



# Enlace Comunitario

Newsletter Spring  
2008

## An Update From the Director: Change is in the Air

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter to let you know about some of the exciting things happening at EC. Our programs are expanding: we now offer psycho-educational groups for teenagers; our legal department now has two attorneys and we just hired a paralegal to assist them; we are increasing our outreach in the immigrant community through TV and radio announcements and participation in monthly radio shows; the involvement of volunteers has more than doubled; an increased number of the victims that we serve are reporting progress on becoming survivors and many of them are transitioning to become true community agents of change. The overall number of clients served went from 530 in 2006 to over 700 in the past year and the current programs are in top form.

As testimony of these achievements we were recently awarded the prestigious Fighting for Justice Award from the Mexican American Law Student Association and we were recognized by the Family Violence Prevention Fund for our “exemplary efforts to end and

prevent violence against women and children in New Mexico.”

To make sure that we work towards fulfilling our mission to eliminate domestic violence in the Latino immigrant community, in addition to continuing to offer high quality services, all members of the board and staff have been working for the last eight months on a new strategic plan. By June 2008 we will have a blue print for deepening and broadening our capacity to address the challenges before us and to continue to be leaders in our field.

EC has and continues to achieve everything we set out to do because we have the best team, visionary leaders who continue to join our board, strong community support and an organizational commitment to be grounded in our principles of social justice and mutual respect. I hope you get involved in our work. Enjoy the newsletter.

Hasta la próxima,

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### Make International Women's Day Every Day! By Mireya Cadena, EC Volunteer

On March 8, Enlace Comunitario will join people across the world in celebrating the power and strength of women. Although women should be appreciated every day, we are choosing this day to invite the public to memorialize the women who serve as role models in their lives through a con-

tribution to the organization's work.

Each woman honored in this way will receive a personalized certificate from Enlace Comunitario. The donation can be made in the name of any woman you look up to: a mother, sister, co-worker, or a pub-

lic figure.

Through participation in this global celebration of women, we provide a grassroots method to honor and recognize

*(Continued on page 2)*



Celebrating Women in their Every Day Lives

## Breaking the Cycle: An Introduction to the Young Men's group at E.C. By Meg Wills, EC Children's Counselor

*...a space needed  
to be created  
wherein young  
men could find  
trust and  
belonging...*

The majority of male children I work with in individual counseling currently live with their single mother and siblings as a result of escaping an abusive male figure- often times their biological father or step-father. It became clear that there is a lack of positive male figures in most of their lives. The consistent presence of a person they can look to for alternatives to the violent behaviors they have observed is paramount to breaking the cycle of violence.

Many of the kids talk about their aunts, cousins, sisters, and grandmothers who support their family but most struggle to identify an uncle, grandfather, or older male friend that they feel safe with. The absence of a positive male relationship in many of their lives leaves them thinking that being a man means 'going it alone' and 'toughening up' which contributes to emotional isolation, low self-esteem, and unhealthy communication skills. These natural responses, if exacerbated by the repeated experience or witnessing of violence, can lead to their own loss or abuse of power in relationships both now and in the future. This can be prevented.

After meeting with several male counselors, activists, community outreach specialists, and peer

mentors I concluded that a space needed to be created wherein young men could find trust and belonging despite the innately alienating experience they all have in common: domestic violence.

The Young Men's Group meets weekly and is lead by both a male and female co-facilitator who consistently model a shared balance of power and work with the participants to process new information, reflect on themselves and relate to one another. Each time the group meets there is an experiential learning activity which promotes healthy interaction between the participants to help them identify their personal strengths as they relate to others.

Male speakers from various organizations in the community such as the South Valley Male Involvement Project, the Young Father's Project, UNM's Gang Intervention and Prevention Program, and South Valley Academy, present on topics relevant to young men's lives, such as: teen pregnancy, gangs, education, health, gender roles, respect, personal goals, communication, alternatives to violence, bullying, media literacy, sexism, and other youth dilemmas. All boys between the ages of 11 and 17 are welcome to participate if their parent is an active client of Enlace Comunitario.

**Support the EC Youth Groups.  
Contribute prizes that can be given  
as rewards for great attendance!**



### Make International Women's Day Every Day!

*(Continued from page 1)*

women locally. Enlace Comunitario hopes to raise awareness, expand its circle of support in the Albuquerque community, and recognize the strengths that enable women to succeed. Activities will include a

variety of house parties and gatherings and Albuquerque's first ever bilingual production of the Vagina Monologues!

**Sponsors and supporters of this Event are: Bank of Albuquerque, Employee Benefits, Joan Weissman Custom Rugs, La Voz de Nuevo Mexico, Las Meganenas, Moye, Waters & Assoc. LLC., Out'ChYonda Live Artz Space, Payday, Resources for Change, SouthWest Organizing Project, Sunrise Bank, Univision New Mexico, and the UNM Women's Resource Center.**

LAS MEGANENAS & FRIENDS PRESENT

**VDAY**  
UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS

\* Bilingual Production by Las Meganenas

**THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES**  
**ONE NIGHT ONLY!**

**SOUTH BROADWAY CULTURAL CENTER**  
1009 Broadway, NE

**THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2006 7:00PM**  
Reservations Only

To Reserve: 505-246-1129 or 505-246-8972  
Tickets: \$10.00 (includes a drink) \* \$15.00 (includes a drink)  
Tickets are available until 5:00 PM on March 29, 2006  
Contribution to UNM Community Resource Center  
on March 29, 2006, 10:00am - 12:00pm

