



El Sol Shines

"working together for a better community"



February/March 2012

Volume 4, Issue 2

Grand Opening!!

Jupiter's Volunteer Clinic Opens its Doors



In photo (left to right) Anne Lyons, Asst Town Manager; Karen Golonka, Mayor of Jupiter; behind Mayor Golonka, Dr. Barry Miskin; Jocelyn Skolnik, Director El Sol; Dr Daniel Boss, Volunteer Clinic Lead physician; Dr Alina Alonso, Director PBC Health Dept; John Couris, CEO Jupiter Medical Center; Rep. Patrick Rooney; Amy Pepper, Consultant for Jupiter Medical Center; Kari Diaz, Pres. Quantum Foundation.

The new Jupiter Volunteer Clinic and 11 other health clinics that will serve the uninsured and underinsured were officially opened February 11th. Thousands of people visited the facilities to obtain information on services available and to find a medical home.

The Jupiter Volunteer Clinic was ready! The center, located at 6405 Indiantown Road, already provided immunizations, WIC and pre-natal care for north county residents. Now, the clinic also offers services for uninsured/underinsured residents of Jupiter for adult primary care.

Jupiter Mayor Karen Golonka and U.S. Rep. Patrick Rooney were among dignitaries attending the grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony. Others included Dr. Alina Alonso, Palm Beach County Health Department Director; John Couris, CEO Jupiter Medical Center; Kari Diaz, President Quantum Foundations; Toni May, Quantum Foundation VP of Communications; Jocelyn Skolnik, Director El Sol; Debora Kerr, COO Florida Public Health Institute; Dr. Daniel Boss, Jupiter Clinic lead physician; Dr. Barry Miskin, Volunteer Physician;

Joyce Wagner, PAC Prof. Keiser University; Andy Lukasik, Town Manager of Jupiter, and Anne

Lyons, Assistant Town Manager;

Ninety-two residents of Jupiter took advantage of this county wide event to seek out information regarding benefits for which they qualified, obtain free flu-shots, glucose testing, hypertension screening, and obtain future appointments. Twenty-two new patients were examined by a volunteer physician and received diagnoses, medications, and follow-up medical care.

The Jupiter Volunteer Clinic is a joint venture between the El Sol Neighborhood Resource Center, the Town of Jupiter, Jupiter Medical Center, Quantum Foundation, and the Palm Beach Health Department. The Health Department provides the building facility and clerical staff on designated Saturdays, while El Sol provides the management team and scheduling of volunteer staff. The Town of Jupiter coordinated the strategic planning that led the coalition to establish the center. Jupiter Medical Center will provide lab and imaging services, and Quantum Foundation is providing the necessary funding for the pilot volunteer clinic.

More "Grand Opening!" on page 3

Welcome

El Sol's Newest Board Members

Ann Brown, former Chairman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) during the Clinton administration and Gerald Holm, a retired executive with Beneficial Corporation, have been appointed to El Sol's Board of Directors.

Brown and Holm have been involved in numerous civic and charitable organizations which will serve them well as El Sol board members, said El Sol President, Ed Ricci. "We are delighted to have these two pillars of our community on our board," Ricci said.



Brown, of Palm Beach Gardens, served as Chairman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission from March 1994 to November 2001. As chairman of the commission Brown was recognized for revitalizing the agency and for demonstrating outstanding commitment, caring and concern for the safety of America's families. Other affiliations include serving as vice president of the Consumer

Federation of America for 15 years and as chairman the board of the consumer advocacy group Public Voice.

Other affiliations include the Norton Arts Council, Palm Beach Dramaworks and the Hanley Center in West Palm Beach. She received a B. A. in American Studies from George Washington University.



Holm, of Admiral's Cove, served four years as President of Admiral's Cove Cares Charitable Foundation and volunteered as a math tutor at the West Jupiter Tutorial Center. He is President of the Maryland Based Hodson Trust that was founded in 1920 and has supported four Maryland educational institutions, among other endeavors.

Holm joined Beneficial Corporation in 1970 after working as a research engineer with Boeing Co. He became President of Beneficial Data Processing Corp. in 1974 and retired as Vice Chairman of Beneficial's Board of Directors in 1987 but remained as a director until 1998. He holds an M.S. degree in math from Texas Tech University.

4th Quarter Report Shows Positive Impact on Community

El Sol's many accomplishments of the past year, as noted in the 2011 Annual Report, are impressive evidence of the positive impact our nonprofit agency is having on the community.

