Comprehensive AIDS Program of Palm Beach County (CAP) and El Sol Join forces

In 2009, Comprehensive AIDS Program (CAP) of Palm Beach County’s Community PROMISE team began working in local neighborhoods to promote HIV awareness and prevention. The partnership with El Sol has enabled the Community PROMISE staff to reach a wider segment of our community, expanding outreach into northern Palm Beach County. CAP’s Staff and volunteers at El Sol help to distribute role model stories that reflect community members’ personal accounts about how and why they took steps to learn about HIV, get tested, and how to protect themselves.

“We have struggled for many years to reduce the rates of HIV throughout the county. Educational conversations and testing are the best ways to ensure we reduce new HIV infections,” said Yolanda De Venanzi, Community PROMISE Program Supervisor.

Learn more about HIV and steps you can take to reduce your risk by speaking with the Community PROMISE team on the first and third Fridays of every month from 8:30-10:30 AM at El Sol.

Backpack To School!!

On August 16, 2012, El Sol hosted an event entitled, “BACK PACK TO SCHOOL.” The activity is one of a series El Sol will develop with the Florida State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The Florida State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, an organization of 38 chapters, manages a database of more than 80,000 minority-owned businesses. Further, the Florida State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is currently the only statewide Economic Development organization serving the needs of the Hispanic community. Mr. Julio Fuentes, President and CEO of the Hispanic Council for Reform and Educational Options (Hispanic CREO), donated 30 backpacks and school supplies to 30 families of El Sol workers.

Hispanic CREO’s mission is to improve educational outcomes for Hispanic children by empowering families through parental choice in education. Hispanic CREO achieves this by providing parents with free information and resources to assist parents in making educational decisions for their children. During the presentation, Mr. Fuentes made a speech addressing the importance of education, and the role parents play in mentoring their children. He also presented information regarding another organization, “STEP UP FOR STUDENTS.” This organization enables qualifying children to have access to private schools through a scholarship that will be available for 2013-2014.

“Egg-sactly” What We Needed!

On August 16, 2012, El Sol Shines August/ September 2012 1
Quarterly Report Highlights

El Sol’s day labor service continues to be popular with employers needing help as evidenced by the 10 percent increase in jobs filled during the first half of 2012 compared to the same period last year.

A total of 4,645 workers were hired in the first half of 2012 compared to 4,166 in the first six months of 2011, according to El Sol’s 2nd quarter report. A total of 1,002 jobs were filled in May, a new monthly record. The majority of the jobs were in landscaping, painting, moving, general labor, housecleaning and other tasks. A total of 2,536 workers and 5,759 employers were registered at El Sol as of June 30th.

Also noteworthy is the $343,998 value of the services and programs sponsored by El Sol during the second quarter. They include daytime and evening English language classes, computer instruction, health services, legal assistance and 4,332 hours of service by volunteers valued at $125,411.

Other quarterly report highlights include: A total of 9,303 meals served in the first half of 2012, including 3,586 in the second quarter; 751 individuals served by the North County Food Pantry; 1,936 workers attended daytime English classes, 689 of them in the 2nd quarter; 15 individuals received financial literacy instruction from Wells Fargo Bank representatives; 72 persons attended workshops on the Town of Jupiter’s codes and regulations during the second Quarter and volunteer attorneys and legal assistants handled 69 cases.

Also, El Sol workers contributed 85 volunteer hours helping on three community service projects; 223 persons were assisted with health and medical referrals; 326 persons attended health education and prevention workshops and 139 others were served by the Jupiter Volunteer Clinic.

El Sol’s Featured Worker: Zenaida Monterrozo

Like other workers who come to El Sol each morning in the hope of obtaining a job, Zenaida Monterrozo is among the first to arrive and heads to the kitchen where she volunteers by helping serve coffee and pastries and handling other chores.

When she is not volunteering or going on a job Ms. Monterrozo attends English language classes. Her dedication to learning English and serving others through her volunteer work earned her Featured Worker honors for August and September. “She is always doing what she can to improve herself and is a model for others to emulate,” said Wilberto Luna, El Sol Labor Coordinator.

A native of Guatemala, Ms. Monterrozo, is the mother of six grown children, all of whom are in Guatemala. When asked why she came to the United States, she replied, “To work and to send money to my children,” who she misses very much.

Congratulations to Zenaida Monterrozo on her well-deserved honor as Featured Worker for August and September. The recognition entitles her to priority for jobs for three consecutive days.
El Sol’s Featured Volunteer:

Eduardo J. López joined El Sol volunteering at the Employer desk in the mornings about four years ago. When the evening ESOL program started up he quickly jumped on board to contribute by teaching the basic English class. Ever since, Eduardo has been a valuable teacher to the program and is always willing to lend a helping hand wherever needed. He came to El Sol because he felt the desire to serve and help his community. Eduardo believes that El Sol’s mission is very important for the Town of Jupiter and the surrounding community.

