

Adelante Mujeres

SUMMER 2011

Thanks and happy summer, friends!

Dear Friends,

Summer is officially here! While our adult and early childhood education programs are on summer break, we are busier than ever with activities and events. Here's a rundown: Every May-Oct Adelante Mujeres manages the Forest Grove Farmers Market (FGFM). The FGFM recently celebrated its 6th year anniversary with a piñata for the kids (see photo). We are thrilled to have a new seafood vendor for the market - smoked salmon, anyone? We will have the infamous Salsa competition in late August. Please visit the FGFM webpage for additional details on upcoming events, and get your salsa ready!

Due to weather conditions, crops at the farm had a late start this season, but La Esperanza is now in full swing. Adelante Chicas wrapped up their first ever soccer program in June, with over 150 girls participating in the program. Chicas are currently in the midst of Summer Capstone Camps (see inside article). The Empresas team has been busy providing personalized coaching, networking opportunities, and recruiting for the upcoming business course this fall.

Adelante Educación is recruiting new volunteers for the 2012 Champions reading program. If you, or anyone you know is interested in being a reading pal for preschool, please contact our office and ask to speak with Carrie.

All of these programs could not exist without the help of people like you. Thank you!

~Adelante Mujeres

La Esperanza - Certified Organic Farm!

This season at La Esperanza Farm, 17 farmers have been allotted 1/4 acre plots to farm. Each farmer has attended the sustainable farm training course. The farmers are collectively growing over 60 crop varieties which include tomatillos, tomatoes, squash, peppers and herbs. Adelante Agricultura purchased and installed a 30'x90' hoop house with the hard work of the participating farmers. With the help of our AmeriCorps member Jesse Nichols, the farmers were able to design and build a washing station and covered meeting space at the farm. Since receiving organic certification from Oregon Tilth this August, the farmers are now able to market their produce as "organically grown". Farmers are selling produce at the Forest Grove Farmers Market, Cedar Mills Farmers Market, Hollywood Farmers Market, OCDC, Peterson Farm Store and through a pilot CSA. For more information about the farm, you can visit www.laesperanzafarm.org.



DID YOU KNOW?

BEING CERTIFIED ORGANIC MEANS LA ESPERANZA FARM HAS A CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO A PESTICIDE FREE ENVIRONMENT. IN ADDITION WE WILL ADHERE TO STRICT RULES ON SOILS, RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING TO OREGON TILTH.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ORGANIC FARMING AND LABELING VISIT

WWW.TILTH.ORG



What do we believe in?

**“Education is a better
safeguard of liberty
than a standing army”**

~Edward Everett

**“The Adelante
Mujeres Program
has given me the
opportunity to
realize that it is
never too late to
fight and see my
dreams come
true.”**

**~Maria Elena
Ortiz**

This time around, gearing up for another school year has us wondering how we'll manage, as an organization and a country. Our national financial crisis is leaving education and social services in a lurch. At the same time, the recent release of Brown University's meticulous study, *Costs of War* pulls back the veil on our budget woes and the human tragedy involved. Given wars direct impact on human welfare and domestic spending, I believe it fitting to share a few stats from the report. Between 2001 and 2011 we've been pouring precious resources at an unprecedented pace into battle. *“Putting together the conservative numbers of war dead, in uniform and out, brings the total to 225,000....Conservatively estimated, the war bills already paid and obligated to be paid are \$3.2 trillion in constant dollars. A more reasonable estimate puts the number at nearly \$4 trillion.”* Setting aside the human heartbreak, we know that even a fraction of those funds, redirected to schools could turn things around.