Especially noteworthy is the \$991,190 value of the many free services provided which is exceptional considering that El Sol's annual operating budget is \$250,000. Other annual report highlights include:

- Placing 9,129 Jupiter residents in jobs, the most jobs filled since 2007.
- 6,134 persons enrolled in daytime English classes and 117 in evening classes who advanced to a level of proficiency in English..
- A total of 66 students completed computer classes
- 22,295 meals served by kitchen volunteers; 2,243 persons served by the food pantry sponsored by C.R.O.S. ministries.
- El Sol workers performed 504 hours of volunteer community service such as painting homes, neighborhood cleanup projects and helping build Habitat for Humanity Homes.
- 572 individuals were referred for health and medical treatment and 586 persons attended workshops on such topics as Nutrition, Breast Cancer and HIV/AIDS.
- Legal assistance was provided in 286 cases.

The sum of the more than a dozen programs and services offered by El Sol reflects the priceless value of our dedicated volunteers and staff. El Sol is grateful for the strong support it enjoys throughout the region and our success is something for which the entire community can be proud.

Make A Note!

El Sol Was awarded a grant that provides for training workers in safety and health. The funds are coming from the Susan Harwood Grant involving OSHA and the National Day Labor Organizing Network (NDLON). The first workshop was held Saturday Feb 25th. Two more workshop dates will be available on March 3rd and March 17th.

"Grand Opening!" continued from page 1



Diane Williams and FAU Med Student, Ali Alagely

Uninsured residents of Jupiter who once needed to travel on two buses to 45th Street Health Department for services now can make appointments for routine care and to see a physician close to home. The center is open on certain Saturdays only from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. To make an appointment please call 561-506-6487.

Diane Williams, the coordinator of the Jupiter Volunteer Clinic said that she was very pleased with the turn-out on Saturday and that the crowd was patient and interested in hearing about the services available. *"It was great to get a hug from one of the new patients who thanked me very much for helping her see a doctor. What started as a conversation with Deborah Kerr, CEO of Florida Public Health two years ago, has evolved into a volunteer joint venture for now! Work continues behind the scenes that will turn this temporary clinic into a permanent non-profit clinic for Jupiter residents,"* said Williams.

A special thank you to our partner Quantum Foundation for their vision in providing health care access to residents.

El Sol's Newest Employee

Karen Clark is originally from Pleasantville, New York. She attended Georgia Tech in Atlanta, where she met her husband Ken. She graduated with an electrical engineering degree and moved to Washington DC where she worked for the NASA Communications Division at Goddard Space Flight Center. For the next seven years, Karen worked in data networking equipment and network communications. The Clarks have two daughters, and moved to Jupiter in 1997.

Karen has been an El Sol volunteer for the last three years. She has helped us in different capacities ranging from working with Tom Choate in information technology, to picking up food supplies for the kitchen. She is an integral member of the Grant Committee.

Karen will be working with our Center Director and Associate Director. We welcome Karen as El Sol's new part-time administrative assistant.

Javiar Pelico-Chaj El Sol's Featured Worker

Commitment to volunteering and learning English have earned Javiar Pelico-Chaj's honors as the featured El Sol worker for February/March.

A native of Guatemala City, Javiar 19, came to the United States three years ago to work to help support his parents and five siblings who remain in Guatemala.



"He is a really good worker and always volunteering to help out at El Sol," said El Sol Labor Coordinator Wilberto Luna. Javiar regularly helps with unloading and storing of food deliveries in the kitchen, assists with cleanup around the outside of El Sol and attends English classes.

When he is not volunteering or working Javiar can often be found at the Jupiter Library checking out books to read to help improve his English which is quite good as a result. He also enjoys playing soccer on Sundays.

El Sol is fortunate to have Javiar whose outstanding attitude and behavior serve as examples for others to emulate.

Congratulations Javiar on your well-deserved honor.

El Sol's Newest Vista Volunteer

Royce Emley: Originally from Wales, UK, Royce was raised in England and moved to Canada when he was 10. He went to school in Canada and graduated with an Art degree. He then moved to Florida in 1968 and has been living in Jupiter for 35 years with his wife, Susan. Royce had an advertising agency in West Palm Beach from 1969 - 1997. During that time he had a contract with the National Enquirer and the New York Times doing special promotions.

He started volunteering at El Sol three years ago, and has been our photographer and also served on the Communications Committee. We are happy to welcome Royce as our newest AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer. Royce is the Job Developer, and his main responsibility is to increase awareness in the community about El Sol and help increase the number of jobs available at our center.

