$100,000 Quantum Foundation Grant Funds El Sol’s Innovative Program, “Health Promoters”

El Sol, Jupiter’s Neighborhood Resource Center is launching a greatly expanded health outreach and education program thanks to a $100,000 grant from Quantum Foundation, a West Palm Beach-based grant making organization.

The two-year ‘Health Promoter’ grant will fund the training of lay health advocates who will be responsible for educating people in their community about various health topics such as diabetes, which is the focus of the initial phase of the outreach program. “We know diabetes is a big problem that affects one out of 10 people nationally and four out of ten people among our clients,” said El Sol Center Director Jocelyn Skolnik. Other issues the health promoters will handle include nutrition, health issues in the workplace, domestic violence and addiction.

El Sol is partnering with the Rural Women’s Health Project in Gainesville, which will train the health promoters and oversee the project. The goal of each volunteer will be to teach 10 others about the health topic of the month, expanding El Sol’s outreach efforts, which in the past have been limited to bringing health experts to talk with workers at El Sol.

“We greatly appreciate Quantum Foundation’s grant because it will allow us to educate many more people about vital health issues than we’re currently able to reach,” Skolnik said. By the end of the two-year grant, she estimates the program will have reached 1,560 people in the community who cannot be reached by more traditional communication methods.

Quantum Foundation President Kerry Diaz said, “We’re excited to support this kind of innovative project that aligns so well with our mission to create a healthier Palm Beach County. We know that lay health workers provide a trusted bridge between the community and service providers, resulting in enhanced access to quality health care for all.”

The Quantum Foundation, a private, grant-making organization, awards grants to approved charities and certain governmental entities serving Palm Beach County. The Foundation is the largest Palm Beach County-based health funder with 100 percent of grant dollars staying in the county, according to the Florida Philanthropic Network (FPN).

Interested in planting, maintaining a garden, or harvesting? Become a part of the Jupiter Community Garden

Community gardens are fun, community-building projects that provide fresh produce and plants. They also promote neighborhood improvement, sense of community and connection to the environment. Anyone interested in planning or participating in a Jupiter community garden on El Sol’s north lawn, please contact Alyssa or Dora.

In This Issue:
- Featured Worker ....................2
- Featured Volunteer ...............2
- Legal Victory.........................2
- Farewells.............................3
- Bill Goldberger’s Novel ..........3
- Health & Wellness News.........4
- Community Service...............5
- El Sol Sews..........................5
- Education events.................. 6
- Tidbits................................7
- Wish List .............................8
- El Sol Info.........................8
Featured Volunteer: Eve Schindler

Eve Schindler moved to Florida from New York in 1986. Her degrees are in Mathematics and Business Management. She currently owns and runs an accounting software consulting company ~ Pizon Computer Consulting, Inc. Her line of work is supporting accounting software such as QuickBooks which El Sol uses. She originally came to El Sol as a hired consultant to set up the accounting software; a quick observation told her that she would be needed far more often than originally planned. At first she was coming in weekly; now she comes in quarterly to help with the bookkeeping and accounting.

Eve followed El Sol’s early beginnings in the newspapers. She thought it was a great idea and knew that the town of Jupiter and the residents of Jupiter would benefit greatly from having such a center. She believes that El Sol does a great service to the community, and she is grateful to be a part of it.

Jocelyn Skolnik, El Sol director, says: “After providing consulting services for El Sol, Eve stayed on as a volunteer to help us strengthen and continue improving our financial reporting. Her expertise using QuickBooks has been very valuable to El Sol. With her help we have become more organized with our bookkeeping, and this has helped us ensure we are the best stewards of the funds we receive to make a positive impact in our community.”

El Sol treasurer Sheila Hirsch has this to say about Eve: “Eve has been an ‘accounting angel’ to El Sol. Despite the demands of operating her own business, Eve has never said “no” to us. No time is too much, no distance too far to travel in order to lend us her expert assistance and guidance. We greatly appreciate Eve’s efforts.”

Eve’s parents live in Port St. Lucie. They are both fine artists so she’s been fortunate to have grown up around beautiful art. Her comment about being an accountant in the midst of fine artists: “It’s funny that I went into accounting and software ~ I guess that’s the rebel in me!”

Featured Worker: Genaro Mateo

“He is a dedicated worker and has participated in numerous vocational training workshops and community service projects,” said Labor Coordinator Wilberto Luna. A native of Guatemala, Mateo, 31, was elected President of the Workers Council last year, succeeding Diego Rojas.

