



Adelante Mujeres

FALL 2013

Adelante Education starts a new school year

**Day of the Dead
celebration
at Adelante's Forest
Grove Farmers Market**

**Wednesday, October 30
4:00—7:00 p.m.**

**Adelante offices are
moving to a new
location in
November!**

**Look for us at
2036 Main St. in
downtown
Forest Grove**

More details to come...

Ongoing Needs at Adelante Mujeres

- ~ moving boxes
- ~ storage bins
- ~ duct tape
- ~ bungee cords
- ~ construction paper
- ~ children's scissors
- ~ children's books
- ~ glue sticks/bottles
- ~ ink pads for stamping
- ~ copy paper



Early Childhood Education teacher, Mari Rizo Pedroza engages with students Valery and Berenice on the first day of school.

Our education program participants enjoyed their first day of school on Monday, September 16, 2013. It is always exciting to witness the energy and hope of the women as they look forward to a year of growth and opportunity for themselves and their children. It was a busy morning with the moms transferring their children into the competent hands of our dedicated early childhood staff making sure each child had a labeled lunch box and blanket. As you can imagine, some of the kids transitioned more smoothly than others. But what better way to impart to your children the value of education than to commit to it yourself and embark on an educational journey together.

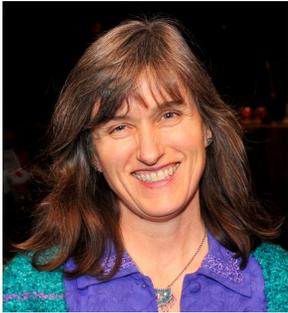


Adult Education students Yeraldin, Abigail, and Maritza begin their day with an icebreaker.



Adult Education student, Estefana with her children Joseph and Anthony.

Our dream for young women, entrepreneurs and the Forest Grove community



This past summer's surprise was the opening of *Dream Girl Coffee*, a “bikini barista” drive through, in the parking lot next to our office. Rather than bikinis, pasties and lace thongs became the attire for workers. While we sympathize with the young women who've found employment at the stand, we believe *dreams* are meant to take us further, to help build a just community that empowers women and girls. Following a full staff conversation to discern our response, we penned the opinion piece printed below. It was published in the *Forest Grove News Times*, the *Forest Grove Leader* and *Oregon-Live*. ~Bridget Cooke, Executive Director

To young women everywhere,

Believe in dreams, your dreams for yourself. Your dreams to be who you want to be, to touch the sky, to travel far, to be valued for who you are, as a whole person, with the body you were given and the brain you've developed. That's the kind of dream girl we hope is a reality for you. Dream as in the imperative – your action for your future. Not the dream that belongs to someone else when you are reduced to being an object – to being valued solely for the way your body becomes a stranger's sexual fantasy. Dream Girl Espresso is not about your dream, girl. It's about his.

To entrepreneurs everywhere,

With an ample dose of determination, creativity and discipline you can kick-start your own business. Go for it! Enterprise is what makes a community thrive. As a new entrepreneur you'll be joining a long list of individuals who over millennia have sought ways to make a difference by responding to a need. One thing to keep in mind as you think up your business is how it will contribute to the greater good. At Adelante Mujeres in our small business development program, we present this in terms of the Principle of the Triple Bottom Line: **people, planet and profit**. So much emphasis has been placed on profit that sometimes we forget that with the *right* to start a business comes the *responsibility* to pay attention to how your business affects the community. Whether this means protecting the environment in which you operate, protecting the welfare of your workers or protecting the community interest. In addition to pay and benefits, think about what you require your workers do and what you require them to wear while on the job. Are they in a position to be treated with dignity by customers? Are they respected for their skill and talent? If you concentrate on the first two – people and planet, if you think honestly about how your business is making life better for everyone your business touches, and give some thought to how your business respects the earth we all live in, the profits will follow. Dream Girl Espresso seems to be focused solely on profit with a disregard for their impact on the community.

To the Forest Grove community,

Adelante Mujeres is an organization committed to working for the empowerment of all people, especially women and girls who have suffered from structures that devalue women. We know firsthand the cost of sexism and the objectification of the female body. Over 50% of the women we serve have experienced sexual violence of some form or another. In society as a whole, between a third and a fourth of all women have been sexually abused. When women's and girls' bodies are made into a commodity, we all pay. Women pay with their bodies and with the dehumanizing message that a woman's value lies solely in how her body appears and appeals to others; men and boys pay when relationships are impoverished by an equation that devalues women and girls.

Zoning laws limit strip joints and night clubs to certain areas, but Dream Girl Espresso has found a way around this. As members of the community we can exercise our power by voting with our dollars. What kind of business do we feel is appropriate next to a bus stop where children wait to catch the bus, or next to a carwash where children come with their parents to wash their car, or next to an organization that serves families with small children? We have the *right* to determine whether we want to expose our children to Dream Girl Espresso. We have the *responsibility* to help create a community that fosters respect. While we would like to support our new neighbor, for all the reasons we've just mentioned Adelante Mujeres has decided to buy its coffee elsewhere. We hope you'll join us.

