: trabajando, pagando sus gastos, y participando en las actividades del proyecto.

Los que trabajamos en Casa Marianella somos felices con este nuevo proyecto porque desde hace muchos años hemos visto la necesidad de una comunidad de apoyo para los que sufren de alcoholismo y abuso de drogas. Nos alegra mucho ver este crecimiento espiritual, físico, y mental de todos sus integrantes.

El jardín que multiplicó

Por Lisa Averbeck

Este año, justo antes de que terminara el semestre, tuve el privilegio de visitarle a la Casa Marianella como un voluntario prospectivo. A mi amiga y yo nos encantaba el ambiente y la bienvenida cálida que recibimos durante nuestra primera visita y tour. Durante esa visita, nos enteramos que la Casa estaba planificando sembrar un jardín. No lo pensé hasta después, cuando decidí que me gustaría ayudar a construir el jardín.

Me pusieron en contacto con Jenn Svetlik, una trabajadora de la Casa (y una persona absolutamente maravillosa!) y ella me dijo que iban a construir el jardín dentro de dos semanas. Jenn aceptó mi petición ayudar conseguir materiales para construir el jardín y comenzaron dos semanas muy ocupadas. Recolectamos tierra del Eco Depot, ladrillos de un auspiciante maravilloso del grupo de Permacultura Austin, más ladrillos de un profesor de la Universidad de Tejas, herramientas, abastos y plantas de mis vecinos generosos de Lake Pointe. Terminamos con suficientes abastos para construir no uno pero tres jardines para la Casa: dos para vegetales y uno para hierbas. Una parte de nuestro grupo de voluntarios pasaron tiempo embelleciendo la yarda sacando mala hierba, podando los árboles y construyendo barreras alrededor de algunos arbustos.

Gracias a tantos voluntarios, a personas quienes donaron su tiempo y recursos y a las trabajadoras maravillosas de Casa ahora hay tres jardines los cuales proveerán hortalizas y hierbas frescas para los residentes. Fue una experiencia muy linda! También gracias a Jesús y Luis por sus esfuerzos para mantener el jardín durante estos meses tan cálidos. Que tengan una época de cosecha hermosa y fructífera!

Netsanet, residente de la Casa

Por Christopher Newton

Netsanet, nacida en Debre Berhan, Etiopía, emigró a los EEUU para evitar la amenaza del ser perseguido y torturado en su país natal. Netsanet migró primeramente a Kenia y permaneció allí por un año. El país del oriente africano fue el punto de partida por su viaje hacia los EEUU por medio de Johannesburg, South Africa, Sao Paulo, Brazil, Mexico City y finalmente a la frontera entre Reynosa e Hidalgo. Como ella esperaba, Netsanet fue detenida inmediatamente al cruzar el río. Su prima quien vive en Ohio, avisó a la Iglesia Ortodoxa de Ethiopia en Austin y la Iglesia le buscó asistencia legal.

Ahora, Edna Yang del organismo American Gateways (anteriormente conocido como PAPA, el Proyecto de Asilio Po-

litico de Austin), le representa a Netsanet. Ella recuerda haberle conocido a Edna en el centro de detención en Hutto, Texas: "Su cara ha tenido una felicidad particular desde la primera vez que le conocí. Es mi ángel; ella me da la libertad."

En agosto, una vez salida del centro de detención, Netsanet vino directamente a la Casa Marianella. Increíblemente, ella recuerda haber tenido más miedo al llegar a la Casa que en cualquier otro punto de su huida de Etiopía. "Afuera me daba miedo, pero adentro es la paz." Netsanet tiene una visión alegre para su futuro próximo y más allá. "Primeramente necesito ganar mi libertad para que pueda trabajar." Ella está interesada en enfermería, ayudando a los enfermos, sería bueno para mi salud también.



▲ Hector at Casa convivio. Photo by Casa staff

Angel Acupunturista: "El señor de las agujas"

Por Christopher Newton

Desde la primavera, Hector Rene Kuhn Naranjo ha brindado tratamiento de acupuntura gratuita a los residentes de la Casa Marianella y consultas de medicina holística para toda la comunidad de Austin.