His interest in learning new job skills is from personal experience, and as head of the Workers Council motivated him to set a goal of ensuring that workers receive more training in various job skills. In Guatemala, he worked as an accountant, but after coming to the U.S. he has been self employed at times doing painting and flooring.

He was among workers who participated in the just completed hands-on training that gave El Sol’s assembly hall and new coat of paint.

When not working, Mateo can be found at El Sol taking whatever vocational and other classes are available. For recreation, he loves to play soccer. Congratulations to Genaro Mateo for his well-deserved honor as El Sol’s Featured Worker for April/May.

A Legal Victory

Nicolas Siquina, one of El Sol’s workers was recently granted his U visa. A U Visa is a special nonimmigrant visa for victims of crime who have been, or are likely to be helpful in the investigation or prosecution of the crime. Mr. Siquina received this together with a work permit and with that, eligibility for a driver’s license and so on, with much help from El Sol volunteer Gayle Galdames. Gayle guided him through the whole complicated process to the “U visa.” El Sol works with Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services, which acts as attorney of record on the cases, while our able volunteers help the crime victim to gather the paperwork necessary to establish eligibility for the so-called “magical” visa. The paperwork can be voluminous, including copies of crime reports, medical reports, statements from care providers, the law enforcement certification, and most important, the victim impact statement. Gayle, who won the Legal Services volunteer of the year award, was very happy to see this case through to completion.
Farewell to Emmanuel Carreno

El Sol has bid farewell and best wishes to Emmanuel Carreno. Our AmeriCorps VISTA staffer completed his year of service as El Sol’s first Vocational Coordinator.

Carreno said the job was challenging but one he enjoyed very much. “A lot is placed on your shoulders but you get to be creative with the resources and tools that you have,” he said. During his year of service, he coordinated a number of vocational skills workshops including landscaping, bike repair, housekeeping, and carpentry.

“Our newly painted assembly hall was his last project,” said El Sol Center Director, Jocelyn Skolnick. The project consisted of a much needed new coat of paint, training workers in painting skills, and updating the worker database so that only skilled painters are listed as such in the system. The painting took several days and gave a new shine to the hall, the computer lab, volunteer office and restrooms.

“Additionally, Emmanuel conducted soft skills workshops to improve workers skills in communication and leadership for success in the workplace,” Skolnick said. “We wish him the best of luck in his future pursuits.” In that regard, Carreno said he is feeling a call to the religious life and plans to visit the Catholic Carthusian Order of Monks at their monastery nestled in a high mountain valley in Southern Vermont. Later he will be attending a conference of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) at Ave Maria University in Florida.

Farewell to Dawn Fae Adolfson

Dawn came to El Sol in August of 2009 when she began studying at FAU’s Honors College. She began volunteering as El Sol’s evening English teacher. In 2011, her volunteering led to an internship. Her new title was assistant to the Education Coordinator, who at the time was Reca Fernández. In the summer of 2011, Reca had to leave the position, and recommended Dawn to continue in his role. El Sol hired Dawn in 2011 to oversee the night English classes. Shortly after, Dawn’s responsibilities increased to include the night Spanish literacy classes, Plazas Comunitarias.

Dawn graduates this month from FAU’s Honors College with a Bachelor’s Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences with a major in Anthropology and a minor in Spanish. Her next stop is Tallahassee, where she will pursue a Master’s Degree in Education in Curriculum and Instruction and a major in Foreign and Second Language Teaching at The Florida State University. She is excited to continue her education but sad to leave El Sol.

While Dawn is looking forward to moving on to her next step in her life, she already misses El Sol. She writes, “I appreciate the opportunity El Sol has given me to impact the lives of the students and volunteers. Without El Sol I wouldn’t have been able to discover my desire to serve others through education.”

We thank Dawn Fae Adolfson for her dedication and enthusiasm, and wish her all the best as she pursues her education and her dreams.

El Sol Volunteer and new novelist, Bill Goldberger

Accolades to volunteer and good friend of El Sol, Bill Goldberger, whose very first novel, Sublimation, advanced to the second round of the Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award Contest in the category of General Fiction. Bill is a retired licensed professional engineer whose career in research played a key role in the plot of his book. The book is about the fictional murder in 1979 of a brilliant young research scientist following his return to the U.S. from Pakistan after a consulting assignment for the United Nations. The murder was never solved. Sublimation is available from Amazon and Kindle. Congratulations, Bill!
Health and Wellness

Betzy Rega Wins Prestigious Lighthouse Award

El Sol’s reputation as a catalyst for community action and improved healthcare for uninsured and low-income individuals and families earned accolades and other honors in April.