~Adelante Mujeres Staff

Bridging culture and generations: Adelante partners with Cornell Estates

By Carrie Schmid, ELD Teacher/Volunteer Coordinator

This fall, Adelante Mujeres students will have the opportunity to learn about history, culture and older generations thanks to a partnership with Cornell Estates, a retirement and assisted living community in Hillsboro.

“Working with Adelante Mujeres has not only offered wonderful service opportunities for our residents, but it has opened our minds to what it might be like for a Latina woman and her family to live, work and learn in our shared community,” said Melissa King, Community Programs Director with Cornell Estates.

The partnership began four years ago with an initiative funded by the Oregon Community Foundation to pair older adult volunteers with pre-school aged students to develop reading readiness skills. From there, Cornell Estates volunteers began preparing materials for Adelante’s Early Childhood Education classroom and began helping Adult Education students practice English.

“In the beginning, our goal was to make a difference in the schools, whether that be help with materials or help with English conversation, but I think it has come to a turning point where relationships are forming and the residents here at Cornell Estates are left impacted by the determination and motivation of the students at Adelante Mujeres,” King said.

“It has been nice to get to know Violeta,” said Florence Hess, Cornell Estates resident of her Adelante friend. “I’m amazed at all that she does, what with her children and work and school. And she still takes time to come see me.”

“The lady I was matched with, Pat, doesn’t talk much, but I was there to provide some company,” said Adelante student Estefana Bautista of her Cornell partner. “Sometimes her life was not that great because sometimes she was sad. When we went to her home, we said ‘Hi’ and ‘How are you?’ She hugged me and kissed me and said how much she loved me. It was great because when we were there, she was happy.” Bautista added that meeting with Pat was also a great opportunity to practice speaking English.



Cornell Estates resident Florence Hess displays the traditional tissue paper flowers that she made with Adelante student Violeta Hernández and her children, José and Mariah.



Long-time Adelante volunteer Bobbie Rodriguez helps Cornell Estates resident Doris George prepare materials for Adelante’s early childhood classroom.

This year, several new activities are planned—a Mother’s Day party, a joint exercise class and a joint choral performance at the Hillsboro Farmers Market for the holidays. Cornell volunteers will also work with Adelante students to prepare stories and materials for the annual “Snapshots” storytelling event in February.

Adelante volunteer Bobbie Rodriguez will continue to work with Cornell Estates residents once a month to prepare materials for the early childhood class. Bobbie has been coordinating this activity since the beginning of the partnership in 2009.

“Florence Prosa just LOVES Bobbie,” according to King. “She misses her in the summer months and asks when we are going to be working with Adelante again. She even carries her own scissors with her to help.”



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Education. Empowerment. Enterprise.

Since its founding in 2002, Adelante Mujeres has relied on volunteers and donors to sustain our organization. With the support of people like you, we are serving over 500 families this year. Thanks to you, Adelante Mujeres is making a huge impact in our community.

If you, or a friend, are interested in getting more involved with Adelante Mujeres please contact us to arrange volunteering your time, talents or financial donation. We can also happily add you to our mailing list to receive our newsletters.

Kind thanks,
The staff & participants of Adelante Mujeres



From Chicas participant to volunteer



Mayra Carranza, Chica Volunteer

During her sophomore year at Forest Grove High School, Mayra Carranza learned about a new program at the school, Adelante Chicas. Although she had always been hesitant to get involved in school activities, she decided to give Adelante Chicas a try.

She is now very glad that she did. Having the support and encouragement of her group and the leaders helped her in many ways. For the first time, she had a place to talk openly about problems and fears knowing that the group would support her and

not put her down.

“Adelante Chicas helped me come out of my shell”, she said. She later joined MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan), a high school club encouraging education and political involvement of Chicano students. She eventually became the club’s vice president. She credits Adelante Chicas for this. She was very uncomfortable speaking in front of people and so was hesitant to become an officer of the club. But her Chicas “family” encouraged her and gave her the confidence to take it on.

Mayra graduated from high school in 2011 and is currently a student at PCC. She plans to take her nursing prerequisites and then transfer to OHSU for nursing school. She dreams of becoming a nurse and working with children who have cancer. She said, “I know I won’t be able to take the cancer away. But I want to be there and help in any way I can.”

After graduating from high school, Mayra decided to volunteer for the Adelante Chicas program. She has worked with both the elementary and high school Chicas groups. “I really like doing community service, but it is hard to fit in because I am working and going to PCC.” She makes it a priority though, because she likes working with kids and wants to develop skills that will help with her career goal of pediatric nursing. “When you are volunteering with any group, you are giving back. But they are also giving to you, because you are learning new skills.”

Adelante Chicas staff Leticia Aguilar is grateful to have Mayra as a volunteer, “She serves as a wonderful role model to the girls. She was in the Chicas program and is now in college. She is a beautiful demonstration of how the program works.”