El Sol Honors Its Volunteers "Academy Award Style"

"And the Award Goes to..."

On Sunday, February 26th, volunteers, staff, and Board members gathered to honor and thank volunteers for their selfless contributions of time and energy to El Sol in 2011, at our annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. This year, we celebrated with a candlelit "afternoon at the Oscars," complete with a keynote speech by Jupiter's own Mayor Karen Golonka, a marimba performance by Corn Maya leaders, refreshments, a paparazzi photo booth, and, of course, a presentation of awards.

About 50 volunteers received certificates of appreciation, and volunteers who gave more than 100 hours of their time in 2011 also received chocolate stars. We presented thirteen Special Awards—these volunteers were nominated by fellow volunteers and then voted on by staff. Each of these award winners showed their dedication to El Sol by going above and beyond the call of duty.

Our Volunteer of the Year Award for 2011 went to volunteer Tom Choate. Tom Choate has been volunteering at El Sol for five years, ever since his wife signed him up at the Palm Beach Gardens Green Market. He is a computer wiz and since he started at El Sol, he has created databases for the labor program, volunteers, grants, and now the education program, all of which we use daily to keep track of vital information. He's also the one we call whenever we have computer problems. Awards presenter Jocelyn Skolnik, Center Director, said of Tom: "He is a miracle worker."

All award winners gave beautiful Oscar-worthy speeches expressing how much they enjoy volunteering here at El Sol—But those of us at El Sol think you're the best of what Jupiter has to offer, and we can never thank you enough for your gracious sacrifice to your community. If you volunteered more than 15 hours in 2011 and were unable to attend the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, please stop by the volunteer sign-in book to pick up your certificate of appreciation and, of course, your chocolate stars.



The El Sol Volunteer Awards aren't just about volunteering - they're about the fashion and what the stars wore on the red carpet at the year's biggest event. The paparazzi caught (left to right) Karen Clark El Sol's newest administrative assistant; Laura Kerr, Volunteer; Tom Choate, El Sol's Volunteer of the Year; and Shirley Jackson, Special Volunteer-Behind-the-Scenes.



Sheila Hirsch El Sol Finance Committee Chair, and Roger Buckwalter, El Sol Vice President, (above left) relax to marimba music during the program. Marie Enoze Sulfrain (above right) accepts her award from Jocelyn Skolnik for El Sol's "Outstanding Worker"

Special Awards

- Early Bird Award:** Tom Walsh
- Kitchen Award:** Tom Thompson
- Education Award:** Lynn Hughes
- Legal Award:** Jinette Acevedo Cruz
- Health Award:** Miriam Barrios
- Labor Award:** Ariel Soto
- Outstanding Workers:** Ricardo Francisco, Marie Enoze Sulfrain, and Pastor Zavala
- New Initiative Award:** Patti Bowman
- Critical Support Award:** Diane Fitzpatrick
- Behind the Scenes Award:** Shirley Jackson



A very special thank you goes out to the Volunteer Luncheon Planning Committee. Kathy Froggatt, Dawn Clemons, Megan Geiger, and Katie Carpenter. It was an elegantly beautiful and fun afternoon!



El Sol's "Kitchen Miracles"

If a good soldier is a soldier well fed, (as Napoleon Bonaparte said), then a good worker is a worker well fed as evidenced by the 22,295 free meals El Sol served last year, an average of 62 daily.

For some workers the hot lunch and breakfast snacks they get at El Sol are the only significant nourishment they receive that day.

Kitchen Chairman Andi Cleveland said the daily meals would not be possible without the dozens of volunteers who prepare and serve the food. The menu varies from day to day, depending on donations and what food bargains there were at the Feeding South Florida food bank in West Palm Beach where some food is purchased.

"We have an awesome group of people who are scheduled and who come each day to take charge and do what they have to do to prepare nutritious and delicious meals for the workers. It is a well-oiled pot," she said. Donors include Publix markets where volunteers pick up excess bread, pastries and desserts daily, CR Chicks which donates several trays of cooked chicken each week.

Other donors include churches who have conducted food drives, school groups. JL Cares, Mariner Sands and others. A group of parishioners from St. Jude Catholic Church in Tequesta and its Knights of Columbus Council make early morning pickups of bread, pastries and desserts from Publix. Surplus foods that El Sol cannot use are delivered to St. Mary Catholic Church in Pahokee and to Hope Rural School in Indiantown.

