Children Receive School Supplies

Thanks to a large donation by the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Tequesta, nearly two dozen children have received all the paper, pencils, notebooks, crayons and other items they will need for the school year.

The supplies were collected by the church’s Outreach Committee, and is the third such donation, said Terry McFarland who delivered the supplies. Children eagerly passed along stacks of notebooks, pencils, erasers, art supplies and other items, helping themselves to whatever they wanted when the supplies were distributed at El Sol.

“Our congregation has tremendous appreciation for what El Sol is doing in the community so we are glad to help. It’s a worthy cause,” said McFarland, a former El Sol board member. El Sol Center Director Jocelyn Skolnik expressed El Sol’s thanks for the school supplies, saying they ensure children will have everything they need to help them succeed in school.

El Sol’s Sixth Annual ArtFest 2013 returns Sunday, November 3rd in a new outdoor setting and with Jupiter Medical Center as the presenting sponsor. The free event on the grounds of the El Sol Center features original oil paintings by local artists, a variety of crafts plus bracelets and necklaces made by Guatemalan women, plus live entertainment.

Festival hours are 12 noon to 4 p.m. with a portion of the proceeds to benefit El Sol. The outdoor venue, a switch from previous indoor festivals, makes for a greatly expanded event with dozens of craft vendors and booths for artists and artisans plus fully-catered food trucks. Jupiter Medical Center’s Wellness in Motion van will provide free health screenings for visitors.

ArtFest affords artists and artisans the opportunity to showcase their unique artworks and crafts, many of them from other cultures, said El Sol Center Director Jocelyn Skolnik. And festival attendees can get an early start on their holiday gift buying while enjoying the ArtFest’s many offerings, Skolnik said.

Other ArtFest features include multicolored bags, aprons and other items created by women in El Sol’s sewing skills vocational program and a chance drawing of a quilt designed by artisans at El Sol. Festival goers of all ages will be entertained by live marimba players and salsa dancers.

See ArtFest Harvest of Hope page 7

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El Sol’s “Featured Volunteer” Lynn Hays

Lynn Hays moved to Jupiter 20 years ago with her family when FPL transferred her from Miami. In 2007, when the company sponsored a community volunteer day, she was part of FPL’s Corporate Communications team who came to El Sol to participate in a public relations/community outreach strategy session. From that introduction, Lynn became a volunteer working with the communications committee, assisting with the original website and newsletter as well as articles for community publications.

“I love living in Jupiter, and to me, El Sol represents the best of what Jupiter has to offer,” said Lynn. “I so admire our community for reaching out to our vulnerable neighbors and creating this resource center and continuing to evolve and meet their needs – it’s a privilege to be a part of El Sol’s volunteer family.”

Besides her work with the communications and grant writing committees, Lynn has helped with special events, worker training sessions and surveys. Like many other volunteers, she also visits regularly to hire workers for help at her home.

Lynn has two daughters: Lindsay, who recently moved to Washington, D.C. and Brooks, who lives in London. In 2011, Lynn took over operating the family company, HAYSMAR, Inc., after her husband died and stays busy with research and writing projects.

As Lynn says, “El Sol makes it easy to volunteer, even if you are employed. There are so many ways to get involved and feel like you are making a contribution.”

Editor’s note: Lynn was able to eloquently draft the proposal the Town submitted for the Roadmaps for Health Prize award. She listened carefully to the many voices at the table, and was able to write a cohesive proposal describing how our community came together to create a healthier future for all.”

Featured Worker: Jose Torres

Jose Torres, who came to El Sol just four months ago, has earned honors as El Sol Featured Worker for August-September. And it is easy to see why.

A native of Mexico, Torres, 35, is a former restaurant cook who likes helping with meal preparation and other tasks in the kitchen and has helped with painting at El Sol. He has also attended English classes and recently was elected Vice President of the Workers Council.

