



**EL SOL, JUPITER'S NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE CENTER
2008 YEAR-END REPORT**

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El Sol, Jupiter's Neighborhood Resource Center (JNRC), as part of its lease with the Town of Jupiter, is pleased to submit a year-end report for 2008.

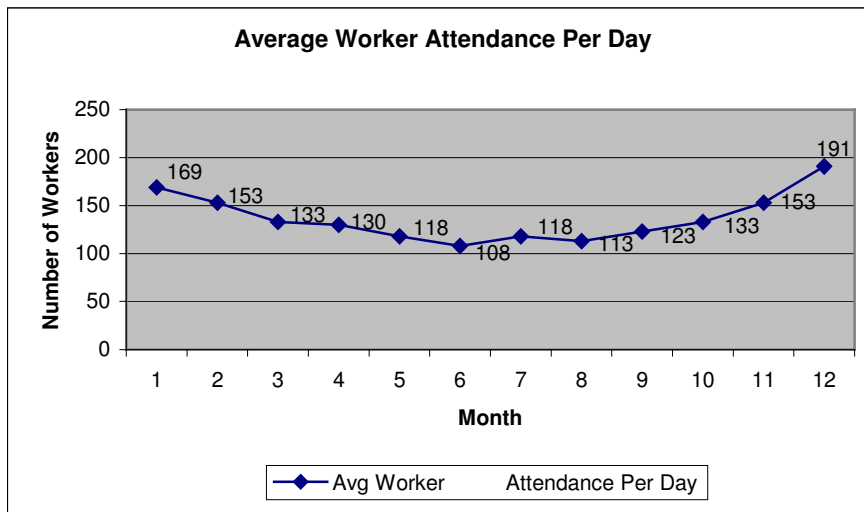
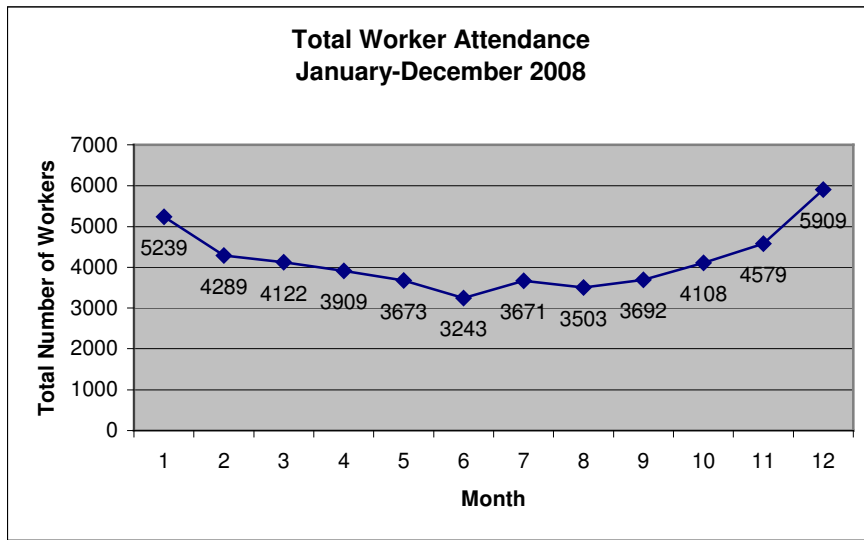
1. Worker Statistics:

a. Number of Workers Registered:

A total of one thousand, three hundred and seventy-one (1,371) workers are registered with El Sol as of December 31st, 2008.

b. Workers Attendance:

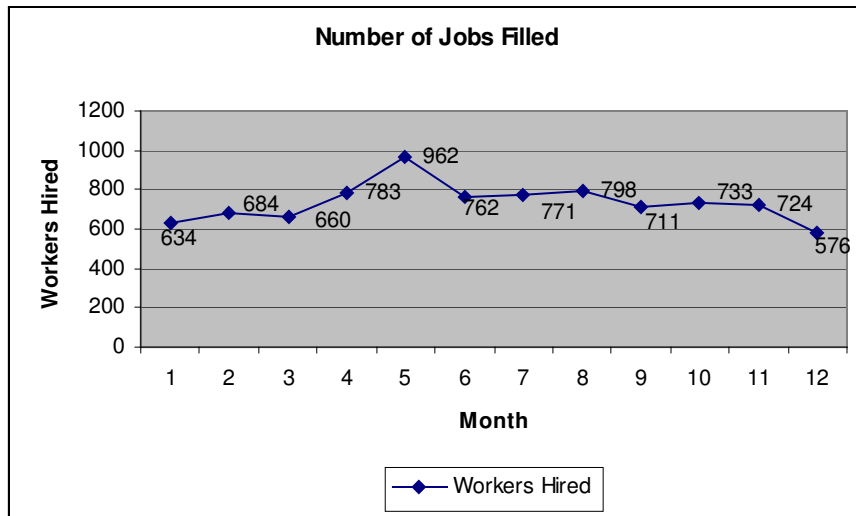
During 2008 worker attendance at the center totaled 49,937¹. On average, the center served 137 workers per day. The monthly breakdown of attendance is as follows:



¹ Total worker attendance is the addition of all daily attendance lists.

