



Corazón a Corazón

We Learn Together

Issue 2, Volume 1

Fall 2010

Corazón Family Fest

The morning of July 17th began with a whirlwind of activity. By 7:00 AM tables and tents were being set up by our many fantastic volunteers. At 9:00 AM more volunteers were arriving to arrange food tables that would soon be selling hot dogs, pop corn, Mexican corn, fruit, snow cones, cakes and cookies, pop and even ice!



Next came the arrival of our the Silent Auction baskets - all so attractively displayed that it was hard to decide which ones to bid on. More volunteers setup the games: hula hoops, basketball and ring toss. The White Elephant table held such delights as curtains, kitchen supplies, and material for making clothes.

Finally everything was in place and the fun began as our ESL learners, the Board of Corazon, St. Michael's church members and our neighbors filled the fest grounds.

Kevin Kelly, the magician, entertained everyone with his bag of tricks, including making a live rabbit appear right before our guests' eyes! The

Fire Department dropped by to give the children tours of the engine and to talk about fire safety and a number of antiques cars were on hand for our viewing pleasure. The kids really enjoyed the inflatable "Jumping Jack" which provided such bound fun for all who dared to enter.



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The whirlwind of activity wound down around 2:30 PM

with the big raffle drawing, where anyone who purchased a ticket had a chance to win weekend accomodations in San Francisco, a laptop computer or an IPod Shuffle. All in all, a day to remember was had by all present, guests and volunteers alike.

Thanks so much to all who offered their time and services and to all who attended. Without each of you the day would not have been such a success!

By the end of the day, our first fundraiser grossed nearly \$6,000 and we had fun besides. Who could ask for more than that!



Helping “Put Illinois to Work”

Abraham Lincoln once said, “Find firm ground and then stand on it,” and that is what Corazón a Corazón does every day. It has been such a privilege to see and work with these sisters who help provide men, women, and children who struggle day to day with the tools they need to succeed. They truly live out their mission and have helped my co-workers and I to do the same. My attitude towards life has changed thanks to working with these fine sisters. -- Antonia Ortiz

This summer, Corazón began participating in the *Put Illinois to Work Program*, employing eight outstanding workers. Antonia was one of them.

Participants in the program, which will run until November 30, served as summer school teachers, administrative assistants and maintenance workers. The next time you visit Corazón you’ll see the newly painted Center!

Here’s what some of the other workers had to say about their experience at Corazón:

- “It has given me the opportunity not only to help my family but to learn how the program runs from the inside.... It has made me a better person and I am grateful for that.”
- “I have learned a lot from this job and I am very grateful that I was given the chance to prove to myself that I am capable of succeeding in life.”
- “I give thanks to God for this job because of all I have been able to do with the money I have earned. This week I fulfilled my dream of buying a refrigerator for my family.”
- “I was able to work this summer at Corazón a Corazón and meet all the wonderful people that I have befriended. Thanks to this job, I was able to confront economic situations that I might have not if I did not have this job.”
- “This job has given me self-confidence and courage to go ahead in life and that anything’s possible.”



Thanks for Your Help. We Couldn’t Have Done it Without You!!

We are grateful to all of the people who helped to make the Family Fest a success.

Coordinating Committee:

- Jackie Flight
- Sister Carolyn Jost
- Robin McCarthy
- Rosa Pelaez
- Rosa Perea
- Joe Perez

Organizations and individuals who made donations:

St. Michael Church
Rev. Robert Perez
Rev. Guido Gutierrez
The City of Chicago
Kevin Kelly – our magician
Hyman’s Ace Hardware
Alderman Sandi Jackson, 7th Ward
Chicago Fire Department, Engine Company #126
Chicago Police Dept. and their Horses
Jewel Food Stores
Espanol Marketing and Communication,
Javier Lopez, Jr.
Flexeon Rehab of Munster

Franks Automobile Repair
South Chgo. Chamber of Commerce,
Neil Bosanko, President
Ernie Martinez – Antique Cars
The Chicago Bears Organization
The Chicago Cubs Organization
The Chicago White Sox Organization
Roma’s Restaurant
MB Financial Bank
Neil Bosanko
Marge Carroll
Larry Flight
Rodney and Elaine Floyd
Olivia Hernandez
Brian and LaRue James
Robin McCarthy
Joan Minella
Martin Ortiz
Rosa Rodriguez-Pelaez
Joseph Rosendale
Michael Smith
Therese Smith
Ranjit Wah
Rita Zambon
Mary Ellen Ziegler

Summer School

Corazón held its Summer School session from June 14 through July 15th for children in 2nd to 8th grades.