After coming to the United States 10 years ago Torres lived in New Mexico and most recently in Denver, Colorado. When the restaurant where he worked closed, friends in Jupiter urged him to move here. Torres says he’s glad he did. He will be utilizing his culinary skills preparing lunch for El Sol’s 7th Anniversary observance Friday, September 6th.

Torres will also be handling cooking chores Sunday, September 15th for a combined Independence Day celebration recognizing Guatemala, Mexico and El Salvador independence anniversaries that all occur in mid-September. When asked what motivates him to become involved in so many El Sol activities, Torres replied simply: “El Sol and the people here help me so I help El Sol.”

Congratulations to Jose Torres on his well-deserved recognition as this period’s El Sol Featured Worker.
El Sol marked the end of its Summer 2013 education program with a celebratory graduation ceremony August 16 in which more than 100 men and women received certificates. The majority of them attended English language classes three nights a week for 10 weeks.

Twenty-one students were recognized for completing computer skills classes, and 14 for finishing Spanish literacy instruction. Keynote speaker was Sister Beatriz Cortes of the Guadalupan Missionaries of the Holy Spirit, based at St. Peter Catholic Church. She praised the graduates for their commitment to learning English and other skills to improve their lives and urged graduates to spread the word about their education accomplishments.

“We must go out and share with the rest of the world how great knowledge is and how wonderful it is to say ‘yes’ to education, putting forth the effort that it requires,” she said. Sister Cortes, a native of Mexico, taught Spanish literacy.

The Summer 2013 graduation ceremony was the last for ESL Coordinator Dawn Fae Adolfson, who resigned to attend graduate school at Florida State University. She said she was inspired by the students. “They come (to class) after work, they’re tired, they’re hungry but they’re happy to learn. Without El Sol in my life I would not be pursing a career in education,” Adolfson said.

Photos: (top) Sister Beatriz Cortes was the keynote speaker for the graduation ceremony; (center) Dawn Fae Adolfson is heading to grad school; (bottom) El Sol Director, Jocelyn Skolnik shares a story with the happy graduates and their families; (far right) photos of the graduates, their families, and the “Read a Recipe” crew: young students who enhanced their language and reading skills while their parents attended classes.
El Sol, Jupiter’s Neighborhood Resource Center presents:

El Sol’s 6th Annual ArtFest 2013

12 Noon to 4pm Sunday, November 3rd, 2013

El Sol, 106 N. Military Trail
Jupiter, FL 33458
(561) 460.2993
www.friendsofelsol.org

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For more information on sponsorship, please contact us at artfest@friendsofelsol.org

Call for Artists
Please submit your application by September 16th.
For more information, please contact us at artfest@friendsofelsol.org

Free Admission
OSHA Training: Power Tool Safety

The OSHA training on basic electrical and power tools was an introduction to better understanding the need for caution around electricity. The training emphasized proper use of handling power tools along with the need for personal protective equipment. The workers played a game of responding to questions regarding voltage and electrical issues, creating a battery from a potato and discussing proper use of our giant cardboard power tools. The class was fun, informative and everyone left with a personal protective gift. Walter Mejia received the bonus gift, a real “power drill”.

If you’re scratching your head and trying to figure out what you’re looking at, you’re in good company. No, this is not an example of “Photoshop gone wrong.” Actually, Simion Sontay is using a cardboard drill for one of the demonstrations.

Dangers Associated With Working Near Power Lines is the Subject of Recent Safety Workshop for El Sol Workers

A workshop on the importance of staying safe when working near power lines captured the attention of nearly three dozen El Sol workers who attended a recent safety workshop about the dangers associated with working near power lines.

The session was conducted by Ed Garcia, FPL’s South Area Transmission Lead. Dora Valdivia, El Sol Associate Director, said the workshop was excellent and that it lasted more than an hour because of the number of questions by workers. The importance of safety workshops such as the FPL session is underscored by the fact that 4 in 10 of El Sol workers have suffered a workplace related accident in the past, Valdivia said.