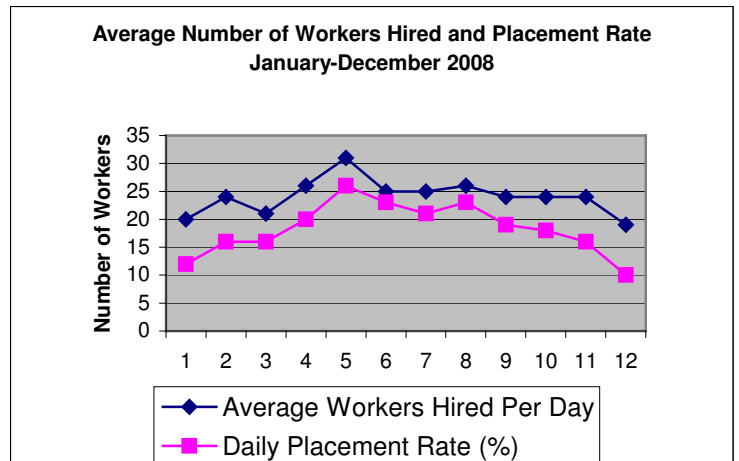
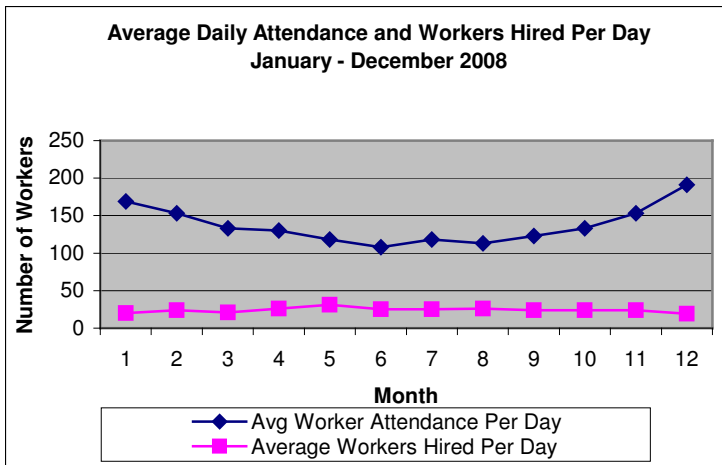
c. Workers Hired:

El Sol filled a total of eight thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight (8,798) jobs in 2008. Here is the monthly breakdown:



The Center operated with an 18% placement rate². The month of May had the highest placement rate at 26%, and December the lowest at 10%. On average, 22 workers were hired per day in 2008. In May, 31 workers were hired on average per day, making it the month with the highest average daily hires in 2008. In December, the lowest month, a daily average of 19 workers were hired.

The monthly breakdown is as follows:



² (Workers Hired / Workers Attendance)

2. Employer Statistics:

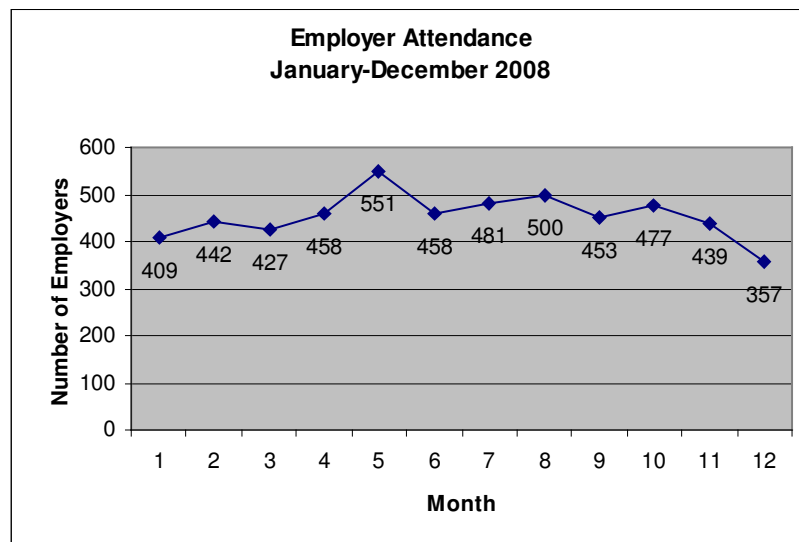
a. Number of Employers Registered:

A total of two thousand, three hundred and fifty (2,350) employers are registered with El Sol as of December 31st, 2008. In 2008, 1,660 new employers registered to use the hiring hall. The monthly breakdown of *new* employers is as follows:



b. Employers Attendance:

The total number of job requests that we received for the period was five thousand four hundred fifty-two (5,452). Each job request may be for more than one worker. The monthly breakdown is as follows:



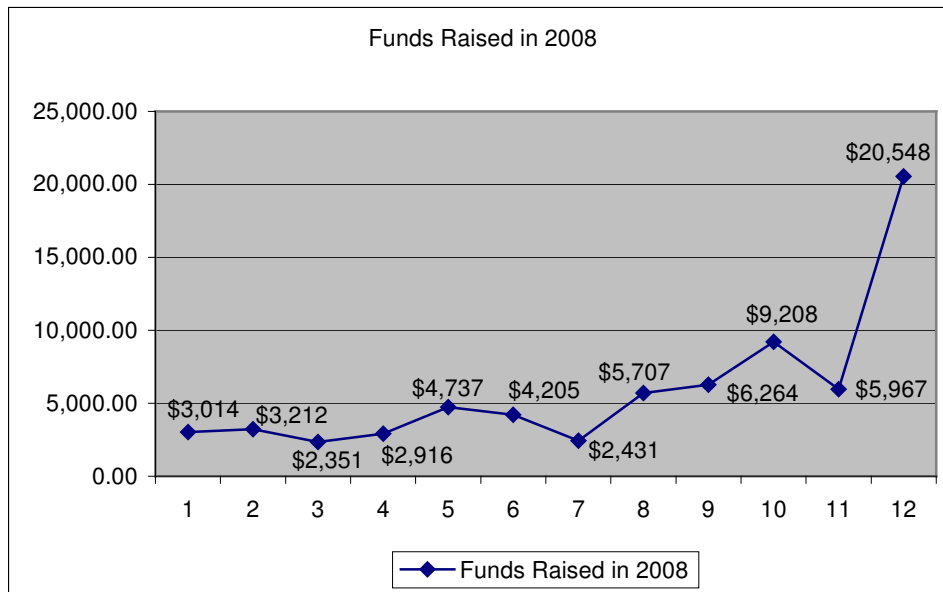
c. Employers' Needs:

The majority of the job requests and most common needs around the community were: landscaping, moving, housekeeping, yard work, cleaning, construction, painting, and carpentry.