Betzy Rega, El Sol Health Coordinator, was honored with the “Lighthouse Shines Award” at the Regional Navigate Palm Beach County Symposium April 12. She was cited for her dedication to the community and working to support health and human services in the area. The symposium was sponsored by health agencies and health providers.

Also, the Palm Beach County Department of Health recognized El Sol as the most outstanding health center in Palm Beach County. The award was announced at the Health Department’s recent 35th Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. Also noteworthy is the nomination of the Jupiter Volunteer Clinic for the “Heroes in Medicine Award” from the Palm Beach County Medical Society, and El Sol’s nomination for the Community Outreach Heroes category.

El Sol also received some positive news on the fundraising front when it was notified by the United Way of the Town of Palm Beach that El Sol has been unanimously voted in as a partner after having been declined last year. El Sol Center Director Jocelyn Skolnik said the approval means El Sol will be in line to receive much-needed help to fund vocational training programs.

Visiting Nurse Association Assists with Health Goals

Photos of the VNA Nicolette and Scott. They come the first Wednesday of every month and see 15-22 patients and to assess medical conditions that we refer to the Clinic or other organizations. It is a whole day event. Betzy Rega and Diane Williams assist as interpreters.

El Sol Health Program Focuses on Diabetes Education

This month, our Promotores (Health Promoters) are educating the community on diabetes, a disease that is quite common in our community. Both Diane Williams of the Jupiter Volunteer Clinic and Betzy Rega have been proactive in identifying people within the El Sol community who are affected by this disease.

This class was for diabetics only, and is given by Registered Dietician Raquel Cordobes of Sanofi Diabetes. Ms Cordobes is also a Certified Diabetes Educator. The class taught patients how to manage and understand their disease. They were instructed on how to use a Glucometer and each participant received one to take home.
On Saturday, April 13th, 2013, Alaiya Dewji, an intern from FAU, took worker volunteers Tomas Perez Cruz, Jose Ruiz Velasco, Basilio Ramirez, Mario Quinonez, Ramon Dominco, Pascual Francisco, Francisco Montejo, and Milton Sontos from El Sol, Jupiter’s Neighborhood Resource Center, to perform a community service event with Joanna Aiken, representing the Solid Waste Authority. The community service event for the month of April was the Great American Clean–Up, which took place in the Pine Gardens North Community. Along with other volunteers present at the site, the worker volunteers from El Sol did a great job and the community service event was a great success. Cleaning up on Old Dixie Hwy and the internal streets of the community, the area looked immaculate upon completion! Joanna continuously mentioned her appreciation for the time and effort the worker volunteers put into the work they do, and commended the workers on an excellent job. With provided transportation, materials, and drinks, the community service event went smoothly and safely.

What’s happening with El Sol Sews? Beautiful things!
Graduation!!

On Wednesday, April 10th, El Sol celebrated the accomplishments of its night education classes. The classes recognized were English, Computers, Spanish literacy, Sewing, and Read A Recipe for Literacy children’s program. The Master of Ceremonies was Adrian Viller, a previous El Sol volunteer. Piano interludes were played by Joseph Almeida, a current volunteer.

The keynote speaker for the ceremony was Reca Fernández, who was the previous Education Coordinator at El Sol and trained Dawn Fae Adolfson, the current coordinator, as his assistant. Reca gave two different speeches, one in Spanish for the students, and one in English for the volunteer teachers. Reca acknowledged the students’ drive to learn and encouraged them to continue working hard and he thanked the volunteers for their dedication to the classes.

Afterward 27 graduates from English were recognized. Idania Venereo, the computer coordinator, then recognized 12 graduates from the computer classes. Dawn Adolfson recognized Olga Elizabeth Ruano who completed her secondary diploma in the Spanish Literacy classes. Level A student Elizabeth Domínguez Ortiz gave a speech in English and Spanish.

For the first time, four sewing students were recognized for their achievements. Mario García was awarded a sewing machine for being the most improved and most enthusiastic student. Additionally, Angelina Vance, Mary Giuliano and Elida Díaz were recognized.