"Many of the workers didn’t know the consequences of being near or coming in contact with power lines," Valdivia said. In his presentation Garcia pointed out that “Rule Number One” is to work at a safe distance from all power lines. Also, ladders and lines don’t mix and workers should first look up and note the location of power lines before starting work.

Other rules highlighted by Garcia were: Call 811 before digging to get underground utility lines marked. Always assume any downed power line is energized and stay away.

The power line safety video explains dangers and safety precautions to El Sol workers.
Past El Sol ArtFests have been wonderful, and there is a community spirit that rises and envelops each event at El Sol. Cultures weave together into a colorful fabric of fun, education, and delights for all the senses. However, a unique aspect of this year’s ArtFest is the support provided by area businesses. Of particular importance is Jupiter Medical Center’s role as sponsor.

“Jupiter Medical Center is proud to be the presenting sponsor of the 6th Annual ArtFest El Sol,” said John D. Couris, President & CEO of Jupiter Medical Center. “Our Medical Center and El Sol are two local non-profit organizations partnering together for a great cause. This is a prime example of collaborations and partnerships at work in caring for the health and wellness of our community.”

Jocelyn Skolnik added, “We are grateful for Jupiter Medical Center’s partnership. Our collaboration to improve our community is one of those things that makes Jupiter so unique.”

But 2013 ArtFest coordinator David Urieta says it most poetically, “The cycles of harvest transcend all boundaries and regardless of cultural differences, we live and eat from the earth. It’s a truth that unifies all of us. Thankfully, El Sol continues to plant the seeds of hope in our community.”
ArtFest Harvest of Hope (continued from page 1)

The festival’s theme, “Harvesting Hope,” unites the history of farming and harvesting in agricultural-based societies like Mexico and Guatemala, with the large agricultural footprint of Palm Beach County. The theme was suggested by David Urieta (photo on right), who is serving as ArtFest Coordinator as part of his internship requirement as a senior at FAU’s Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College in Jupiter.

Urieta said the theme idea came to him after he received a copy of “Cosechando Esperanza,” a children’s book about Cesar Chavez, and later discovered a picture in his family’s photo album of his father picking tomatoes on a farm in California. The ArtFest committee has issued a call for festival vendors and seeks a diversity of original art and handmade items featuring the unique talents of area artists. The deadline for submission of vendor applications is September 16th.

Urieta emphasizes that ArtFest 2013 will take place “rain or shine.” The event promises to be the largest and best festival to date because of the outdoor setting and expanded vendor space. For more information contact ArtFest Coordinator David Urieta at (561) 460-2993 or artfest@friendsofelsol.org

Promotores de Salud Creates a Community Wellness Booklet

In July, our Promotores (Health Promoters) participated in creating a health booklet for the community. The “actors” for our photo illustrations in the booklet are our promotores. The process creating of this valuable booklet was a lot of fun.

Ultimately, these booklets will be used to give information on the value of nutrition for our health and what to expect at a clinic. The booklet gives advice on what questions to ask, and how to get information that is needed to get the best outcome from visiting their health care professional.

El Sol had help from the community on this project. Rosetta of Rosetta Produce was gracious enough to allow us to take pictures in her store. Rosetta has been supportive of El Sol with donations of produce.
El Sol’s “Wish List”

Kitchen
- Fresh fruits and vegetables, canned veggies and fruit
- Publix’s and Costco gift 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.
- Mason jars
- Pressure canner

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

Community Garden
- Pergola/gazebo

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 nighttime classes while parents are in evening education or sewing classes. Please call for more information.

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.

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
- Christopher Taylor, AmeriCorps VISTA Computer Guy
- Alyssa Wood, AmeriCorps VISTA Systems Developer
- Dawn Gosseck, AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer Developer

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Find us on the Web at www.friendsofelsol.org

See us on Facebook at ElSol, 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.friendsofelsol.org

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