3. Fundraising:

Private Donations and Grants:

The total donations in 2008 were \$70,565.89. This includes private donations, lunch collections, raffles, and other income that is not earmarked for a specific use (designated donations and grants are not included). The monthly breakdown is as follows:



In Kind Donations:

Office furniture and supplies; vacuum cleaners; assorted art supplies for our Art Program; personal hygiene products; food; kitchen and cleaning products, clothes; TVs; child car seats; educational supplies; bikes and bike parts; Christmas decorations; toys; computers.

Grants Received in 2008:

Christian on a Mission
Weinig Foundation
American Cancer Society
Ricci-Lupo Foundation
JL Cares
Sandy Hill Foundation

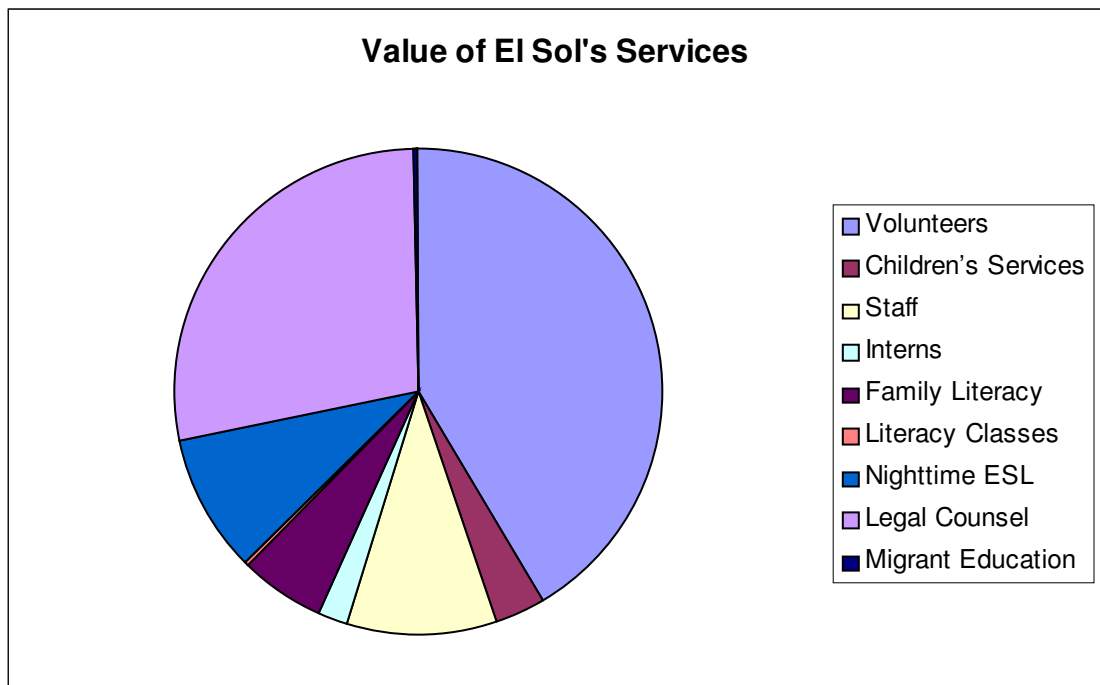
Pledged Grants for 2009:

Frankino Foundation
Lost Tree Village Foundation
JL Cares

4. Value of EI Sol Services for this 2008:

EI Sol provides a variety of services to the community. In this chart you can view the value of each service, and in the next section we have included the details of each program.

Volunteers	\$343,602
Children's Services	\$27,282
Staff	\$83,267
Interns	\$17,448
Family Literacy	\$45,471
Literacy Classes	\$3,600
Nighttime ESL	\$74,171
Legal Counsel	\$234,000
Migrant Education	\$2,600
Total	\$831,441