Hector nació en Bolivia y se crió en Perú y Colombia. Luego pasó muchos años en Alemania estudiando la medicina holística, acupuntura y la homeopatía. Recibió un título en la Medicina

Oriental. Hector migró a Austin para estudiar en la Academia de Medicina Oriental de Austin (AOMA, por sus siglas en inglés), donde recibió una Maestría en la Medicina Oriental.

La primera vez que se enteró de la existencia de la Casa Marianella fue por su amiga y empleada de la Casa, Kari Cain.

"Ella me explicó el trabajo que hace en la Casa y las necesidades que tienen los residentes — eso me inspiró realmente," recuerda Hector. "Pensé que de veras tengo que hacer una contribución a la comunidad Hispánica. No hay muchos acupunturistas hispanohablantes en Austin y sabía que es un servicio que les podría ofrecer."

Frecuentemente, Hector ha visto situaciones en las cuales inmigrantes que tienen necesidad de tratamiento están siendo maltratados o simplemente no tratados debido a barreras lingüísticas o a una falta de seguro médico. "Si no tienen seguro, las personas automedicar con medicinas de la farmacia y no hay resultados. A lo mejor vayan a la sala de emergencias y terminan con una cuenta de miles de dólares."

En cuanto la medicina, Héctor escucha con mucho cuidado las quejas de los pacientes y explica detalladamente el tratamiento que les propone. El se ha dado cuenta que la medicina holística ha vuelto a veces en algo solamente para las clases privilegiadas. La preparación para una carrera en la medicina holística es muy caro. A veces los graduados están tan endeudados que están presionados enfocar en el dinero. Esto ha inspirado a Hector no sólo dar tratamiento gratuito a los residentes de la Casa sino consultas (pague lo que pueda) para cualquier persona que tenga necesidad de tratamiento.

La misión que tiene Hector es ambicioso y él lo persigue con mucho ánimo. "Nos queda mucho trabajo por hacer en cuanto informar a la comunidad con respecto a esta medicina. Es poderosa."

Hector ofrece citas en la Casa los miércoles y además atiende en la Clínica de Medicina Oriental "Ana Cásares."

Clases de trabajo para las mujeres



▲ Grupo de mujeres que se graduaron de la clase de Arely. Foto por encargados de la Casa.

Por Arely Achenbach

Estamos de regreso! El día 15 de marzo de este año se reanudó el curso "Capacitación de Trabajo para Mujeres", un curso para mujeres en busca de trabajo principalmente pero no exclusivamente en el área de limpieza y cuidado de niños. Entre los objetivos principales de este curso es apoyar y mejorar los esfuerzos de las mujeres para conseguir un trabajo justo, que adquieran confianza en sí mismas, desarrollen amistades y se mejoren y fortalezcan las relaciones laborales existentes

y futuras entre empleadas domésticas y las patronas o jefas potenciales.

Las participantes toman seis clases las cuales incluyen temas como el acoso sexual en el trabajo: exige respeto, comunicación interpersonal, cualidades personales, derechos laborales y el proceso de la entrevista de trabajo. Esta última va desde aprender a dejar un mensaje de teléfono conciso y profesional, hasta como presentarse y presentar su trabajo y experiencia, como calcular lo que van a cobrar y realizar preguntas importantes

antes de aceptar un trabajo. La última clase es la de inglés básico; aquí se repasan palabras y verbos más usados, avisos importantes en inglés y conjunciones verbos.

Después de dos cursos, quince maravillosas mujeres se han graduado de los cursos, casi la mayoría de ellas han encontrado trabajo, otras mantienen el trabajo que ya tenían pero se sienten más seguras de sí mismas y además muchas de ellas tienen interés de reunirse periódicamente. A continuación leerán la respuesta de algunas participantes cuando se les preguntó que había sido lo que más les había gustado del curso. "Me gustó aprender sobre mis derechos laborales, las nuevas amistades y el tema del acoso," "Que conocí personas con diferentes historias y también lo del acoso sexual", "Sobre los valores, seguridad y firmeza, el tener que avisar siempre, no importa el motivo, siempre se debe de llamar para avisar" "Me gustó saber que uno mismo debe ver sus cualidades y sentirse segura".