Eduardo, born in Santiago de Cuba, Cuba, first came to Jupiter 30 years ago from Jensen Beach where he went to school and worked. He has worked as a Civil Engineer with the South Florida Water Management District for the past 25 years. Eduardo has also done volunteer work with an orphanage in Guatemala and enjoys traveling throughout Central America and the Caribbean.

Dora Valdivia, associate director of El Sol, comments, “Eduardo is a long time dedicated volunteer who has always shown a great passion and commitment to El Sol’s mission. His tremendous support to the center has allowed us to open our programs on dates and schedules that were helpful to the students.”

In addition to teaching math to a student working towards a GED, this summer Eduardo volunteered extra time to keep the center open for English students to use the Rosetta Stone program in the computer lab during the break between night time classes. He encouraged all the students to continue studying English even though class wasn’t in session and offered his time to make it happen. All of his students appreciate all the work he does to encourage their success.

Dawn, the Night Education Coordinator, comments, “Eduardo has always been available to lend an extra hand wherever needed. He is truly down to earth and has a big heart for the people he serves at El Sol.”

Some Notes on Members of Our El Sol Family...

Some Thoughts as an El Sol VISTA
by Royce Emley

When I signed up with AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America), and applied for the Job Developer position at El Sol Resource Center in Jupiter I had never heard of the title Job Developer. It sounded challenging, and since we were in the midst of a great recession, I jumped at the chance to apply some creative thinking to developing jobs for our clients at El Sol. I spent my professional career marketing a vast array of products by using innovative creative ideas to increase my clients’ business. This was going to be a challenge since budget restraints would not allow the usual blitz approach of buying expensive media.

I decided that my first approach would be to use press releases and then follow this up with color flyers printed in-house that I would place on community bulletin boards. Some of our volunteers also took flyers and posted them in their communities. I would love to take credit for what happened next, but I think I was just riding the coat tails of our community coming out of a recession. After only one month we broke a record with new employers signing up and a record in jobs for our clients. The record in jobs had been 942 jobs in one month back in September 2008 before the recession. We racked up in May 2012 a total of 1002 jobs. There were over 130 new employers who signed for the month of May.

Problem solving and contributing to the community, I can say being a member of the El Sol team as a VISTA has been a truly rewarding experience

Volunteer Kelsey Burke Begins Law School

El Sol congratulates volunteer Kelsey Burke, who started law school in August, 2012 at FAMU Law School in Orlando. Kelsey volunteered in the El Sol legal program. An immigrant herself, Kelsey hopes to become an immigration lawyer and give back to her community. We wish you great success, Kelsey!
A Fond Farewell to AmeriCorps VISTAs Katie and Gilian, and a Warm Welcome to Andrew

On August 15th 2012 staff and volunteers hosted a farewell for our VISTA members, Katie Carpenter and Gilian M’Maitsi. Katie and Gilian were the first generation of VISTAs to complete a year of service at El Sol. The service and support they provided to El Sol’s organizational structure in the span of a single year was remarkable.

Katie served as our Volunteer Developer and her accomplishments include: creating a Volunteer Manual, establishing orientation sessions, starting up and coordinating Quarterly Volunteer Meetings, coordinating our Annual Volunteer Luncheon, recruiting new volunteers and creating a series of guidebooks to assist future volunteers with the planning of major events. Before leaving, Katie wrote “I have been continually amazed at how much El Sol does for the community, and with such a small, dedicated group of people. You are all world-changers.”

Gilian served as our Systems Developer and worked closely with our Fundraising Committee in improving our donor management system and coordinating our annual appeal. She also developed a structure for more efficient data collection on a monthly basis for Quarterly Reports and supported El Sol with our new website development. She expressed “I have grown a lot as a person, and my life experience has truly been enhanced because I was here for the past year.” As Gilian shares, she and Katie gained new skills that will be useful in their careers. In turn, El Sol and the community benefited from their passion to see a positive change. El Sol is grateful for their service.

The entire El Sol family wishes Gilian and Katie an excellent future. Please don’t forget to come back and visit!

And now, we are currently accepting applications to fill these two positions for the 2012-2013 cycle. For more information please contact Jocelyn at jocelyn@friendsofelsol.org

El Sol’s 5th Annual Art Fest “Come Celebrate”

Save this date: Sunday, November 4 to enjoy a great time at the Fifth Annual El Sol Art Fest to be held from 12 noon to 4 p.m. at the El Sol Center.

This year’s Art Fest is shaping up to be the largest ever, says Chairperson, Andrea Cleveland. She said table space for artists, crafts persons and others is going fast. Persons interested in reserving a table should contact Andi Cleveland at andreacleveland@comcast.net.

A portion of the festival proceeds will go to benefit the El Sol Neighborhood Resource Center.

“As the theme, ‘Come Celebrate’ suggests, we want everyone to come and enjoy the wide variety of paintings, crafts, and other items that will be showcased,” Andi Cleveland said. In addition, participants in El Sol’s sewing program will also be selling bags and other products they have created with sewing skills gained through El Sol’s Sewing Center.