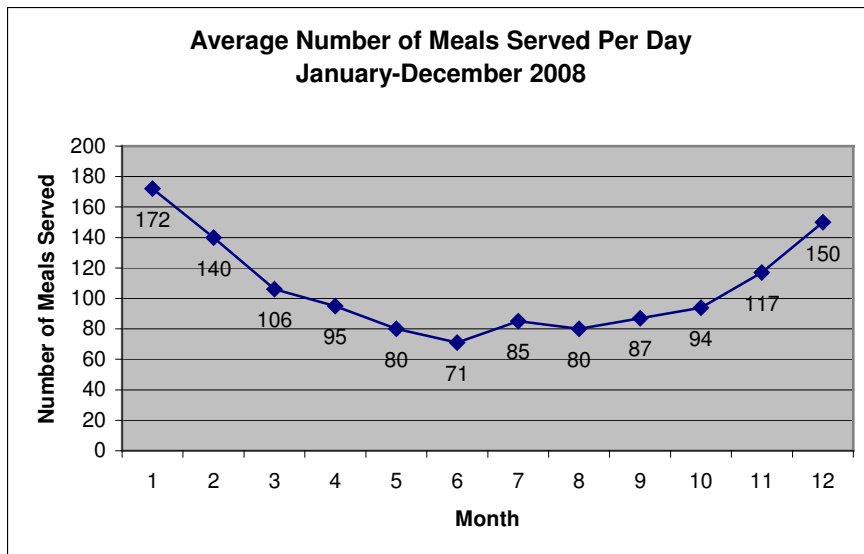
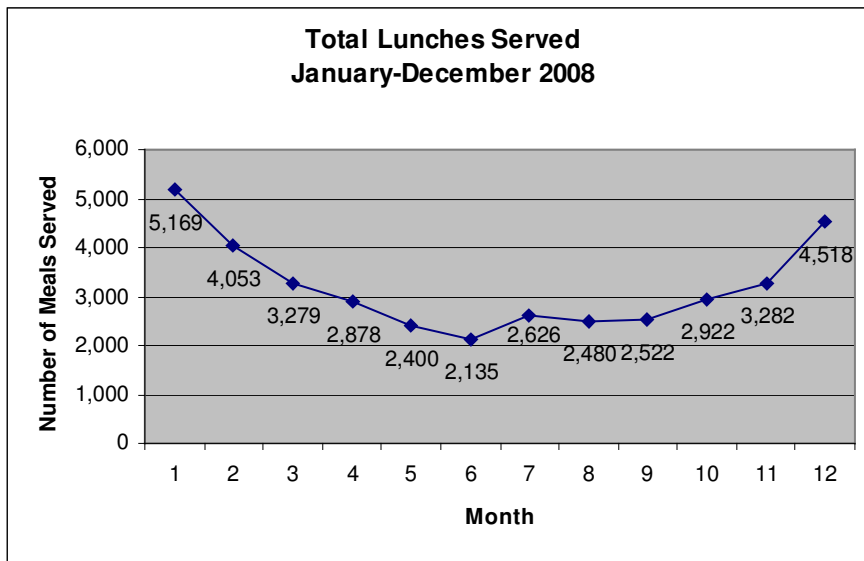


On Average, EI Sol provided \$69,287 per month in services to the Jupiter Community in 2008

5. **Services Offered:**

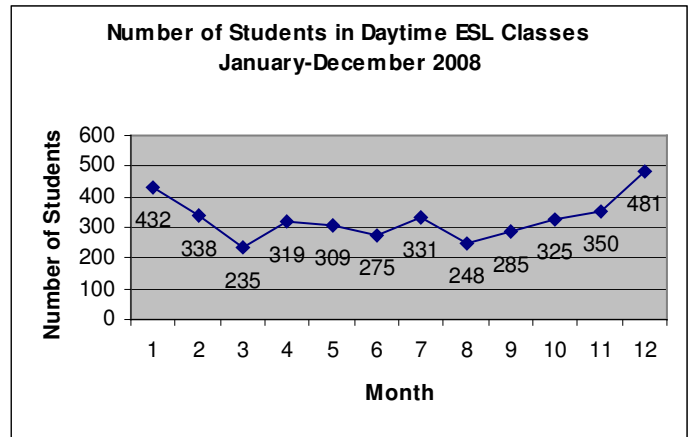
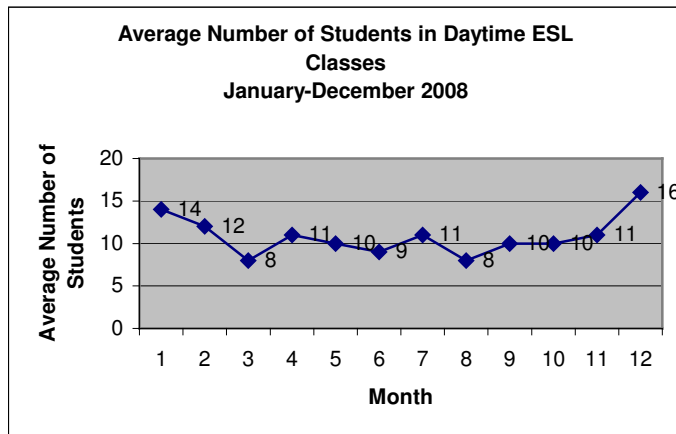
a. **Breakfast/Lunch:**

Everyday El Sol provides coffee and pastries for breakfast, and a hot meal for lunch. This is possible with the help of our volunteers, and the donations from various local businesses and organizations including: Publix, Starbucks, St. Vincent De Paul, St. Peters Church, CR Chicks and more. In 2008 we served a total of 36,264 meals, an average of 106 meals daily. The breakdown per month is as follows:



b. Daytime ESL Classes:

EI Sol offers English as a Second Language (ESL) classes once per day every day of the week and twice on Saturdays. Volunteer teachers offer an interactive class that covers various topics that students can use in their daily lives. The breakdown of participation per month is as follows:



Beginning in September, EI Sol began partnering with Palm Beach Community College and students from beginning Spanish classes at the college assisted in teaching English classes at the Center so that there was mutual language learning between themselves and their students.

c. Nighttime ESL Program:

During the Spring and Summer semesters, EI Sol partnered with Palm Beach County School District and the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors of Florida Atlantic University to host a widely recognized ESL Program. Beginning in the Fall semester, however, the School District stop assisting with the program due to district budget cuts, and we began working with Palm Beach Community College. Classes were offered on Mondays-Wednesdays from 7:00-9:00.