*To honor a woman through a contribution to Enlace Comunitario, call us. We'll send a personalized certificate to her.*

## Enlace Comunitario Teen Girls Squad

By Maribel Garza, EC Children's Program Coordinator

On Feb. 6, 2008, Enlace Comunitario began a teenage girls group. Jocelyn Salaz and I co-facilitate the group. The curriculum covers:

- Educating teens about healthy relationships and clarifying misconceptions about relationships
- Pointing out red flags
- Self-esteem building
- Counteracting societal expectations and images that are damaging to them
- Awareness raising
- Providing resources that are available to them out in the community

The group has a big focus and uses art as a mechanism in which the girls can express themselves freely and creatively. The group will run once a week for 10 weeks. After that we plan to start another session with new girls eager to learn. The first week, we had 10 very excited girls in the group and they seemed to en-

joy the first day very much; and now with three weeks down, the groups energy is really high with 2 new girls joining. It seems the girls and their moms are excited and anxious to experience and learn new things.

We see the need for this group because we noticed there were many families in which the teens were not receiving any kind of education regarding healthy relationships and awareness about DV. Stay tuned for more updates on the group!



*Enlace Comunitario Families Having Fun!*

Enlace Comunitario honors and celebrates the life of Edith Menning who passed away this February 2008. Edith was an instrumental supporter of EC since it's inception. Edith, we will miss you dearly.



**Edith Menning: Longtime EC Supporter**

**Thank you to our Volunteers! CTAP, Ebony Jones, Liz McMaster, Monica Chavez, Damian Baca & Mireya Cadena!**

**Where did International Women's Day Come From?**  
By Natalie Smith, Case Manager

In 1910 at the Second International Conference of Socialist Women in Copenhagen, Denmark, German socialist Clara Zetkin called for a day to recognize the struggle of working class women around the world. She and other socialists wanted to link the fight for women's rights with the labor rights movement. The Industrial Revolution and the rise of capitalism generated new oppressive threats against women in an already patriarchal society. Working women faced institutionalized sexism that legitimized lower wages, longer hours, and unhealthy working conditions. Prevailing stereotypes reinforced the beliefs that women didn't need to earn as much as their husbands and that they were better suited physiologically to do monotonous tasks for long periods of time. Aside from fostering a hostile work environment for female employees, these stereotypes discredited the struggle faced by single women and mothers. So became the birth of International Women's Day.

**Enlace Welcomes Three New Board Members: Norma Valdez, David Miranda & Andrea Quijada**

An interview by Mireya Cadena, EC Volunteer

**Where are you from? How long have you lived in New Mexico?**

**Norma:** I'm from Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. I have lived in NM since 1992.

**David:** I was born in El Paso, Texas. I've lived in Albuquerque for over 20 years.

**Andrea:** I was born and raised in Phoenix, AZ. I've lived in NM for 13 years.

**How did you first become involved with Enlace Comunitario?**

**Norma:** I've known about Enlace for many years and have long admired the work they did with women.

**David:** I've worked at the Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless for 9 years and through the AHCH Children's Outreach program, I had a client from WCA (currently Safehouse domestic violence shelter). Around that time, I went to an open house at Enlace. EC was able to provide that same client with so many resources and services and I was very impressed.

**Andrea:** I worked at the Albuquerque Rape Crisis Center from 1997-2002. During that time, I had the privilege of collaborating with Enlace in coalitions and through community work.

**What aspect of Enlace Comunitario intrigued you the most?**

**Norma:** The assistance Enlace provides to women in domestic violence situations.

**David:** I am not so much intrigued with Enlace, rather impressed with the great work that they do. They have developed a strong presence and reputation in the community.

**Andrea:** What I find most important about Enlace Comunitario are that social justice and immigrant rights are integrated into their approach to ending domestic violence. I also think it is critical that EC has consistently remained rooted in the immigrant community.

**In what way are you personally going to further Enlace's goals?**

**Norma:** I will contribute from my knowledge base [finances and so much more] and I will provide Enlace's name to whomever I see that will benefit from their services.

**David:** I hope that my experiences will be helpful to the cause.

**Andrea:** As a non-immigrant, I think the best way for me to further Enlace's goals is to listen to and take direction from the immigrant community. I will also work to educate on the importance of immigrant rights and DV.

.....  
**Did you know?**  
 \* **David is the first man on EC's Board?**  
 \* **Andrea loves hummingbirds**  
 \* **Norma works at the Loan Fund.**  
 .....

**Thanks to our Funders!**

City of Albuquerque	McCune Foundation
CLSC	Verizon Wireless
IOLTA	Attorney Generals Office
Children's Trust Fund	State Bar
CYFD	Legal Aid
CVRC (VOCA and VAWA)	& Thanks to the many busi-
United Way	nesses and individuals who
	contribute!!

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**Yes! I want to support Enlace Comunitario**

\$250  \$100  \$50  \$20  Other

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**Send your tax-deductible donation to:  
 Enlace Comunitario P.O. BOX 8919,  
 Albuquerque, NM 87198**