

# Adelante Mujeres

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## DID YOU KNOW?

ADELANTE MUJERES HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING RECOGNITION:

- 7TH BEST GREEN COMPANY TO WORK FOR IN 2010 RATED BY OREGON BUSINESS MAGAZINE
- 2008 PORTLAND MONTHLY MAGAZINE "LIGHT A FIRE" AWARD FOR DOING THE MOST WITH THE LEAST

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FG Farmers Market	1
Adelante Educación	2
Adelante Agricultura	2
Adelante Chicas	3
Adelante Empresas	3
Contact Information	4
Meet Adelante	4

## Thank you, friend!

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your support of Adelante Mujeres. Your donation has been put to work helping us sustain our education programs, and providing new tools in the areas of empowerment and enterprise to our participants.

It has been an exciting few months at Adelante Mujeres. On March 5th, A Fiesta of Hope, our annual fundraising event, generated over \$17,000 for our general fund operations.

Our adult education class has over 40 participants currently attending 25 hours of classes a week.

In April Adelante Chicas launched a soccer program for girls. The program is in partnership with the Nike Foundation. Over 75 girls attended the first day of camp. Adelante Chicas! For more information on the Adelante Chicas program see the article on page 3.



**Co-Founder & Exec Director  
Bridget Cooke at the 2011  
Fiesta of Hope**

Nearly 20 businesses graduated from our small business development class this winter. The ten week program provides participants with information on financial literacy, credit building, and sustainable business practices.

If you have not done so already, we encourage you to visit our website and view a video about the programs and participants of Adelante Mujeres.

All of these programs could not exist without the support of donors like you.

Thank you, we could not do any of this without you.

## Forest Grove Farmers Market Opens May 11

Adelante Mujeres manages the Forest Grove Farmers Market, welcoming over 25,000 shoppers every year. The market adds vibrancy to the heart of our local downtown every Wednesday night from Mid May - Mid October.

The Farmers Market reflects the demography of the community with approximately 20% Latino vendors, many of whom attend the sustainable agriculture classes offered by Adelante Mujeres. The goal is to offer local farmers and

artisans an opportunity to sell select handmade crafts and locally produced fruits and vegetables. The event brings the whole community together in a healthy and fun way. We hope to see you there!



**Adelante Adult Education participants take weekend trip to the Oregon coast**



**Did you know?**  
The average American farmer is 57 years old.

## Adelante Educación

Adelante Mujeres' vision is to assist Latina women, who in spite of isolation, language barriers, and scarce economic resources are determined to improve their lives. Adelante Mujeres addresses these obstacles that limit a Latina's active participation in society by: providing holistic, education, workforce

development and entrepreneurial training to low-income Latina women and their families; building community to seek solutions to common concerns; increasing environmental awareness leading to sustainable economy and healthy universe; and preserving, fostering and sharing Latino cultural heritage

with the wider community. Our faculty and staff desire that the students understand their potential so they may use their unique skills to promote the well-being of themselves, their children, families, neighborhoods, community and ultimately, the entire world.

## Sustainable Agriculture for Social Justice

The US food industry is a labor-intensive industry that requires a vast army of low-wage workers. This industry is increasingly reliant on a Latino workforce for planting, processing, packaging and serving our food. According to Southern Poverty Law Center, studies show that deporting the undocumented immigrant labor force in this country would leave a \$2.6 trillion dollar hole in the US economy over the next decade. This immigrant workforce is frequently subjected to illegally low wages and dangerous working conditions, including exposure to harmful pesticides. The women in this industry are especially vulnerable to sexual harassment.

Frequently, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) press releases deliver disturbing tales of harassment against farm workers in Oregon, Washington and the nation, including physical threats, verbal coercion, and rape. Last July, a Federal Judge in Portland ordered an employer to stop questioning Hispanic farm workers who filed charges with the EEOC against them concerning their immigration status, employment history and, in one woman's case, her sexual history.

Adelante Agricultura seeks to repair the injustices suffered by farm workers which reveals the imbalance in the national food system, which discriminates against the same workers it depends upon. Adelante Agricultura supports Latino farm workers in the vital role they play in the US food economy, and their potential to supplement the production of the aging farmer population. The Adelante Agricultura program encourages economic viability for local Latino farmers by providing access to farmland, training in small-scale, diversified, organic agriculture, and direct marketing outlets such as the Forest Grove Farmers Market.