In one way, El Sol's kitchen operation is a lot like that of the popular Pawn Show on television. "You never know what's going to walk through that door." Over the years, bags of rice, cooked chickens and turkeys and large trays of leftover food from some group's party arrive just when the refrigerator shelves are looking bare.

For example, there were the deliveries on two separate occasions recently by four women who unloaded bags bulging with freshly harvested tomatoes, and red and green peppers. The women had worked hours filling 26 bags each day with the produce from a farm west of Jupiter. All told there were several hundred pounds of produce that covered the long kitchen counter.

"They were the nicest peppers I've ever seen," said volunteer Chef Dominic Bakija, who has helped organize and guide El Sol's Kitchen and meal operations.



"Produce Harvesters" left to right, Sayre Santonelli-Bonito, Nori Douglas, Kathy Toner, and Debbie Katulak.



Education News: El Sol's ESL for Women

The Palm Beach County School Board, citing budgetary constraints, withdrew their funding for a key literacy program at El Sol. The former Family Literacy program, was managed at El Sol as a satellite site by the PBC School district. However, once again, El Sol's volunteers came to the rescue.

Maureen Thompson and Janice Baker, retired school teachers approached El Sol at the end of 2011. They met with Sister Marta, Board member of El Sol, to express their interest in organizing a group of volunteers that could help women laborers learning English while they are awaiting work assignments. Thompson and Baker were also interested in including a child support component to the program.

The details were worked out and the program started on January 9, 2012 where approximately 20 different families have come to the center to receive the English language training needed in the workplace.

The program objectives are to provide English classes for women and their children so as to improve family interaction when facing schooling. The program also strives to build language skills to help these women attain self-independence, more employability and social integration.

The program started on January 9, 2012 and is still in its infancy. Currently, the program schedule is: Mondays from 9:00am to 11:00am.



El Sol Shines' Featured Volunteer



Georgette Gill joined El Sol in March 2011. Initially she helped Jocelyn and Dora with various administrative tasks. They quickly saw Georgette's potential and invited her to take responsibility for responding to El Sol's donations of money and goods. To do this, Georgette needed to figure out how to navigate El Sol's complicated fundraising computer program ~ Georgette enjoys a good

challenge. Despite the annoyance of a serious, ongoing retina problem, she has managed to keep up with the donation letters and said Yes to joining the newly-formed Fundraising Committee.

Georgette is originally from New York. She lived in Queens and worked in Manhattan before coming to Jupiter in May 2003. Her early volunteer work in Jupiter was with area thrift shops and with Jupiter First Church. A friend at church encouraged Georgette to give El Sol a try. What keeps her at El Sol? Her response is

"the people, the mission and the work." She enjoys using her "grey cells" again. She likes technology and was impressed with the Fundraising program tutorial.

Jocelyn says: "Georgette is a great volunteer ~ she is dedicated and reliable. When we sent out our annual appeal letters, she spent an entire week making sure all the letters were printed, folded, envelopes labeled, stamped and mailed. It was a huge undertaking, and she made it look easy! When she had to get eye surgery, she came in consistently to help us follow up with donors and keep up with our filing. She has been an enormous help behind the scenes!"

Georgette is married to John Gill. Her step-daughter, Michelle, has four children. Her step-son, Paul John Gill, a NYC firefighter, lost his life on 9/11. Georgette's interests include baking, working out, reading, taking classes at church and enjoying life in Florida.

Congratulations, Georgette ~ El Sol's Featured Volunteer!!

News & Views Volunteer Meeting

On Thursday evening, January 26th, El Sol held our first quarterly "News & Views" volunteer meeting. About thirty volunteers and staff attended, including Town Council member Jim Kuretski. Attendees enjoyed some decadent and wonderfully satisfying refreshments while listening to various El Sol related stories and updates.

There were many presentations. One of our workers told his story of how El Sol impacted his life, and expressed his thanks to the volunteers. Next, attendees were blown away by various updates and amazing accomplishments from different areas at El Sol. Finally, all engaged in a productive brainstorming session--and all in one hour! Attendees enjoyed meeting other volunteers and learning about other El Sol programs and committees.

At the conclusion of the meeting, attendees filled out evaluations of the meeting, and we hope to use these evaluations to make meetings even more informative, exciting, and tasty so as to entice an even better turnout for the next meeting.

Our future meetings will feature more time for Q&A and discussion. Our next News & Views meeting will be Wednesday, April 25th, from 6pm to 7pm. We hope you can join us. For more information, contact VISTA Volunteer Developer Katie Carpenter at katieelsol@yahoo.com.



