

EL CONCILIO

COUNCIL OF SPANISH SPEAKING ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2003-2008

Background

The Council of Spanish Speaking Organizations is a 501 ©3 non-for-profit organization based in North East Florida to serve the Hispanic community and the Community as a whole.

The mission is to serve efficiently and effectively the Hispanic Community, as well as our community as a whole, in the areas of Education, Health and Employment.

The vision is to collaborate with a wide range of community organizations in order to able to create a network of information to facilitate educational, health and employment services to the non-English speaking population in Northeast Florida.

Programs

Art & Culture

To promote Puerto Rican and Latin American art and culture through different school, civic and social activities, directly involving students, parents, school staff and the community in general. Teen Career Choice and Youth In Action members participate in cultural activities as well.

Teen Career Choice (TCC) – 2004 –2007

It is a school-to-career program, which main objective is to provide high school students the opportunity to be exposed to different careers and occupations that will prepare them for the future. Students are expected to complete an individual education and career plan, develop goals, and accept responsibilities. Additionally, El Concilio will provide to these students information regarding scholarships and financial aid to help them continue with their university career. Teen Career Choice members participate in cultural activities as well.

Youth In Action “Jovenes en Accion” – 2004 –2007

The mission of “Jovenes En Accion” (“Youth In Action”): this program was established on the principles that the future of the world depends on the leadership qualities of today's youth. It has been dedicated to fostering values of self-discipline, loyalty, commitment, cultural and teamwork.

The vision:” To Empower our Youth” ...the Future Leaders of our community through education, culture, and most important through leadership development. This program Builds Leadership Skills, Brings up their Self Esteem, and exposes them to the Greater Jacksonville’s Community through Radio Talk Shows (Radio Stations they have participated and since 2004 are WELX 1160AM Latino Hits Radio Station, WYMM 1530AM Radio Station, and WHJX Fiesta 105.7FM Radio Station and WFJO 92.5FM Radio Station), Cultural Activities among others, with the guidance of adult volunteers.

Participation/Events: Community Involvement, Cultural events and Projects and monthly interaction with the City of Jacksonville’s Government and Not for Profit organizations’ Leaders. Also, Scholarships and Fund raisers.

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TOME NOTA (Take Note) – 2004 - 2005

A Spanish Radio talk show sponsored by El Concilio. The show is conducted in Spanish and the objective is to be a source of information to the Hispanic Community.

ENTERATE AQUI Y AHORA (RADIO TALK SHOW 105.7FM & 92.5FM RADIO STATIONS) 2006 – APRIL- 2008

It is a Spanish Radio Talk Show sponsored by El Concilio, where we interview Government Personalities, and not for profit organizations' leaders. Most of these interviews are conducted by our Youth In Action members.

Accomplishments

October 2003

Teen Career Choice in partnership with 970am, a Hispanic radio station, participates in the 2003 Hispanic Heritage Celebration at the Jacksonville Landing. Students representing the Hispanic countries marched and performed at the celebration, wearing typical folkloric attires.

December 2003

Teen Career Choice in partnership with the Police Athletic League participates in a Toy Drive and Christmas celebration for the children in need.

January 2004 until Present

El Concilio, Teen Career Choice and Clay and Duval Counties School District participate in presentation to foster a diversity awareness environment at their schools. Some of the schools are:

Middleburg Elementary, Julington Creek Elementary, Orange Park High School, Ridgeview High School, Mandarin High School.

July 2004 through January 2005

Tome Nota Radio Talk Show, in partnership with 1160am. The show is conducted in Spanish. The objective is to be a source of information for the Hispanic Community. Some of the guest speakers were: Mayor John Peyton, Jocelyn Turner and Dr. Rosa Laos from Duval County Health Department, Guillermo Mora from Volunteers for Jacksonville, Anabel Krott a license counselor, and many others.

August 2004

Nancy Alvarez a representative from the U.S. Small Business Administration's District Office offered a very informational workshop in Spanish on how to start your own business.

September 2004

Communications workshop for Teen Career Choice members at 1160am, where the radio station personnel talked to the students about the media and radio industries. The students had the opportunity to be on the air and be interviewed by the dj's.

Wanda Ivelisse Torres a volunteer representative from the Internal Revenue Service offered a workshop about the Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) and filled out the applications for the people attending the workshop in need of such identification number.

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October 2004

Hispanic Heritage Award 2004; El Concilio recognized four outstanding Jacksonville Hispanic residents for their contributions to the community. They were: Marta Valentin from St Vincent's Hospital, Carlos Bouvier from Channel 4, Alba Orozco from Catholic Charities and Nancy Quiñones from the ESOL Program.

Immigration workshop where Alba Orozco a representative from Catholic Charities offered orientation on how to fill out and process forms to apply for legal residence, as well as legal advice for the attendants.

December 2004 – to Present

El Concilio sponsors a Toy Drive for different churches and also, presents The Three Kings Day Christmas Celebration for the underprivileged children of Duval and Clay County. The main contributions are received from individuals and Community Leaders.

Summer Camp 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007

El Concilio in partnership with Fuente de Luz y Salvación Baptist Church located on Kingsley Avenue in Orange Park sponsored a summer camp and provided food, supplies and toys thanks to donations.

August 2005

Youth 2005, the first Youth Festival took place at the Clay County Town Hall facilities. This celebration was sponsored in part by 1160am, 1570am, 970am Radio Stations, St Vincent Mobile Unit, ITT Tech Institute and Fuente de Luz y Salvación Baptist Church.

Partnerships

El Concilio has been involved with the following agencies and institutions during diversity and Hispanic heritage celebrations, as well as a liaison between them and the community:

American Red Cross
United States Small Business Administration
Jacksonville's Small Business Development
Shands Hospital
Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
Habitat for Humanity (Habijax)
Council for Aging
Fair Housing/Jacksonville's Human Rights Commission
Urban League
River Region Human Services
Hubbard House
Quigley House
Clay and Duval County Health Department
AMHIS
UNF
Jacksonville's Children Commission, and many, many others.

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Jacksonville's Puerto Rican Parade (a one week event presented annually)
November 5, 2005, November 4, 2006, September 22, 2007, and on September 13, 2008

This project is under CSSO, Inc, Education area, its part of the Arts and Culture program, which mission is to promote Puerto Rican and Latin American cultures.

World of Nations Celebration (Puerto Rico Pavilion)
May 2006, May 2007, and May 2008

This is a four day event, where we bring literature, arts and crafts, entertainment, and provide Community Service Hours to our High School Students.