Budget discussions are never simple with multiple factors and competing needs. Still one simple question could guide the process: *What do we believe in?* At Adelante Mujeres we are convinced quality education is our ticket to security. A conversation I had back in October, 1990 with my German friend Ellen comes to mind. While sharing with her the euphoric German Reunification in Berlin, she introduced me to her cousin, a kindergarten teacher. With the Wall down, they were meeting each other for the first time. When I commented later on her cousin's wit and political savvy Ellen related that kindergarten teachers in Germany are considered the *best and the brightest* and paid accordingly. I asked myself then, and again today, if we believe our children deserve the best and the brightest. We all know kindergarten teachers who meet that standard, but neither the financial compensation nor the social validation come close. Yet, investing in children creates inspired individuals and communities who can solve problems. Investing in education is our way out of the spiral of violence that keeps our budget tilted toward unmanned drones and heavily manned prisons.

Access to first-rate early childhood education may well be the best way to give disadvantaged kids the start they need. So in spite of a shortage of funds we remain undeterred in our efforts to provide toddlers and preschoolers with a great education. This year we are launching our *Journey to College* program, making it clear to every Adelante participant that going to college can be part of their educational journey. Look for more on *Journey to College* in our next newsletter. For now we invite you to take a look at the Brown University study www.costsofwar.org and together let's tell our elected officials what we believe in.

Summer Camps for Adelante Chicas



Chicas visit Intel to tour an electronic museum and explore robotics and computer science.

Adelante Chicas has kicked off capstone camps! The three week-long camps are Descubriendo STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), “Tu Vida Imagen Salud” or Healthy Lifestyles Camp, and Exprésate Camp - focused on art and culture. Over 120 girls will attend the three camps.

Our goal during summer camps is to continue to provide our Chicas a place to further aspirations of higher education. In addition to receiving educational and engaging workshops, students are invited to field trips related to topics discussed throughout the week. The camps also provide a space to learn and share about their culture and history, and even express their identity through art.

For three weeks Chicas have the opportunity to experience and participate in physically and intellectually challenging activities. The camps introduce them to new and rewarding experiences, and provide them with supportive and caring relationships.

Adelante Empowerment Via ESPERE Program

Adelante Mujeres continues to empower Latina Women through the practice of compassion and forgiveness for themselves and others.

It is difficult to hear a traumatic story and feel there is nothing you can do about it to help heal the pain. However, most people in pain can be helped to develop skills to move forward. This is where one of Adelante’s newest efforts, the ESPERE - Violence Reduction Program (School of Forgiveness and Reconciliation), comes to play.

At the beginning of the ESPERE workshop many participants are fearful and timid about facing past abuse. However, by the end of the training most report feeling empowered having learned to acknowledge the realities that have shaped them. ESPERE helps Adelante’s participants view conflicts through a different lens. It also helps them become aware of the necessary steps they need to take in order to deal with traumatic experiences that have led them to live in the shadow. In addition, participants lose their fears and rebuild trust in others to develop healthy relationships with themselves and the community.



Adelante Mujeres

2420 19th Avenue
Forest Grove, Oregon 97116
Phone: 503-992-0078
Fax: 503-359-1939
E-mail: info@adelantemujeres.org
www.adelantemujeres.org

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 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



Eduardo Corona
Business Development Coordinator
Adelante Empresas

In December 2010 Eduardo Corona joined the Adelante Empresas team. His charge is to develop bicultural tools to help low income Latino entrepreneurs successfully open and run a micro enterprise.

Corona leads a ten week training series on topics such as building a sustainable business, legal business structures, marketing & branding, financing, and operations planning. The Empresas program also coordinates business coaching mentors for the participants aligning experienced business owners with new entrepreneurs.

Originally from Mexico, Eduardo studied Business Administration at the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana in Mexico City in 1990 and later obtained a Computerized Accounting Diploma at San Bernadino, CA, MTI College in 2003. Eduardo has been working in a number of Business Administration areas since 1998, including Business Development, Logistics, Bookkeeper, International Financial Manager and International Purchase Manager in the private sector. In 2007 he lectured a Business Class Seminar for the Columbia Gorge Community College.

Eduardo is married with three children. He enjoys playing soccer or relaxing at the pool with his children. The eldest is currently studying Sociology at the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana. He loves to go salsa dancing with his wife, Sharo, and read Hispanic literature. Eduardo's smile and ready wit are wonderful additions to the Adelante team.