There will also be food, including baked goods for sale and a raffle featuring a painting by Jupiter artist, Pedro Chavajay, as the prize.
If you wish to participate as a vendor in this year’s ArtFest, please download or copy this page and complete the application as indicated.

**5th Annual El Sol Art Fest**

“Come Celebrate”

November 4th, 2012 from 12:00 pm till 4:00 pm

Art Fest is a celebration of the community of El Sol in Jupiter, Florida. We have artists and vendors representing a wide variety of art. Last year, over 300 people attended this event.

We extend an invitation to artists and non-profits serving the Jupiter community. This is a wonderful opportunity to educate folks about your services and present your art.

El Sol will provide you with a 6-foot table. We also have wall space available for paintings. Application will be processed on a first come first serve basis and according to space availability. You will receive an email confirming your spot upon receipt of your application payment.

Suggested Donation for table: $25.00
($15.00 if your organization has a 501c3 status)

To Apply:
Please download and print this attachment. Complete the form below, enclose check, and mail to El Sol:

El Sol
106 Military Trail
Jupiter, FL 33458
ATTN: Art Fest Committee

Application Deadline: September 27th - Payment due with application.

Name: ________________________________________________

Telephone or email: _______________________________________

What type of art or program: ________________________________

Any special needs for display: ________________________________

Questions? Please contact: Andi Cleveland: andreacleveland@comcast.net - or- Betzy Rega: betzy@friendsofelsol.org
El Sol Honors Graduates

More than 50 persons who completed English language classes, computer skills classes and Spanish Literacy programs were feted by El Sol at an August 21st graduation celebration attended by families, friends and volunteers.

The honorees were awarded certificates for completion of ten weeks of summer classes with the top students also receiving prizes such as computers and Books-A-Million gift cards. A poster contest winner received a television. Keynote speaker Genaro Mateo, President of El Sol’s Workers Council, encouraged graduates to continue their studies in all subjects to better their lives and their families.

Dawn Fae Adolfson, Night Education Coordinator, said the ceremony was a great success despite rainy weather that saw many attendees arrive in water splattered clothes to celebrate the students’ achievements. After the ceremony they went home “with pride and determination in their hearts,” she said. Fall evening classes begin September 10th.

Those recognized for their accomplishments included 32 students who advanced in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes, 15 in Computer Skills, and a student who completed his elementary studies. A number of others were recognized for their progress in a Spanish literacy program. The six top students in each class who were awarded computers were: Flor Idalia Velaquez de Lopez, Vicente Gaspar Manuel, Pedro Gaspar and Linda Isabel Mendez for ESOL program; Jose Efrain Resendiz, Computer Skills and Oscar Emilo Ailon Mendoza, Spanish Literacy.

Three exceptional students received the Eileen Harden Book Award named in memory of El Sol’s first ESOL coordinator. They were Alfredo Gaspar Vasquez Garcia, Gabino G. Manuel who had perfect attendance, and Cindy Maritza Lopez who had the highest ESOL grade, a 99 percent average. Lucia Trejo was winner of a Special Health Related Poster Award for her informative poster about diabetes.
Service to the Community

This month El Sol hosted an “in-house” community service by painting the 2nd floor corridor of the center. Eight workers participated in this volunteer activity from 8:00AM to 11:30AM.

The President of the Workers’ Council, Genero Mateo, led the crew and motivated the workers to lend a hand. Our VISTA member, Emmanuel Carreno also helped to paint and coordinate the group activities.

El Sol is in “EGG-stacy!”

Farriss Farm is a small farm located in Palm Beach County, Florida. Home to container-grown herb and vegetable plants and pastured laying hens, their philosophy is to raise food as naturally as possible without the use of pesticides, herbicides, hormones and antibiotics. Their products are sold directly to local consumers both at the farm and at local green markets.

Mr Farriss (AKA the “Egg Man”) has donated well over six-dozen eggs to El Sol. It is such a luxury to have fresh eggs for the patrons of our meal program.
**EL Sol’s “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

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**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.

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**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](http://www.friendsofelsol.org)

Follow us on Twitter at [http://twitter.com/ElSolJupiter](http://twitter.com/ElSolJupiter)

See us on Facebook at [El Sol, Jupiter’s Neighborhood Resource Center](https://www.facebook.com/ElSolJupiter)

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

Donate online through [Network for Good](http://www.networkforgood.org) on our website [www.friendsofelsol.org](http://www.friendsofelsol.org)

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**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
- Vickie Granati, Day-time ESOL coordinator
- Royce Emley, AmeriCorps VISTA Job Developer
- Emmanuel Carreno, AmeriCorps VISTA Vocational Workshop Developer
- Andrew Bartholomew, AmeriCorps VISTA Community Resource Developer

**El Sol Shines is published six times a year**
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