



“It is a wonderful experience that all women should be able to live. Attending this program not only benefits the woman, but the family as well. Sincere thanks to all of you for making this program possible.”

**- Hortencia,
Adult Education Student**

Adelante Mujeres

FALL 2011

Change of Season

Dear Friends,

The colorful falling leaves drift around in waves of crimson, yellow, and burnt orange indicating nature’s turn to the fall season. Watching children load onto the school bus on the morning commute, it seems appropriate to reflect on the personal and educational advances the women in our Adult Education will embark on this fall. In addition to undertaking classes in English, Mathematics, Literature, Personal Growth, Leadership, and Parenting, many of the women in our program will begin a colorful transformation in their family that will offer new pathways to a hopeful future.

As most of our supporters know, Adelante provides a holistic education program. Combining select adult classes with early childhood education provides an opportunity to encourage parental reading, play based learning, and improved family communication. Through their dedication to the program, participants reinforce the value of education and commitment within core family values. The transformation that results is a family empowered by education to seek new opportunities, leadership within the community, and economic prosperity.

Through your generous support, Adelante participants will turn over a new leaf. Thank you for your incredible support!

~Adelante Mujeres

Adelante Mujeres 3rd Best Nonprofit to Work for in Oregon

By Leticia Aguilar

Adelante Mujeres has been recognized as the 3rd best medium-sized nonprofit to work for by the “Oregon Business Magazine”. It was a privilege to be present at the awards ceremony on behalf of Adelante Mujeres staff. Adelante Mujeres is the first nonprofit that I have worked for. It has been an incredible feeling to contribute to the community and see all the great things our organization does on a daily basis. Receiving this award has reaffirmed that all the sacrifices I make in my life are worth it. Sometimes I forget about the bigger picture and do not realize the impact we make in people’s lives until you take a moment to witness all the amazing things that we have accomplished. It has been so inspiring to know that everyone I work with is committed and passionate about our mission.

**THE 100
BEST**

Journey to College

By Bridget Cooke

89 % of Latino young adults ages 16 to 25 say that a college education is important for success in life, but only 48% say that they themselves plan to get a college degree.
-Pew Hispanic Trust

In middle-class neighborhoods the ratio of books per child is 13 to 1, in low-income neighborhoods the ratio is 1 age-appropriate book for every 300 children.
-First Books, 2009

Why are so few Latino youth graduating from high school and even fewer going to college? Latino youth have the highest high school dropout rate in Oregon with slightly more than half of entering Latino freshman graduating from high school. One of the greatest heartbreaks for immigrant families is seeing their children drop out of school. The journey to the U.S. is propelled by parents' hope that their children will make the journey to college. For families in poverty, education is the way out.

Numerous factors work against Latino youth. For starters, parents frequently don't know how to prepare their young children for school. If no one read to you as a child, chances are you won't read to your children either. While children from middle-class US families receive on average 1,000 to 7,000 hours of one-on-one reading time, children from low-income families have been exposed to around 25 hours. Perhaps the most critical, life changing intervention we can make is working with parents so they can support their children's early language development. Equally significant is educating small children so they begin kindergarten on par with their middle class peers.

However, once in kindergarten, the challenges continue – classes are too large, support services underfunded, and the difficulties facing Latino families are not always understood. Working class Latino parents worry that teachers assume their children won't go to college or pursue a professional career. Kids are quick to pick up on messages of inferiority. Fortunately, change is possible and is happening. Serious efforts to address the achievement gap between middle class and working class children are getting results.

At Adelante Mujeres, we have designed a **Journey to College: *Building assets and aspirations*** to help Latino children through a holistic approach that includes: kindergarten readiness and transition for families enrolled in our Early Childhood Education program; financial literacy and college readiness training for students and parents; 3:1 matched savings program for post-secondary education; and a shift in culture to foster a love of learning and commitment to invest family resources in education. By working with committed, engaged partners including our local school districts and area colleges and universities, we will reduce the heartbreak of high school drop outs and create positive futures for immigrant families.

Adelante's Extraordinary Volunteer

By Kate Jackson

Adelante Mujeres has an army of wonderful volunteers, but on November 9th, one of them will be recognized for her outstanding accomplishments. Barbara (Bobbie) Rodriguez, a long-time volunteer with Adelante Mujeres was named *Portland Monthly Magazine's 2011 Extraordinary Volunteer*.

Bobbie, a life-long educator and retiree who has yet to take a day off, has left an indelible mark on the Latino community of Western Washington County. Bobbie has demonstrated her dedication to our Early Childhood Education program through her tireless efforts developing literacy enrichment activities. In addition to spending countless hours reading to children in our preschool program, Bobbie helped implement the Raising a Reader book bag program engaging parents in reading with their children. Her commitment to literacy as a family activity has empowered parents to become educators in their households, and helped innumerable children enter kindergarten ready to learn.

On rainy days she frequently drops off a plate of fresh baked cookies, endearing her to both staff and Adelante visitors. Bobbie emanates the warmth, enthusiasm, and wisdom of a life-long teacher. Congrats to Bobbie - you deserve it! We are so fortunate to have your support and the support and dedication of *all* our extraordinary volunteers.

Day of the Dead

By Eduardo Corona

It is November the 2nd and the air is filled with a mixed scent of marigolds, mole, flowers, pulque, tequila and cigars. There is a scent of candle wax, dust from the Saints, and pictures reminding us of those who have already departed. We will not forget them. To ready them for the road we have prepared their favorite food and drink, and play their favorite music..

The return from Mictlan (the underworld) is a long journey, so we throw a festival to welcome the travelers. The Todos Santos Parish Church smells of gunpowder from the fireworks that fly up with a loud and trembling explosion. The bursts of light celebrate the living and the dead. The sky colors mimic our loved ones altars - fixed with treats so they will be happy with us: confetti flags, sugar calaveras (skulls) and pan de muertos. We often place La Catrina Calavera on the altar in order to not forget that in time she will come to get us all...



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Education. Empowerment. Enterprise.

Since founding in 2002, Adelante Mujeres has relied on volunteers and donors to sustain our organization. With the support of people like you, we served over 350 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



Meet Our Staff & Board



Deb Delfs
Adelante Mujeres
President of the Board

Deb grew up on the Oregon Coast and graduated from the University of Oregon in 1993 with a degree in Political Science and Spanish. She routinely butchers the language when working with Adelante Mujeres,

and appreciates the tolerance of those around her. She has a strong belief in community and a passion for the empowerment of women. She is an insurance agent with WSC Insurance in Forest Grove.

Deb finds it profoundly gratifying to see the presentations by the participants at the board meetings. “It is a gift to have the opportunity to get to know the participants and witness their language skills and self-esteem develop as they begin to make a difference for their families.”

Being a business woman and a budget conscious mother of two small children, Deb has witnessed the frugality of the employees and how every effort is made to stretch the dollars. “It makes me proud to be involved with an organization that is recognized for doing the most with the least! However, walking through the 900 square foot building that houses the 20 employees one can’t help but recognize that a larger space is necessary for the continued success and growth of the organization.”

Deb resides in Forest Grove with her husband and two children. In her spare minutes, she enjoys reading, running and laughing with friends.