Kitchen Expansion Underway

Will Enable Expanded Nutrition Services
For Families, Elders, The Homeless and Children

Our long-awaited dream of a safe, commercial quality, expanded kitchen annex will soon become a reality due to a combined effort from the greater-Leominster community.

Because of generous donors, ambitious students and teachers from Leominster High School, and a dedicated Board of Directors, the project is now underway. (More photos on P 4).

This state-of-the art expansion will further one of the Spanish American Center’s main missions: to alleviate hunger in vulnerable populations throughout Northern Worcester County. A dedication breakfast and open house to showcase this project is being planned, so look for updates on our web site and Facebook page in future issues! (Above, students from LHS TEC Program on the job site).

Spring/Summer 2014

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(Photo on Left) Left to right – Branch Chief Special Nutrition Programs, USDA, Miranda E. Miranda, Massachusetts Secretary of Health and Human Services John Polanowicz, US Congressman James P. McGovern, Spanish American Center Board President Richard Letarte, Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzarella, State Representative Denis Rosa.

Thank you all for your visit!
Spanish Center Provides Evening Meals for Displaced Families

Have you ever wondered what it is like to peel potatoes for three hundred meals? It is a labor of love, skill, and heartfelt care. The staff and volunteers at the Spanish American Center recently rose to accept the challenge of feeding the approximately 300 people in transition when requested to help by The Community Foundation of North Central Mass.

On Wednesdays and Thursdays, the aroma of home-cooking – menús such as hearty macaroni, turkey and gravy, and rice and beans, drift through the Center as the evening meals are being prepared for transport. Two local Motels have become temporary housing for some three hundred displaced individuals (most, women and children), who are awaiting a move to suitable permanent homes throughout Massachusetts.

On a recent evening spent assisting with serving dinner at Motel 6, SAC Board Member Attorney Mary Yanneth Bermudez Camp had an opportunity to meet with a typical family and discuss their difficult situation:

“I met a displaced mother of four children, including a child with special needs, who had been living at the hotel for six months. A victim of domestic violence with limited resources, she told me she had been coping with trying to solve two problems – safety for her children and herself, as well as securing housing. Initially they were in a room with only one king sized bed, but they have now moved to a room with two beds. When she did finally get notified of an opening, to her dismay, it was not a family unit, so she was put back on the bottom of the waiting list.” – Atty. Camp.

Stories such as this one are not uncommon among these displaced families as there is a statewide shortage of affordable housing units. Waiting lists are very long and shelters that can meet the needs of families with children seldom have openings. Many of the displaced families are far from their cities and towns of origin. Most are unfamiliar with Leominster and Fitchburg and local resources. Many have no family and social supports close by.

Summer Nutrition: Because hunger doesn’t take a vacation.
(And neither do we!)

The summer vacation has become easier for the families of school-aged children in Northern Worcester County due to the Summer-Up program, which provides activities, breakfast and lunch five days per week, Monday thru Friday. This year the Spanish Center has expanded its meals program, and will be providing over 1,000 meals per day to children at the following sites:


For more information - Call The Spanish American Center At 978-534-3145, or The Summer Up Program @ The Division of Access and Transition at Mt. Wachusett Community College 978-630-9248.

Young participants visit With Congressman McGovern as Summer-Up begins!
A proud community with connections home:
Uruguayan “Mobile Consulate” at the Leominster Spanish Center
June 5 & 6, 2014

On Thursday and Friday, June 5th and 6th, 2014, the Spanish American Center once again hosted dignitaries from the Uruguayan Consulate, which is based in New York City, at a “Mobile Consulate” program at our 112 Spruce Street office in Leominster.

This “Mobile Consulate” program attracted clients from throughout New England – from as far away as New Hampshire, Maine and Cape Cod, and as close as Fitchburg and Leominster. Over the two days more than two dozen families were assisted with services such as passport acquisition and documentation.

Families visiting the Center on these days have remarked about the convenience and value of this service for the Uruguayan-American community throughout New England.

This program is an example of one of many community partnerships developed by the Center to improve the quality of life in the region.

El jueves 5 y viernes 6 de junio, El Spanish American Center, Inc. De nuevo auspicio a dignatarios Consulado de Uruguay centrado en New York y tiene un programa de “Consulado Móvil” en nuestras oficinas localizadas en el 112 de la Calle Spruce, en Leominster, MA.