Jupiter Jubilee

El Sol made a positive impression at this year's Jupiter Jubilee with visitors who stopped by our table to view a large display of El Sol photos, pick up a brochure or ask about volunteering.

"It went just fine, people were very receptive," said Volunteer Coordinator Sally Isham. "We handed out a lot of brochures and news letters and received some volunteer applications."

One couple also purchased a Brother Towns video. Katie Carpenter and Mike Richmond also helped staff the booth at various times during the day long event Saturday, February 4th.

The Jubilee celebrated its 10th year at the Municipal complex with entertainment, educational and cultural exhibits, an all-new EcoTourism Expo and a Civic Activities Fair that included El Sol's booth and those of other organizations serving the Jupiter area.



El Sol Sews



Closing the Deal...

It's all about zippers this month: long, short, centered, lapped and even invisible. We've made little bags, cosmetic bags, handbags, over the shoulder bags, cell phone bags and all with zippers! The students have skillfully mastered many sewing skills over the past few months and are now using those skills to produce wonderful products that they have designed themselves.

Next we're moving on to working with a commercially made pattern.

Announcing El Sol's Website Repair!!

Our own Diane Fitzpatrick designed and maintained El Sol's previous website. She deserves a round of applause and hearty thanks. The website was both beautiful and functional. But suddenly pieces of the various pages on the friendsofelsof.com site began to fall apart. The disintegration occurred because Apple no longer supported the software that made this site. As a result, the whole website had to be rebuilt from scratch.

Leading the team of El Sol Tekkies, was Travis Moore. He spent the lion's share of his winter break rebuilding El Sol's website. Travis managed to keep the handsome look of the old website, and was able to add a few new features to increase the website's "wow" and user-friendly factors.



EL SOLs "Wish List"

Kitchen

- Volunteers to conduct a Food Supply Drive: (canned goods, vegetables, proteins, coffee, sugar, creamer)
- Volunteers to conduct a Paper Supply Drive: (napkins, paper towels, plates, 8oz cups, bowls, forks)
- Shelving Units \$720
- Industrial Dishwasher and plates, cups, silverware

Education

- English/Spanish Dictionaries
- Copy Paper
- Colored Paper
- Pens and Pencils
- Notebooks
- Gift Cards and other incentives

Labor Program

Volunteers to conduct a Cleaning Supplies Drive: (Toilet Paper, Clorox Wipes, 60 gallon trash bags)

Office Supplies

We need LOTS of copy paper!!!!

Sewing Program

- Universal sewing machine needles, size 10, 12 and 14.
- Good quality sewing thread in all colors
- standard plastic bobbins
- Rotary cutter
- Rotary cutter replacement blades
- Sharp scissors for cutting thread and small thread clipping scissors

Childcare

We need volunteers to do childcare activities during our night-time classes while parents are in class. Shifts are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday from 7-9PM

El Sol's Mission Statement

El Sol's vision is for a premier day-labor center providing skilled, dependable workers to employers. We are also committed to promoting strong economically and ethnically diverse communities in which all people can achieve their highest potential.

El Sol seeks to improve the quality of life for all residents of the Town of Jupiter through:

- Organizing and supervising Jupiter's day-labor hiring in a controlled and sanitary atmosphere;
- Educating Jupiter's day-laborers and contractors about their rights and responsibilities;
- Assisting Jupiter's immigrant population to become an active and integrated part of the larger Jupiter community;
- Building bridges and communication among the different ethnic, cultural and religious groups in Jupiter;
- Providing occupational training, language and literacy instructional counseling, health education, legal and other services to individuals in need.



El Sol

Jupiter's Neighborhood Resource Center

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Find us on the Web at www.friendsofelsesol.org

Follow us on Twitter  at <http://twitter.com/ElSolJupiter>

See us on Facebook  at El Sol, Jupiter's Neighborhood Resource Center

El Sol's Hiring Hall is open

- 6am-2pm Monday through Saturday
- 7am-12noon Sunday

Donate online through **Network for Good** on our website www.friendsofelsesol.org

Staff

Jocelyn Skolnik, director
Dora Valdivia, associate director
Wilberto Luna, labor center coordinator
Dawn Fae Adolfson, Idania Venereo, education team
Betzy Rega, health coordinator
Karen Clark, Administrative assistant
Katie Carpenter, Americorps VISTA Volunteer Developer
Gillian M'maiti, Systems Developer-VISTA
Royce Emley, AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer Job Developer

El Sol Shines is published six times a year

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