Each semester began with pre-assessment to match the students' current English skills with the appropriate level. Our levels correspond with the following School District levels:

School District of Palm Beach County		EI Sol ESOL Program
ESOL Literacy/ Foundations	*LCP A	Level A
ESOL Low Beginning	*LCP B	Level B
ESOL High Beginning	*LCP C	Level C

*LCP: Language Completion Point

The enrollment of women increased in comparison to that of 2007 and held steady throughout the year, something we take as a positive sign. In an effort to make

our program more welcoming to women in the community, we also hired a Youth Leader with the purpose of taking care of the children while their parents are in class. Our Youth Leader spent, on average, 33 hours each month with 4 children per night. The children were involved in a variety of activities, including drawing, crafts, dressing up, watching children’s videos, and playing with games. Our Youth Leader tried to match the evening’s lesson plan to the activity so the children could relate to the parents’ learning.

Despite comparatively lower graduation levels in the fall, classes began at capacity and 101 students were registered. (We decided to limit our registration to 100 students due to the space available for comfortable learning.)

	# of Teachers	# of Students Graduated	# of Hours	Value of Services	Total Salaries	Total Value of Program
Spring	12	80	648	\$11,664	\$9,688	\$21,352
Summer	10	89	500	\$9,000	\$8,044	\$13,444
Fall	25	31	1,875	\$33,750	\$5,625	\$39,375
Total	47	200	3,023	\$54,414	\$23,357	\$74,171

d. Socialization and Parenting Classes

El Sol partnered with Palm Beach County’s Children’s Services Council to host daily parenting and socialization classes. Classes were held from January to May but were then discontinued due to budget cuts. Over the course of the program there were 2,162 participants. The program covered a total of \$27,232.50 in the form of salary pay for two educators. The classes covered a variety of topics and included, but was not limited to:

- Active Parenting
- Addiction, Drugs, and Alcohol
- How to Manage My Budget
- Learning about the American Culture
- Family Disintegration
- Family and Laws
- Health Nutrition
- Child Development
- Anger Management
- Self-Esteem
- Emergency Preparation
- Cultural Diversity

e. Family Literacy:

El Sol has partnered with The Palm Beach County School District’s Family Literacy Program to offer family literacy classes. This program is geared towards pre-school children and their parents and it helps families in the community improve their educational needs (ESL, Adult Basic Education, GED, parenting, early childhood education, and parent-child activities). The program runs from Mondays through Thursdays and each class is 4.5 hours.

The Jupiter Family Literacy program serves a diverse population, including immigrants from Russia, China, Colombia, Peru, Brazil, Venezuela, Mexico, and Guatemala. This program has impacted thirteen (13) families enrolled in the Spring semester, eight (8) in the Summer, and fifteen (15) in the Fall semester.

Some highlights included working with the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Program to coordinate a 6-session nutrition class during June and celebrating National Family Literacy Day at the Marriott Hotel in Palm Beach Gardens along with several other family literacy programs in Palm Beach County.

Certified teachers run the program and its services are valued at \$15,157 per semester (a total of \$45,471 for the year). This amount includes teacher salaries and supplies.

f. **Legal Counsel:**

Jill Hanson and two other volunteer attorneys have seen approximately 135 cases on a pro-bono basis in 2008. The other volunteer attorneys are Leigh Cowden, who does general law and some immigration law; and Cathleen Scott, who is a labor and employment lawyer. The most common issues among the clients were unpaid wage claims, driving with a suspended drivers license, and immigration (which is not handled internally). Driving with a suspended drivers license is an issue that needs to be addressed perhaps by providing alternative means of transportation, or by a legislative campaign to make it possible for immigrant workers to receive some sort of driver certificate. With the economic downturn, it seems more employers believe they can just simply not pay their workers. Recently, we referred out a case involving over 10 workers for Southern Construction. Most Saturdays, we also have the volunteer services of a trained interpreter.

We continue to distribute Know Your Rights cards to the workers, as well as booklets in which the workers can keep track of their hours of work, wage rates, in case their employer fails to pay them. The booklets were donated by a local law firm, LaBovick and LaBovick. We are also planning to host a workshop for the workers on Know Your Rights in early 2009. The Counsel is also involved in giving community presentations on immigrant rights and attending conferences.

Also, Jill Hanson has attended court with some of the people charged with driving with a suspended license, to ensure that they have a lawyer appointed to represent them, and that they understand the process.

All attorneys who were invited to join an "El Sol Legal Advisory Council" responded positively. Cathleen Scott and Nellie King will help to get a meeting of the group together. Some thoughts about what the group might do would be to donate time and advocacy abilities; to work on formulating a unified approach to drivers license cases; to draft legislation on such issues; to bring the Northern Palm Beach County Bar Association to meet at El Sol.

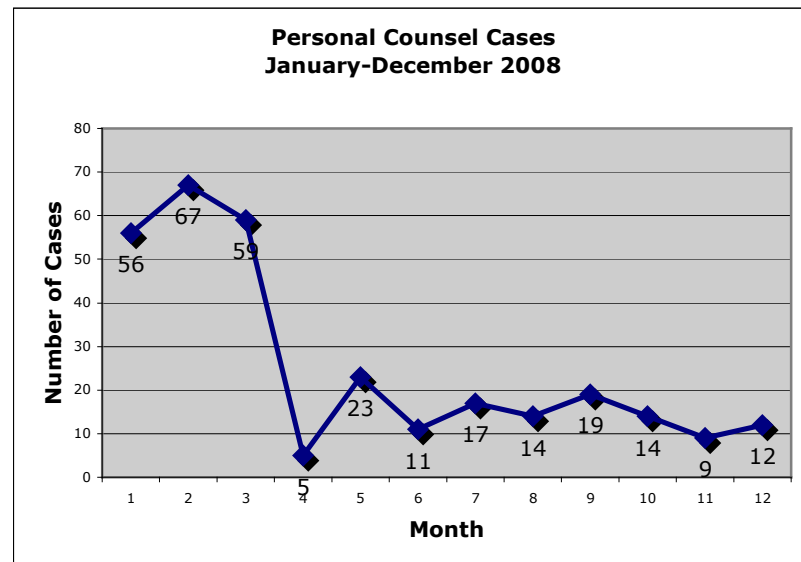
For the 2008 year, the value of the legal services provided at El Sol equaled \$234,000; calculating at \$275 an hour for experienced attorneys, and \$25 an hour for a trained court interpreter.