Este “Consulado Móvil” atrae clientes de New England (Nueva Inglaterra) desde lugares lejos como New Hampshire, Maine, y Cape Cod, y de lugares cerca como Fitchburg, y Leominster.

En un término de dos días, se le proveo servicios a mas de dos docenas de familias. Los servicios incluyeron; adquisición de pasaportes y documentaciones.

Familias que fueron dadas servicios en estos dos días comentaron con relación a la conveniencia y el valor en tener estos servicios para la Comunidad Uruguaya-Americana en New England (Nueva Inglaterra).

Este programa es ejemplo de muchas colaboraciones desarrolladas por El Centro en mejorar la calidad de vida en la región.

Legal Clinic To Assist With DACA Applications-Clinica Legal Para Ayudar Con Solicitudes DACA

On Wednesday evening, August 13, 2014, from 6 – 7:30 PM, at the Leominster Public Library, 30 West Street, Leominster, the Spanish American Center, in collaboration with the the Cleghorn Neighborhood Center and The Law Offices Mary Yanneth Bermudez Camp will hold a free legal clinic in order to assist with the renewal process of DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) applications.

La noche del miércoles, 13 de agosto de 2014, a partir de 6 – 7:30 PM, en la Biblioteca Pública de Leominster, 30 West Street, Leominster, el Centro Hispano Americano, en colaboración con el Centro de Barrio Cleghorn y The Law Offices María Yanneth Bermudez Camp llevará a cabo una clínica legal gratuita con el fin de ayudar en el proceso de renovación de las DACA (Acción Diferida para la Infancia llegadas) aplicaciones. Para obtener más información, por favor llame al Centro Hispano-Americano al 978-534-3145. For more information, please call the Spanish American Center at 978-534-3145.

Please help the Spanish Center Continue Its Work Locally!

Donate By Mail: Your check can be mailed in along with this form to:

The Leominster Spanish American Center, 112 Spruce Street, Leominster, MA 01453

Name: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________
eMail: ________________________________ or,

Via our secure, ONLINE, PAY PAL Account at: www.spanishamericancenter.org (all major credit cards accepted), or

Please bring donations of non-perishable food items to the Center during our normal hours of service M – F 8AM – 4:30 PM, or by special arrangement by calling us at 978-534-3145.

Your kindness and generosity mean a great deal to us. Your gifts are fully tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.
Dear Friends,

As we move forward with the construction of our long awaited kitchen expansion, I wish to thank those who have given so generously of their time, talents and money to help us meet our goal! During the summer, we at the Center are preparing to provide meals for children here and at many of our mobile/regional sites, as well as now providing for our newest clients – the displaced families who are getting two meals per week prepared and served by SAC staff and volunteers. Our Board has been very active; we have elected a new treasurer and an ambitious fund-raising committee has been involved in developing our updated website and this newsletter, *El Amanecer*, which will keep clients, donors and others up-to-date on all that the Spanish Center has to offer. Welcome! We hope to see you soon at the Open House for our new kitchen annex. Have a safe and happy summer and thank you again for your support.

Neddy

Mientras seguimos con la construcción de nuestra anticipada expansión de la cocina, deseo darles las gracias a las personas que generosamente han dado de su tiempo, talentos, y dinero en ayudarnos a alcanzar nuestra meta! Durante este verano, estaremos preparando comidas para niños que participan en programas de nuestro Centro y en otras localidades móviles y lugares regionales, como también proveer alimento para nuestros nuevos clientes que son familias desplazadas que reciben dos comidas al día, preparadas y servidas en el personal del Centro y nuestros Voluntarios La Junta del Centro ha sido muy activa, hemos seleccionado a un nuevo tesorero y un comité de recaudación de fondos muy ambicionado que están envueltos en desarrollar y traer al día nuestra red electrónica, y nuestro boletín titulado “*El Amanecer*”, que mantendrá a los clientes, y auspiciadores al día sobre todo lo que el Centro ofrece. Bienvenidos, y esperamos verlos pronto en la apertura de nuestra cocina en el nuevo anexo. Que tengan un verano sano y feliz y de nuevo, gracias por su apoyo.