Because our average class size was four, a number of our student learners were able to receive one-on-one tutoring. Tests administered at the beginning and end of the session indicated that all our students progressed nicely. Reports were sent to parents and to the home school of each child, so all could be apprised of just how far each student progressed. We are grateful to the wonderful group tutors who worked so diligently with the children this summer, as well as to Sr. Rose Cecile Espinos who coordinated the program.



Meet Our Volunteer Coordinator



Candice Ibaceta grew up in a family environment where community involvement was essential in order to make a positive impact on society. She has been actively involved in the Latino community providing research and outreach services, assisting individuals in the citizenship process, and volunteering her time teaching and tutoring ESL students.

Candice graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a B.A. in Political Science and Latin American-Latino Studies.

She joined the Corazón team in mid-August. Her main goal is to recruit volunteers for the ESL, After-School and Computer Literacy program. She is also working to increase public awareness of Corazón in the community. She is a firm believer in the quote, "Education is key to success," and here at Corazón, she is able to contribute her efforts to empower the Latino community. She is very excited about meeting and working with new and former volunteers and students at Corazón.

A Message From Our Executive Director



Corazón is freshly painted and is bursting with expectation and plans for the upcoming year!

At the end of August, we hosted a meeting for potential tutors. Thirty generous people attended, many from the University of Illinois at Chicago. The room was filled with enthusiasm as they discussed

how they could be instrumental in changing the lives of our child and adult learners.

The evening ended with a delicious dinner prepared by our "Put Illinois to Work" employees.

Sister Lupita tested the new and returning ESL learners, with classes beginning on September 7. We are currently serving 45 learners and have 28 tutors.

We are looking forward to expanding both our computer program and our afterschool program for children. We need volunteers for these plans to come to fruition, so please if you have a little time - volunteer at Corazón.

We are also looking forward to working with you, our faithful friends and benefactors. I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of all who support us. Our July 17 Family Fest was a huge success and we know it would not have been so without your help. You bought raffle tickets, you donated prizes, food and drink and you were in attendance at the Fest.

May God reward you for your outstanding support to Corazón. We will be forever grateful.

Meet Laura, a Corazón Volunteer

Laura Kolar is from Eureka, South Dakota and graduated in May 2010 from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota with degrees in English and Catholic Studies.

She will be living in Chicago for the year and working at Corazón a Corazón and Centro Juan Diego.

"I'm very excited to be at Corazon," shares Laura. "It is a joy to work with and get to know the ESL learners and I'm looking forward to starting the After-School Program."

In her spare time, she enjoys playing volleyball, sketching, music, convos over coffee, and cooking with friends.



Laura, left, assisting an adult learner on the computer.

Tutors, the Heart of Corazón

An evening of orientation for new tutors was held in late August. It was exciting to see the wide range of ages, ethnicity and experience of the volunteers.

Sister Loretta began the meeting by connecting the mission of Corazón with the educational mission of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Sister Lupita explained the programs offered at Corazón.

During the dinner that followed, Candice Ibaceta, volunteer coordinator, set up schedules for the tutors.

If you would like to volunteer to be a tutor, please contact Candice at 773-221- 0620. Or email us at volunteer@corazonacorazon.org.



Sister Lucy talks with new volunteers about the programs offered at Corazón a Corazón.

Our Mission

Corazón a Corazón, under the sponsorship of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, serves as a catalyst for fundamental change in the community by providing individualized educational services to women and children at-risk.

All contributions to Corazón are tax deductible and directly support our programs.

Please consider a donation to Corazón a Corazón!

Corazón a Corazón
8235 S. South Shore Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60617
773-221-0620 (phone)

www.corazon-chicago.com
volunteer@corazonacorazon.org