A Mommie Mixers,

Gracias a todos uds. de María Reveles y su familia. Que Diosito los cuide a todos y los bendiga a ese programa tan bonito que ayuda a las personas que necesitan. Muchísimas gracias de todo mi Corazón por todo su generosidad y voluntad. Gracias por ser personas de buen corazón y sentimientos y gracias por escoger a nosotros. Gracias por todos los regalos que están bien bonitos.

~María

Accompañanos al Convivio

cada último domingo del mes a las 5. Tenemos comida. Eventos especiales. Servicios religiosos a las 4:00.

Amigos de Casa Marianella

Invierno 2008



www.casamarianella.org

casamarianella@riseup.net

512-385-5571

Posada Esperanza: el año en Breve

Por Patti McCabe

En el año 2008 Posada Esperanza se ha abierto como un hogar para 27 familias. Las huéspedes han venido desde México, Honduras, Cameroon, Puerto Rico, Sud Africa, Rusia y Argentina. Sesenta y seis niños han jugado y corrido por las dos casas de Posada. Algunos han tomado sus primeros pasos con nosotras. Otros han aprendido deletrear sus nombre por primera vez o han aprendido algo de matemáticas juntos con nosotras. La vida ha pasado muy ocupada en Posada para las familias. Las madres han pasado sus mañanas estudiando el inglés y la computación. Luego han salido para buscar empleo pero hay que haber un balance en estos días — que son retos — para que podamos juntarnos a disfrutar la vida. Las familias han salido al teatro, participado en un taller de fotografía. Han jugado juntos en el parque con las trabajadoras y las residentes, visitado el Centro del Medio Ambiente y el Museo de Niños. Han celebrado una quinceñera y han armado una fiesta bailable. Estamos listas para un 2009 lleno de trabajo fuerte y listas para gozar la vida juntas. Gracias por todo lo que hacen ustedes — lectores y patrocinadores — para hacerle a Posada Esparanza un hogar y un sistema de apoyo para tantas familias!

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Casa Marianella: el año en Breve

Por Jennifer Long

El año 2008 ha sido un año emocionante y exitoso para la Casa Marianella. En los últimos 12 meses nuestro albergue para adultos localizado en el 821 Gunter, hemos dado servicios a 400 personas que han venido desde 19 países. Nuestros huéspedes han venido desde México y Honduras. 23 vinieron también

desde Somalia, Etiopía y Ghana. Recibimos 8 residentes de Albania, Singapore, Nepal, Romania y Bulgaria. Hemos aumentado nuestro servicio a asilados políticos, lo cual ha creado una comunidad muy diversa. Hemos servido a personas mayores, diabéticos con situaciones de salud serias y complicadas así como personas que han

sufrido daños ocasionados en el trabajo y accidentes peatonales.

La Casa Marianella abrió un centro comunitario en el 828 Gunter hace un año. El centro actualmente promueve a: clases de inglés con cuidado de niños, un entrenamiento laboral para mujeres, tres grupos de apoyo semanales para personas quienes están recuperando del

alcohol y las drogas, una clínica de acupuntura semanal, un centro de distribución para ropa y cosas de utilidad casera y un jardín. Tener el espacio de un aula ha incrementado de forma impresionante nuestra habilidad para servir la comunidad.

Estamos agradecidos a todos los que nos han apoyado de la comunidad de Austin por su

apoyo económico importantísimo y el apoyo de muchos voluntarios que recibimos a diario. Sabemos que con los tiempos difíciles que vienen, la necesidad para nuestros servicios sólo aumentará. Aunque no sabemos cuales retos vendrán en el año que viene, tenemos la confianza que podremos mantener el nivel actual de nuestros servicios.

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