Neddy

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**El Spanish American Center (Centro Hispano Americano) es una organización sin lucros 503c. Recibimos fondos por varias donaciones, y becas, y el United Way of North Central Massachusetts. Favor de enviar sus donaciones al:**

Spanish American Center, 112 Spruce Street, Leominster, MA 01453

**Donations**

The Spanish American Center is a Non-Profit 503c Organization. We receive funding through Donations, Grants & The United Way of North Central Massachusetts. Please send donations to:

Spanish American Center
112 Spruce Street
Leominster, MA 01453

**Services/Programs**

Elders United
ESL Programs
Food Pantry
After School Programs
Domestic Violence Intervention
Nutrition Outreach
Information & Referral
Advocacy & Mediation
SummerUp
Mobile Consulate
Legal Clinics
Dear friends:

The Spanish American Center is an all-inclusive, non-profit organization dedicated to assisting individuals faced with unfortunate and dangerous situations. These circumstances include domestic violence, immigration issues, English-as-a-second language, after-school, and elderly activities. The Center, under the auspices of the Massachusetts Department of Education, provides summer meals for over 1,000 children daily. Staff and volunteers prepare the meals at the Spanish Center and the meals are then delivered to sixteen locations. In addition, the Center provides meals for the homeless who are housed in local motels.

The Spanish American Center’s dedicated Board of Directors is committed to ensuring the success of the Center as it continues to offer important programs like these for its clients. Among them are some of our most vulnerable and valuable neighbors – children, the homeless and elders.

Please consider making a donation to assist us in continuing our work and furthering the mission of the Spanish Center, which is so very vital—providing a much-needed safety net and improving the quality of life for everyone in our community. Many thanks!

Sincerely,
Richard H. Letarte, President, Spanish American Center Board of Directors

Lionel Reinford is a giver. He has been an active and valued member of the Spanish American Center’s Board of Directors for years and continues to share his talents, which are many, by teaching art and painting classes offered at the SAC for both children and adults. Tapping into the creativity and imagination of his students, Mr. Reinford’s classes are an example of the ways in which the Center adds to the cultural enrichment of the community. Born in Honduras and educated at both The University of Massachusetts and at Harvard University, Mr. Reinford taught in both Leominster and Fitchburg. His concern for the education and the well being of his students was an impetus for his having become a founding member of the Spanish Center back in the 1960’s. His devotion to the Center continued to grow, and now, in retirement, his talents as an educator and mentor are legendary among the local Hispanic community. Pictured below, Mr. Reinford assists his adult students with acrylic technique.

The Spanish American Center Website is currently undergoing major redesign and updates through the combined effort of Staff and the Board of Directors who have authorized the retention of superior Web production services from a local company, inConcert Web Solutions, Inc. of Gardner, MA. This update will expand the Spanish Center’s availability to clients and community service providers will accurately describe our programs and services as we grow, and will enable prospective funding sources and donors to view current and past achievements. We will also begin accepting donations via a new secure web site application with an eye to increasing revenue from previously untapped resources. The Board of Directors will partner with Staff and Volunteers to provide web content that is timely and relevant. Training, which will be provided by inConcert staff as part of the development package, will help the Agency to maximize exposure in the community so that our clients can reach us – even when we are not open for the day. A website with both Spanish and English language pages is being planned in keeping with the Agency’s mission to reduce difficulties faced by cultural and linguistic minorities. Links to other important web sites and agency supporters are also a major feature. Look for us on the web at: www.spanishamericancenter.org

Actualizaciones Agencia Presencia En La Web

El lugar de red del Spanish American Center actualmente está siendo rediseñada y actualizada por medio de los esfuerzos combinados de nuestro personal y nuestra Junta de Directores que han autorizados los servicios y producción de nuestra Red electrónica de una compañía local, inConcert Web Solutions, Inc. de Gardner, MA. Este adelanto expandirá la disponibilidad en proveer servicios en la comunidad, y aumentará la posibilidad de atraer donantes financieros, y revisión de logros pasados y presentes. Comenzaremos a aceptar nuevas donaciones vía una aplicación en una red segura con miras en aumentar recursos de ingresos previamente no alcanzados.

La Junta e Directores en colaboración con el Personal y Voluntarios proveerá el contenido de la red electrónica que será en tiempo adecuado y actualizado. inConcert proveerá entrenamiento al Personal como parte de la oferta, esto ayudará a la agencia en aumentar nuestra accesibilidad a la comunidad para que los clientes se comuniquen con nosotros. El planeamiento de la red en Ingles y Espanol esta en planes y ayudará a la agencia en su misión de reducir las dificultades culturales y linguísticas de nuestras comunidades. www.spanishamericancenter.org

Mediation Program Offered

The SAC and Mediation Services of North Central MA will be hosting “Information Sessions” about the mediation services that will be offered later this year at the Center. We will be seeking volunteers to be trained as volunteer bilingual mediators. Watch the website for dates of sessions in September, or call Neddy Latimer 978-534-3145 to learn more.

