

FOUNDATION News

D214 Community Education Foundation Newsletter



Winter 2011

Bridging the Gap Through Latino Family Literacy

Now in its second year, the Latino Family Literacy Program was developed as a measure to help Latino students finish high school successfully.

Principals from the different District 214 high schools identified the challenge that a lot of Latino students faced when entering high school: they were entering as freshmen with low level reading skills.

The Latino high school students were also getting disproportionately high rate of D's and F's and the principals realized it would be a struggle for them to make up for this deficiency within the four years of high school.

In 2009, Wheeling High School partnered with Community Education to address this issue and together a plan was hatched.

The Community Education (CE) team, led by Rhonda Serafin, Manager of Adult Education & Family Literacy and Mike Field, Director of Community Education, advised that the fix had to be a long-term initiative to increase literacy levels years before the children entered middle school.

The CE team made it clear that preparing students for success in high school would involve not only early literacy instruction for young children but literacy/ESL instruction for their parents as well.

"In order to address the goal of



increasing the English reading levels and high school readiness of the Latino students entering the freshman class," Rhonda explained, "we have recommended a robust program design."

This program includes heavily recruiting families from the surrounding sender schools, educating the parents in ESL (English as a Second Language) to serve as role models for their children, adapting and implementing developmentally-appropriate, English literacy-based and experiential curricula in the children's classrooms, including children younger than 3 years old to

reduce barriers to attendance, and using middle school experts to teach the 10-14 year-olds from literacy-based and social-emotional curricula.

Literacy doesn't begin in Kindergarten or even pre-school, according to the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the International Reading Association.

In fact, research shows, critical steps toward learning to read and write begin when children are as young as several months of age. Becoming literate is not automatically learned; careful planning and explicit instruction are absolutely necessary.

Additionally, researchers funded by the National Institutes of Health have concluded that "a mother's reading skill is the greatest determinant of her children's future academic success, outweighing other factors such as neighborhood and family income."

The success of the Latino Family Literacy program at Wheeling High School gave way to the launching of a similar program at Rolling Meadows High School in the fall of 2010. Elk Grove High School, the third high school to follow suit, will officially kick off its program in February 2011. Through the relentless efforts of Community Education to bridge the gap where there is a need, the Latino Family Literacy program will continue to thrive and change lives.

The mission of the Foundation is to secure and allocate financial and other community resources that support lifelong learning opportunities provided by District 214 Community Education.



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CLOSER LOOK



Cultural & Performing Arts

Community Education offers a year-round season of concerts, theater, festivals and other events. The Ragtops (pictured on left) brought the house down with its 50s Rock & Roll music in late October. The two-day Japan Festival (picture on right shows two Japanese calligraphy experts in action) drew over 6,000 people in the spring. Both events were held at Forest View Educational Center in Arlington Heights, IL.



Women's & Children's Center

The Women's & Children's Center helps low income, female immigrants gain basic skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing English in order to increase their readiness skills for gaining employment. Preschoolers and toddlers are welcome to attend early childhood education classes while their mothers attend adult classes. The Women's & Children's Center is grateful to agencies and organizations that provide other necessary social services, especially CEDA Self-Help Center, Inc. and OMNI Youth Services.



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Michael S. Field, Director **Nelia Bernabe, Editor**
Mary Reidy, Staff Writer

Job Well Done, Carol!

This year, the Community Education Foundation Board of Trustees will be saying goodbye to one of its very own - Carol Wollnik. After serving over 10 years that's spread across two terms, Carol is hanging up her Foundation and banking caps to start a new chapter in her life: retirement.

Carol retires from Harris Bank after six years as bank manager of the Arlington Heights (on Palatine Road) branch.

"Although I look forward to retirement, I'll miss working with everyone," Carol said. "I'll especially miss my staff. They are some of the best around and I'll miss meeting and interacting with all of my fellow managers."

Carol's retirement from Harris Bank on December 14 concludes her career of over 35 years in bank management that began with part-time work for a small savings and loan in Elmhurst, IL.

Her career in the banking industry progressed through mergers and acquisitions with several banks



"Although I look forward to retiring, I'll miss working with everyone."



around Chicago. She points out with fondness attending a pilot program for managers in Toronto, Canada, which is the North American headquarters for Bank of Montreal, the parent company of Harris Bank.

"It was special meeting fellow managers from South Africa, England, Toronto and other places around the United States," she said.

Carol considers it an honor to serve

the District 214 Community Education Foundation as one of its Trustees. "The staff has always made me feel welcome, and I've enjoyed participating in the great community projects," she said. "The work that's being done there is an important part of our community's educational life and I am honored to be a part of it," she added.

Carol is excited to spend time with her three children and 10 grandchildren who live in the Chicago area. "I'm looking forward to attending more dance recitals, cheerleading, football, basketball, gymnastics events, and I will try to keep up with them."