# Adelante Chicas Growth Continues...



## Adelante Chicas participate with Habitat for Humanity

The Adelante Chicas program, launched in 2008, currently has over 200 girls par-

ticipating in the program. Originally launched in three schools, Chicas is now operating in seven schools in Western Washington County.

The program is designed to help girls 3rd-12th grade attain self-efficacy, cultural identity and academic success. The Chicas program frequently seeks out community service opportunities

that empower Latina students while strengthening our community. The goal is ultimately developing young Latina leaders that contribute to societal well-being.

In April a group of Chicas from Forest Grove HS volunteered their Saturday to participate in a Habitat for Humanity Build in Aloha, OR. Adelante Chicas with power tools, we love it!

*“Even though I was very tired at the end of the day, I went home with the satisfaction that I helped get a family a step closer to their home.”*

*~Crystal Rico*

*Habitat Volunteer*

## Congrats! 2011 Excellence in Action Award

On April 7th, over 50 people crowded into a private room at the Venetian Theatre to honor Bridget Cooke, Executive Director of Adelante Mujeres, with the 2011 Excellence in Action Award for her outstanding work in education.

The award was presented by the XI Chapter of the International Society for Key Women Educators, Delta Kappa Gamma, in Hillsboro.

Cooke states “receiving an award from a group of educators is doubly rich, as we share in the com-

mon conviction that education is, among other things, a human right—a basic indisputable right that all persons, no matter how poor, no matter their sex or country of origin, deserve to experience and enjoy.”



**Angeles Pineda, student in the Adelante Empresas business course, plans to open a Spanish language school in Forest Grove.**

## Adelante Empresas

Adelante Empresas, the small business development branch of Adelante Mujeres, had a busy spring. With the arrival of a new employee at the end of last year, the Adelante Empresas team has grown to three staff members and numerous volunteers working hard to provide services to Latino

*emprendedores* (entrepreneurs). Eighteen of these *emprendedores* completed the small business development course in March (photo above) and nearly half have signed up to join the Adelante Empresas network. Participants in the network have access to continued business development support

through one-on-one meetings with Adelante Empresas staff and volunteer coaches; cooperative marketing outlets; networking opportunities; and financial resources. Adelante Empresas network businesses include commercial and residential cleaners, landscapers,

construction and remodeling specialists, restaurant owners, web developers, translation services, hair stylists, and screen printers.

Contact Empresas staff at 503-992-0078 x 302 for information about volunteering, or to hire a member business!



## Adelante Mujeres

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**Education. Empowerment. Enterprise.**

Since founding in 2002, Adelante Mujeres has relied on volunteers and donors to sustain our organization. It is because of people like you we served over 300 families last year. Thanks to you, Adelante Mujeres has made 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 receive our newsletters.

Kind thanks,  
The staff & participants of Adelante Mujeres

See the Adelante Mujeres Video  
[www.adelantemujeres.org](http://www.adelantemujeres.org)

## Meet Our Staff & Board



**Virginia Petersen, 2010-2011  
Adelante Mujeres Board President**

In her sixth and final year serving on the Board of Directors, Virginia Petersen has personally witnessed the phenomenal changes in the scope and programs of Adelante Mujeres.

“When I first started, Adelante Mujeres was a small education program, and the Forest Grove

Farmers Market had just a few vendors. Now our programs have blossomed. Between our enterprise, agriculture and chicas programs, we now have programs that can incorporate the entire family.”

Petersen is an attorney at Marble Law Office and a Municipal Court Judge for cities of Forest Grove, Cornelius, and Banks. She lives in Forest Grove with her husband and two kids. In addition to volunteering her time with Adelante Mujeres, Petersen also enjoys traveling, hiking, and camping with her family.

While passion for empowerment through education helped launch her original involvement with

Adelante Mujeres, the success of the program participants has motivated her consistent dedication over the years.

“I feel truly inspired when I hear the stories of our students. They are often stories of courageous transformation. Adelante Mujeres provides the education, encouragement, and support necessary for these transformations but the spark that begins the transformation lies within the individual. My admiration for the students and their journeys is what continues to motivate me.”

On behalf of everyone at Adelante Mujeres, we would like to thank Gini for her service.