g. Personal Counsel:

Sister Marta Tobón, a Guadalupan sister from St. Peter's Catholic Church assists many El Sol workers with her guidance. She often gives family and personal counseling in the center. Additionally, she refers people to different organizations depending on their needs.

Beatriz Solis, an expert in social work, is involved with cases of victims of criminal and domestic abuse, immigration, and family and personal questions. She also helps those needing to file passports, social security, residency, and other paperwork.

Below is a breakdown of how many cases were taken in 2008:



h. Internships:

El Sol had six interns from Florida Atlantic University's Honors College during 2008: three interns between January and May 2008 (Kristen Chase, Alan Peña, and Sandra Lazo de la Vega), one during the summer (Alan Gray), and two between September and November 2008 (David Fertitta and Kathryn Klaas).

Both spring and fall interns were responsible for various tasks ranging from collaborating to plan the respective 8th and 9th annual Fiesta Maya, helping with El Sol worker registration, teaching English classes, translating, and helping with the Center's administrative needs. Spring interns also upgraded Corn Maya's website while fall interns taught computer classes, assisted with grant writing efforts, and developed a training video for day-laborers. The summer intern spent his first six weeks on the Honors College Study Abroad in Guatemala, gaining insight into the conditions of the country as well as the reasons compelling individuals to migrate to the United States. Upon his return, he made worker IDs, designed a medical

information card for workers, and translated for the legal counsel. All interns learned about the inner workings of a non-profit organization and the transnational, political, and economic realities of Jupiter.

Rigers Gjyshi was a legal intern at El Sol. Rigers worked in-house at El Sol three days a week during the summer up until August, for a total of 30 hours per week. His internship was funded with a grant from the Florida Bar Foundation, which was supervised by Florida International University. The grant was for a total of \$6,000.

Together they interned a total of 969 hours, valued at \$17,448.

i. Literacy Classes:

El Sol began offering a Spanish literacy class in March 2008 on Thursday and Saturday nights from 7-9PM. The purpose of this class is to teach illiterate people how to read and write in their native language. This not only helps improve student's quality of life, it also places the student in the right path to learn English and other subjects.

The program concluded in September 2008, 8 students received a diploma for having successfully completed the semester and their final exam. Together both teachers volunteered a total of 200 hours for the year valued at \$3,600.

j. Corn Maya:

Corn Maya, Inc. is a non-profit organization that runs the cultural, sports and academic events for the immigrant community of Jupiter, and has its offices in El Sol. Among their programs, in 2008 Corn Maya coordinated:

- Soccer League: There are a total of 10 teams participating, including two teams formed by El Sol workers: "Las Estrellas" and "Las Aguilas."

- Academic and Development Conferences: Corn Maya and el Sol hosted the Smithsonian National Indian American Museum who is looking to build a Virtual tour about Mayan Immigrants. They will be documenting the history of Corn Maya and El Sol, and they have started interviewing local migrant workers and families about their experiences.

Corn Maya has also been active in promoting development projects in Guatemala. In partnership with FAU, The American Jewish Committee, the Guatemalan Honorary Consulate of Palm Beach County, Hispanics in Philanthropy and the Center for International Migration & Integration they have organized several workshops on Transnational Economic, Social and Educational Development. El Sol recently hosted a Development Conference in which many Guatemalan leaders gathered to discuss the progress of their development projects in their communities of origin.

The Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, the Guatemalan Consul at

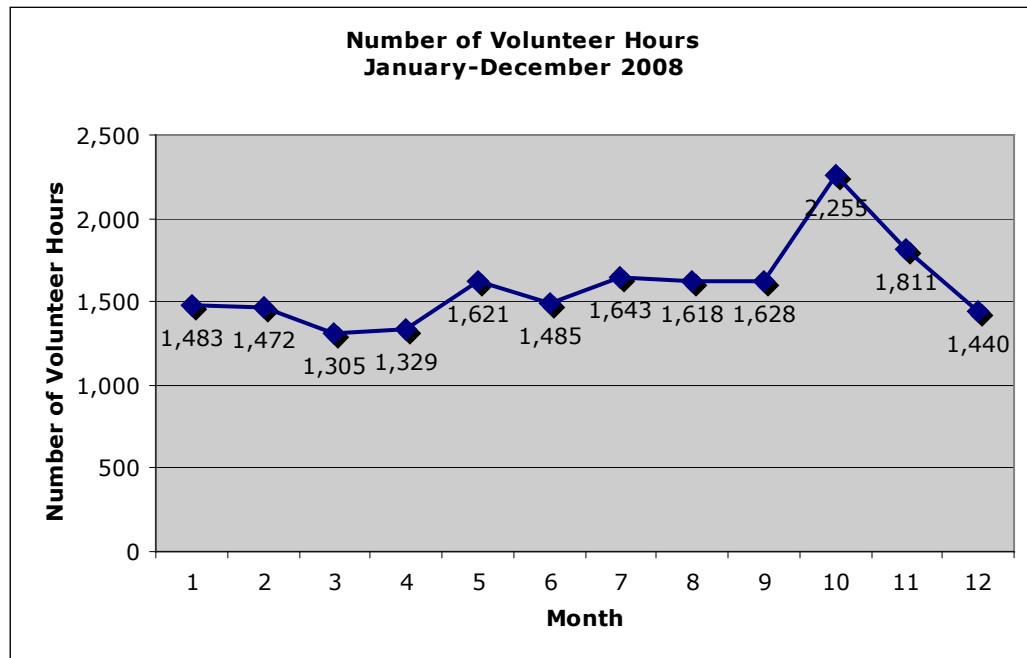
Miami, and other governmental representatives participated in a discussion panel in El Sol.