She also looks forward to traveling with her husband Walter. In March, Carol and Walter will visit Hong Kong and Beijing, China, and will attend the Rotary International Convention in New Orleans in May.

"Retirement is a start of a new chapter in my life and it will allow me to become a more qualified senior citizen and enjoy its benefits," Carol said.

Job well done, Carol, but one thing is for certain...**you will be missed!**

Bridge Program Gives Hope to Job Seekers

The Bridge Program, officially launched in the spring, is finding success through the number of students it has helped land manufacturing jobs in the Chicago-land area.

This Community Education program is designed to help those seeking manufacturing jobs improve their English, reading, math and writing skills. The 12-week program helps students identify on-the-job work principles, explores careers in manufacturing, improves the skills that they will need to go into manufacturing jobs, and prepares them for post secondary training toward a certificate program or post-secondary education.

Out of the 10 students who enrolled in the spring program in 2010, two have found jobs as machine operators, one found a job as a consultant providing translation work in English, Chinese and Japanese, and two students started their own face painting and inflatable business.

"This group of students showed a great interest in the program. They embraced the meaning of an educational cohort and regularly met outside of class as a group to work on homework to improve their English," said Barb Sabaj, Technology/Transitions Coordinator of the Bridge Program. "The program shows great promise as demonstrated by the success of our students," she added. For more information, please call 847-718-7798.

Year in Review

KOT's Art Exploration Visits Local Whole Foods



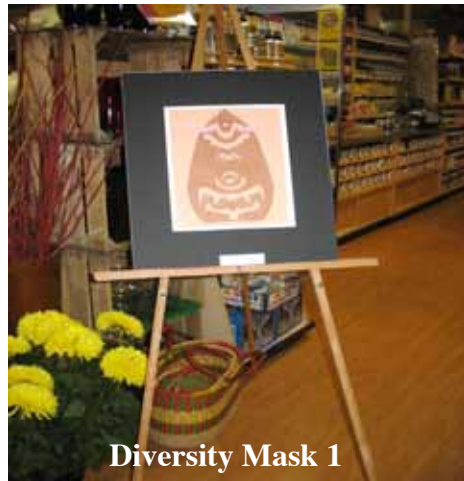
KOT Painting



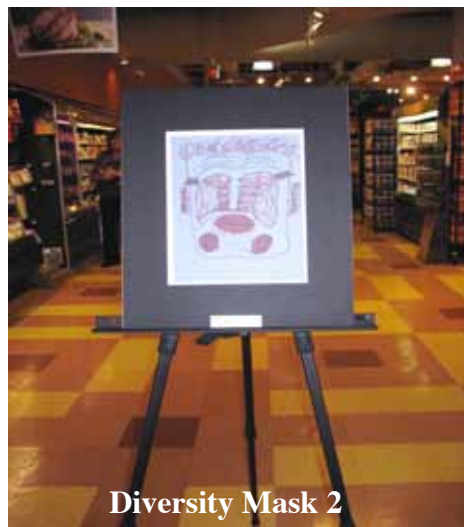
Spoon Nation



Totem Poles



Diversity Mask 1



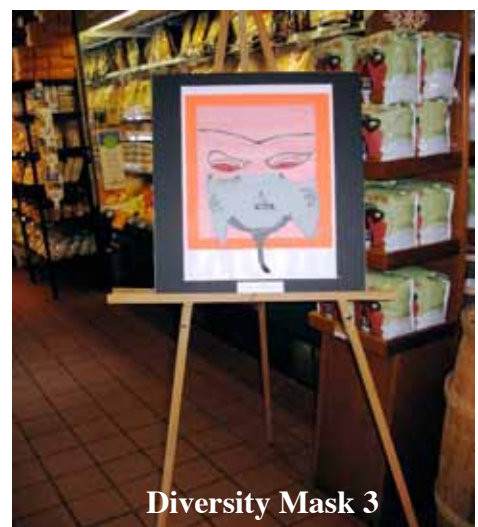
Diversity Mask 2

For the month of December, Whole Foods in Palatine showcased an art exhibit that displayed several art pieces that were done by the children participating in the Kids on Track (KOT) summer camp.

The KOT summer camp is a program designed specifically for children ages 3 - 13 whose families live in the dormitories at Arlington Park racecourse. The summer camp provides an educational and recreational environment where the children can spend their summer days safely and productively.

“The collaboration between District 214 Community Education and Whole Foods is a fine example of how things can move in a positive direction when companies partner with us to support what we do in the community,” said Mike Field, Director of Community Education.

The Art Exploration curriculum allows KOT campers ages 10 - 13 to create collaborative art projects using sustainable materials under the supervision of artist Larry Crost. Producing the totem poles, drawings, and paintings broadened the children’s environmental awareness, fostered working cooperatively, and promoted expressive communication and socialization skills.