Heather Boldt, Read A Recipe for Literacy Coordinator, introduced her class and the students presented posters on what kind of foods they made this year. This program met on Tuesday evenings and gave English literacy instruction to children ages 7 to 12 years old.

At the ceremony Dawn Adolfson also introduced the new night English coordinator, Rosy Arreaga, and the new Spanish Literacy coordinator, Indira Mele.

Creative and Fun Way to Practice Language Skills

The Women’s ESOL Class is learning practical applications for communication. Teachers donated goods that were priced as they would be in a store. The items were organized into aisles. The students, each armed with $40 in Monopoly money, went shopping. The great part was that the students got to keep their “purchases.” The lesson involved decision-making, dialog, and math skills. Students increased their confidence levels for shopping in American stores.
TIDBITS

Little Snippets of Information Including Awards, Events, Recognitions that We Just Couldn’t Leave Out!

Recognition...

Here are two photos that were taken at the 35th Annual Volunteer Recognition Award Ceremony. It was hosted by Florida Department of Health, Palm Beach County, and Volunteer Health Services Program.

The El Sol Resource Center was honored and recognized for “In recognition for your continued dedication and commitment to the Florida Department of Health - Palm Beach County Volunteer Services 2012”

In the photo from left to right are: Marilyn Farina, Jocelyn Skolnick, JoAnn Corsi and Allison Tappin

New Computer Lab!!

Here is a photo of the new computer lab. Okay, you’re right -the lights are out. But to truly appreciate the wonderful changes made, you really need to stop into El Sol (or wait until the next issue of El Sol Shines). There are so many to thank for this amazing transformation: Lost Tree, workers, volunteers, Emmanuel Carreno, Tom Choate... Thank you!!

Paint Your Heart Out

Community service photos on March 2nd.

El Sol worker/volunteers shown (above) painting a house in the community, and working with our partner, “Paint Your Heart Out.” Four workers participated in the event from 8:00AM to noon. Our intern Alaiya Dewji transported them back and forth. Both the homeowner as well as our event partner were pleased with the results.
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 instruction, counseling, health education, legal and other services to individuals in need.

El Sol’s “Wish List“

Kitchen
• Fresh fruits and vegetables, canned veggies and fruit
• Publix’s cards for emergency food
• Aluminum pans
• Large bags of rice, beans, pasta, pasta sauce
• Dishwasher & money to maintain the monthly service contract
• Cleaning supplies i.e. brooms, mops, rags, paper towels, scrubbing sponge etc.
• Kitchen coordinator

Education
• Pencils, pens, crayons, dry erase markers
• Blank notebooks/composition books
• Bounding spirals of 3/4 inch ,
• Copy, loose leaf, & construction paper, colored card stock
• Coloring books, arts/crafts
• Dictionaries (S-E), picture dictionaries

Labor Program
• Bottled water for summer months to prevent dehydration and heat stroke
• Sunscreen, hats

Outreach and Client Communications
• Flatscreen 50-inch TV for presentations
• Mount
• Extension cords
• Laptop for presentations

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
• 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

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

El Sol
Jupiter’s Neighborhood Resource Center
106 Military Trail
Jupiter FL 33458
Phone (561) 745-9860
Fax (561) 745-9834

Find us on the Web at www.friendsofelsol.org
Follow us on Twitter at http://twitter.com/ElSolJupiter
See us on Facebook at B Sol, Jupiter’s Neighborhood Resource Center

El Sol’s Hiring Hall is open
• 6am-2pm Monday through Saturday
• 7am-12noon Sunday

To join our email distribution list, send a request to elsolshines@gmail.com

Staff
Jocelyn Skolnik, director
Dora Valdivia, associate director
Wilberto Luna, labor coordinator
Betzy Rega, health coordinator
Karen Clark, administrative assistant
Vickie Granati, day-time ESOL coordinator
Andrew Bartholomew, AmeriCorps VISTA Community Resource Developer
Alyssa Wood, AmeriCorps VISTA Systems Developer
Dawn Gosseck, AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer Developer

El Sol Shines is published six times a year
Wendy Sue Meehan, Editor
Mike Richmond, Communications Committee Chairman

Contributors
Mike Richmond
Wilberto Luna
Dawn Fae Adolfson
Betzy Rega
Jill Hanson
Mary Pat Donaldson
Sally Isham
Jocelyn Skolnik
Dora Valdivia
Alyssa Wood