- Music Lessons: Corn Maya organizes music lessons every Saturday afternoon for children ages 7-11. A local High School student and his father teach the class and an average of 12 children participated. The classes include music appreciation and how to play the recorder.

- Computer Classes: Every Thursday and Saturday evening a volunteer teacher gives computer class to 20 students. The class covers a variety of topics ranging from the “start button,” to how to browse the internet and how to save data onto a flash drive.

k. **Volunteers**

Over 142 individuals volunteered at El Sol in 2008 to cover the daytime operation of the center. Volunteers help with a variety of tasks ranging from welcoming employers, serving breakfast and lunch, and monitoring the computer lab, to teaching English, keeping up with building maintenance, helping with administrative tasks and registering workers. In 2008, there were a total of 19,089 volunteering hours, which is valued at \$343,602. Here is a breakdown of volunteer hours per month:



I. **Occupational Training:**

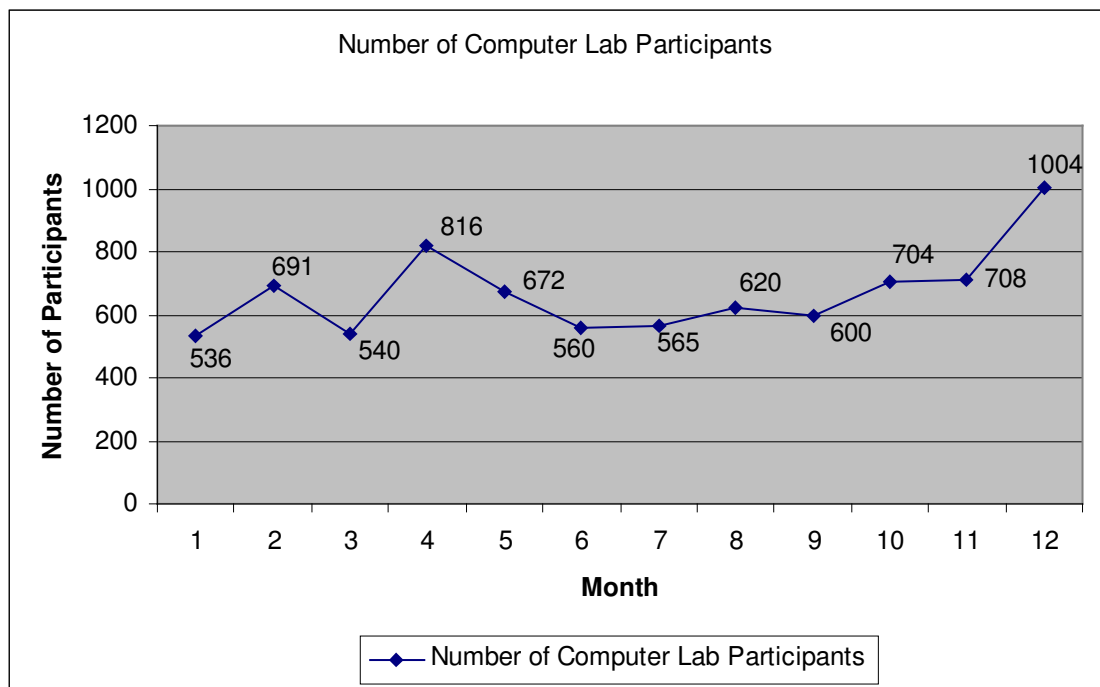
In 2008, El Sol held a variety of different occupational training courses and workshops for workers interested in developing or learning new skills, here are the topics covered and the number of participants:

- i. **Carpet Cleaning:** A local business owner taught 18 participants how to use a pressure cleaner to safely and thoroughly clean carpet and upholstery furniture.
- ii. **Housekeeping:** A volunteer coordinated a workshop to teach workers about the standards and best practices for housekeeping. The workshop included a thorough introduction to American cleaning products and machine, and covered ethical work behavior. This workshop had 16 participants.
- iii. **Bicycle Repair:** El Sol partnered with Jack the Bikeman, a non-profit organization, to teach participants how to repair bicycles. Each participant had the responsibility of repairing three bikes, one of which he got to keep, one was donated to El Sol, and one to Jack the Bikeman's organization. Participants learned to fix brakes and chains, change tires, among other skills. Thirty-nine (39) workers participated in the program.
- iv. **Construction:** El Sol partnered with Habitat for Humanity in Jupiter, so that workers could volunteer their time to help build homes, while getting on-site and hands-on training in roofing, installing windows and doors, carpentry, laying sod, painting etc. We had a total of 160 volunteers participate.
- v. **Art:** We have been offering daily arts and crafts workshops in which participants can learn painting techniques and also develop items that were sold in El Sol's first art festival. El Sol's patrons have reacted very positively to this workshop, and we had a total of over 250 neighbors participate.
Additionally, starting in August we partnered with the Lighthouse Center for Arts in Tequesta. Every Thursday morning Carolyn Nelson, an experienced art teacher, comes in to teach art with a very comprehensive curriculum that has been developed by the Lighthouse Center for Arts. Topics include Japanese and African art, modernism, classical art, self-portraits etc. 34 students participated in the art classes.
- vi. **Tax Workshop:** Beginning in August, a local accountant, Jorge Caro, began coming to El Sol every Friday morning to teach participants about the tax system in the United States. He touches upon questions like "What are taxes? Why do we pay taxes? Who collects taxes and what are they used for? Who has to pay taxes?" etc. A total of 87 people participated in this workshop in 2008.
- vii. **Town of Jupiter Workshop:** El Sol and the Town of Jupiter have created a series of code enforcement presentations. The first presentation was about the Jupiter open-containers ordinance and the responsibilities of homeowners and renters. 126 people participated in 2008.

viii. **Painting:** Solid Waste Authority adopted El Sol and donated materials for a painting workshop. 56 workers participated in this workshop and helped paint the entire second floor of El Sol's building.

m. **Computer Lab**

El Sol's computer lab is one of the most popular features among the workers. The lab has 21 computers that were donated to us by the School District's Digital Divide program. Every day, and often twice a day we have open computer lab time in which participants can browse the internet, communicate with their friends and family, read their hometown news, watch videos etc. Also, every computer in the lab has Rosetta Stone, which is used as a tool to teach English. Below is the monthly breakdown of participation in the computer lab:



6. **Monthly Events:**

a. **October:**

- Hispanic Council, Northern Palm Beaches Chamber of Commerce Meeting
- Town Code Presentation
- El Sol Workers Council Meeting
- Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Registration
- Movie Night
- Health Committee Meeting
- General Membership Meeting
- Breast Cancer Seminar, American Cancer Society
- Health Department Visit
- Received award for outstanding Family Literacy Program
- Habitat for Humanity Community Service/Training Event

- Meeting with promoters of the Lake Worth Resource Center

b. November:

- HIV/AIDS Awareness
- First Annual Art Fest, "Uniting our Cultures"
- Board of Directors Retreat
- Movie Night
- Habitat for Humanity Community Service/Training Event
- Nighttime ESL Graduation Ceremony
- Workers Council Meeting
- Thanksgiving Dinner hosted by St. Peter's Church

c. December:

- Beautification of El Sol Project with Solid Waste Authorities
- Health Committee Meeting
- Bank of America Visits
- Hispanic Council, Northern Palm Beaches Chamber of Commerce Meeting
- Presentation from the Town Code Enforcement Officers
- Health Awareness Table Talk
- Florida Immigrant Coalition (FLIC) Meeting
- General Meeting
- HIV/AIDS Awareness
- Movie Night
- Christmas Celebration hosted by Ocean View Church, and Corn Maya
- Christmas Dinner hosted by local neighbors and volunteers

7. Year-end Progress Highlights:

2008 was a very successful year for El Sol in many aspects:

- **Job Placement:** El Sol filled 8,798 job requests in 2008 and helped create awareness among workers and employers about their rights and responsibilities.
- **Health Awareness:** Through several seminars, workshops, table talks, and guest speakers we were able to create awareness among the migrant community about cancer, HIV and AIDS, blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, and the importance of a healthy lifestyle for overall wellbeing.
- **Educational Impact:** Through the various free educational programs we offer we have been able to help several students improve their quality of life. In our center many have learned English, job skills, how to use a computer, the internet and even how to read and write.
- **Promoting Cultural Understanding:** With our monthly movie nights and Art Fest, El Sol has been able to bring together many sectors of the Jupiter Community. Hispanic artists have been able to showcase their talents, and community members have been able to learn about each other through the viewing of culturally sensitive movies such as "El Norte,"

“Innocent Voices,” “Lost Boys of Sudan,” etc. Also, through our daily programs volunteers and day laborers often get to interact and share experiences.

- **Partnerships:** El Sol has been able to develop strong partnerships in the community with religious organizations, private businesses, community members, public institutions and other organizations such as Solid Waste Authority, Palm Beach County School District, Habitat for Humanity, Palm Beach Community College, Florida Atlantic University, Publix, St. Peter’s Church, Starbucks, Town of Jupiter, Guatemalan and Mexican Consulates, Bank of America, American Cancer Society, JL Cares, Jupiter Public Library and many more. Full list of partners available upon request.
- **Influence:** Three other resource centers opened this year in Palm Beach County; all of which attribute El Sol as their model. Volunteers, staff, and members of El Sol’s board of directors have met several times to offer guidance to representatives and leaders from the other resource centers.
- **Workers Empowerment:** The popularly elected Workers Council took an active role in developing the center’s rules, its own bylaws, and in hearing appeals.
- **Strategic Planning:** The Board of Directors developed a 5-year Strategic Plan and vision for El Sol.

8. **Challenges:**

As the economy has taken a downward turn, our services are more needed than ever. The average attendance at our center has increased. Simultaneously, donations have decreased (specially in the kitchen). We continue actively searching for funds and resources to cover the organization’s operational and programmatic costs. We are also seeking to hold a marketing/outreach campaign to create awareness among potential employers about our services.

Respectfully submitted by;

Jocelyn Sabbagh
Center Coordinator
El Sol, JNRC