Diversity Mask 3

“Like” us on FACEBOOK at
*Community Education High
School District 214*

Follow us on TWITTER at
twitter.com/CommEdD214

Year in Review

Fundraising: Online Auction 2010 - Cyber Shopping With a Heart

It's All GLEE!



For more information or to donate to a unique experience, please call 847-718-7708



Multiple gift ideas for your loved ones this Holiday Season!!!

RON SANTO MEMORABILIA



The buzz that this year's Online Auction 2010 generated captured the tag - Cyber Shopping With a Heart - perfectly. The recently-concluded auction highlighted the generosity of our donors and the perpetual support of our friends and patrons for which the Community Education Foundation is thankful and grateful.

We offered over 70 items that included the hottest sports tickets in town, sentimental Ron Santo memorabilia, hotel, resort and travel getaways, wine tastings, golf outings, unique experiences like becoming a NASCAR driver for a day, and many more.

Proceeds from the Online Auction purchases will benefit the many programs of District 214 Community Education, one of the nation's premier community education programs, serving over 50,000 participants each year.

HOTEL STAYS



WHITE SOX MEMENTOES



AWESOME FOURSOME of GOLF



HOT SPORTS TICKETS



District 214 Community Education Presents

Northwest Suburban
Community Concert Association

TV, Stage & Screen Star
John Davidson

Sunday, March 13
3:00 PM



Tickets \$25 Season subscriptions available

Mt. Prospect Park District and
District 214 Community Education Present



**The Mount Prospect
Community Band**

Sunday, March 20
2 PM

Advance \$7
Door \$9

District 214 Community Education presents



The Prairie Brass Band
with famed trumpet soloist
Bobby Lewis

Sunday, March 27
3 PM

Tickets \$12 Gold Card Club/Students \$10

Photo Courtesy of Monique Churchill

District 214 Community Education presents

**The Arlington Heights
Community Concert Band**

Sunday, April 3
2:00 PM

Tickets \$5

Northwest Suburban
Community Concert Association

Classical Organist
Aram Basmadjian

Sunday, April 10
3:00 PM



Tickets \$25 Season subscriptions available

District 214 Community Education presents the



**2011 Heartland
International
Tattoo** Music & Dance
Festival

Saturday, May 7 7:00 PM
Sunday, May 8 1:30 PM

General Admission \$25

Main Street Opera and
District 214 Community Education present



Gallantry
Sunday, May 29
2 PM

Adults \$18
Gold Card Club/Students \$15
Kids under 12 FREE with paying adult

Mid America Japanese Club and
District 214 Community Education present

30th JAPAN FESTIVAL

June 11 (11:00-6:00)
June 12 (11:00-5:00)

Free Admission

- Japanese Food
- Arts & Crafts
- Tea Ceremony
- Two Entertainment Stages
- Martial Arts Demonstrations
- Japanese Flower Arrangements
- Kids' Corner and Family Fun



District 214 Community Education
Forest View Educational Center
2121 S. Goebbert Road, Arlington Heights
For tickets, call **847-718-7702** (Mon-Fri 9-4)



Dear Gold Card Club Member,

As this year and decade draw to a close, we pause to reflect on our accomplishments, express gratitude for those who have made our journey possible, and set goals for the upcoming year.

We proudly offer membership in the Gold Card Club to 8,500 members--offering reduced fees for Community Education classes and Cultural and Performing Arts productions, Senior Celebration Day, and free high school arts performances and sporting events. As one of the nation's premier community education programs, we set the bar high. We are committed to serving over 50,000 participants each year through District 214 Community Education programs and services.

Your generosity and commitment to making a difference in our community helps to make our goals attainable.

When you make a gift to the D214 Community Education Foundation, you help to support our Adult English as a Second Language program and our Read to Learn Volunteer Literacy Program which instruct adult learners to speak and read English at a basic level and beyond. The Women's and Children's Center, Kids on Track, Even Start, Family Literacy and Adult Basic Education, and Intergenerational and Older Adult programs, and our Cultural and Performing Arts program are presently thriving due in part to individual contributions.

Please consider a monetary gift to the Foundation. No gift is too small, and each gift makes an important difference.

Thank you for the support that you provide us in so many ways. We gratefully pause to wish you a warm and happy Holiday Season and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

With Our Sincerest Gratitude,

The District 214 Community Education Foundation Board of Trustees

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Name _____ Daytime Phone _____

Address _____ Evening Phone _____

City, State, Zip _____ Email _____

Enclosed is my check for _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$ Other

Please make payable to: **D214 Community Education Foundation**

Thank you!

The District 214 Community Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, which means your contribution is also tax deductible. Learn more about Community Education, the importance of your donations to our programs, and our upcoming events by logging onto our website at www.ce214.org.



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Building Learning Communities