Thank You St. Leo’s Parish St. Vincent DePaul

For your generous donations of bakery goods for The Spanish American Center’s Food Pantry

IC Federal Credit Union

Has kindly donated postage for El Amanecer.

The Leominster Spanish-American Center is very grateful for this assistance!

Muchas Gracias! Thank you!

The Leominster Spanish-American Center is a proud member of the Chamber of Commerce and wishes to thank you for your support! Gracias!

We are very thankful for a generous donation given by Ixtapa Mexican Grille & Cantina, Lunenburg, MA, who chose The Spanish-American Center as one of their designated charities.

The SAC would like to gratefully recognize one of our most dedicated volunteers, Mrs. Debbie Richards, who gives the gift of her time and skills for our children’s programs! Thank you Debbie!
Congressman James P. McGovern Visits Center
Federal, State and Local Officials Launch “Summer-Up” Kickoff

On Monday, July 7, 2014, the Leominster Spanish–American Center was the site of a Press Conference attended by **Congressman Jim McGovern**, Leominster **Mayor Dean Mazzarella** and other noted government officials, as the Center once again affirmed its commitment to the needs of the City's youth through their Summer-Up activity kick-off. This program offers breakfast, lunch and coordinated activities at sixteen regional sites throughout Northern Worcester County. These programs, funded in part by the Department Of Education, fill the gap in child nutrition needs created by school summer vacations. The Spanish Center has, for years, provided meals for hundreds of local school-aged children throughout the region – in Fitchburg, Leominster and Gardner, regardless of a child’s ethnicity – **children of all backgrounds are welcome**.

Elimination of hunger has long been a focus of Congressman McGovern’s legislative agenda, a fact well known to his constituents and colleagues on Capitol Hill. **“I want to ensure that every eligible family that needs access to food this summer knows that this program is available”** McGovern reminded the crowd. Mayor Dean Mazzarella and **State Representative Denis Rosa**, both long term supporters of the Center and its mission, agreed, citing the need for these types of child-focused, inclusive programs which offer fun, safe activities and healthy meals in their local neighborhoods. Representative Rosa: **“When you invest in the Spanish American Center you get 110 percent return!”** citing the impact of SAC’s investment in its youth programs.

Officials from **Project Bread, Ashley Krebs**, (Director of Child Nutrition Outreach); **The USDA, Jon D. Niedzielski** (State Executive Director Farm Service Agency), **Miranda E Miranda** (Branch Chief For The Community Special Nutrition Programs) as well as **Massachusetts Secretary of Health and Human Services, John Polanowicz** - offered similar endorsements. Following these remarks, members of the SAC’s team and SummerUp Staff, as well as the visiting dignitaries, donned hairnets, aprons and gloves and served lunch to all of the children in attendance!

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**El Amanecer** is the official newsletter of the Leominster Spanish-American Center, Inc., 112 Spruce Street, Leominster, Massachusetts, 01453. Ph. 978-534-3145. It is published twice a year.
Help the Spanish American Center Continue Its Mission

The Staff and Volunteers at the Center could not do all that they do without a dedicated team of volunteers! Your talents and energy are needed now, more than ever. Spanish language skills are helpful, but by no means necessary. Please consider the most important gift of all – the gift of your time. Community enrichment is everyone’s concern. Lend a hand and your talents will be rewarded many times over! Many Thanks!

El personal y los voluntarios en el Centro no podían hacer todo lo que hacen sin un dedicado equipo de voluntarios! Sus talentos y dedicaciones se necesitan ahora más que nunca. El dominio del idioma español es útil, pero de ninguna manera necesario. Por favor, considere el regalo más importante de todos - el regalo de su tiempo. Enriquecimiento de la comunidad es una preocupación de todos. Dar una mano y su talento serán recompensados muchas veces! Muchas gracias!

Ofrézcase de voluntario! Volunteer!
978-534-3145
On the Web: www.spanishamericancenter.org

The Leominster Spanish-American Center gratefully acknowledges the generous donation for the printing of El Amanecer made by:

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Doing what’s right for you.

The Spanish American Center Mission: To respond to the social, health, educational and cultural needs of the Leominster community and surrounding areas with a special focus on Latino/Hispanic interests.

Leominster Spanish-American Center
112 Spruce Street, Leominster, MA 01453

Sirviendo Nuestra Comunidad