El Sol ArtFest!!

El Sol’s Seventh Annual ArtFest was a huge success! ArtFest 2014, presented by Community Foundation, was a multi-cultural celebration that features Latin American, Caribbean, and other local artists from South Florida. The 4-hour festival included live music and performances, a row of food trucks, and over 28 vendors selling original paintings, jewelry, pottery, and handmade crafts.

El Sol artisan Pedro Chavajay of Guatemala was one of the many artists displaying cultural and folkloric art at the Sunday, November 2 festival. Chavajay, who attended school until the age of eight, has fond memories of his mother encouraging his passion for painting. Although lacking a formal education, Chavajay is able to create stunning pieces of art, has been recognized by Mayor Karen Golonka, and is a crowd favorite at ArtFest.

ArtFest Committee Chair David Urieta, said the generosity of ArtFest sponsors was critical to the festival success. The sponsors were Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties, Jupiter Medical Center, Palm Healthcare Foundation, United Way Town of Palm Beach, The Jupiter Courier, ESPN West Palm, Ed and Terry Hocevar, Law Office of Aileen Josephs, El Mesias Church of the Nazarene, Sealouters Press, Dr. Shelby J. Trail, Shipwreck Bar & Grille, SS Farm, and David’s Gourmet Shop.

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Above left: Caitlyne Palmieri and her son making joyful discoveries at the Fair Trade booth at ArtFest 2014 Above right: ArtFest 2014 poster contest winner Hannah Schuessler received a $100 prize for her depiction of the festival theme, “My Roots, Mis Raices.”

Mariachi Pancho Villas performing under the garden pergola during Preview Night
Maricela Torres was born in Michoacán, Mexico. She came to the United States when she was ten years old with her mother, two sisters and brother. She lived in Northern California for 11 years, and then moved to Florida in 1997 looking for warmer weather. She currently works in the legal department at Florida Crystals Corporation. As a young teenager Maricela worked in the hospitality business, as well as a migrant worker and experienced firsthand the hardships and challenges facing migrant workers. Maricela believes strongly in education and volunteering in the community, and she has volunteered at El Sol as an Adult Literacy Teacher in the Plazas Comunitarias program, as well as the Graduation Committee, which is responsible for organizing all graduations at El Sol. Florida Crystals has been very supportive of El Sol, they have partially funded its Vocational Training and Plazas Comunitarias Program.

Other volunteer work includes being a Child Advocate Volunteer with the 15th Judicial Circuit Guardian ad Litem program in Palm Beach County, which seeks to provide a powerful voice on behalf of Florida's abused and neglected children. She is also a member of the Junior League of the Palm Beaches, an organization that promotes volunteering and developing the potential of women in our community. Maricela has a Bachelor's of Science in Organizational Management from Palm Beach Atlantic University, and will be graduating in December of 2014 with her Master of Science in Psychology. Her hobbies include cooking, reading, yoga, the beach, going to museums, and traveling.

Daniel Zuniga concentrates his practice in the areas of personal injury, wrongful death, traumatic brain injuries, vehicular accidents, pedestrian accidents, medical malpractice, and products liability. He has tried to verdict and negotiated hundreds of settlements on behalf of clients in cases involving death and serious injuries. Daniel has successfully handled cases against every major insurance company and major manufacturers of a variety of consumer products including SUVs, automobiles, tires, and household appliances among others.

Upon his graduation from Hofstra School of Law in New York, Daniel worked as a Certified Legal Intern at the Miami-Dade State Attorney’s office before taking a position with a civil defense firm, where he represented corporate entities. He later joined the venerable plaintiff’s personal injury law firm of Lytal, Reiter, Clark, Fountain & Williams, LLP. He then worked at Zele Huber Trial Attorneys, P.A where he continued to hone his skills representing injured parties all over the State of Florida. In 2014, Daniel become one of the founding partners of Personal Injury of Florida.

Dan proudly serves the legal community as a Past President of the Palm Beach County Hispanic Bar Association and has been appointed Chairperson for the Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee of The Florida Bar Association. He also sits or has sat on the Board of Directors for the Young Lawyers Section of the Palm Beach County Bar Association, the North County Section of the Palm Beach County Bar Association, and the Palm Beach Chapter of the Florida Association of Women Lawyers. He is the former Chairperson of the Palm Beach County Bar Association’s Personal Injury and Wrongful Death Committee.

As recognition for his hard work, Dan has been recognized as a Florida Super Lawyer; Legal Elite Up & Comer; a Top 40 under 40; and a Top 100 Trial Lawyer by the National Trial Lawyers Association. In 2013, he was one of 59 attorneys selected to participate in the Florida Bar’s Leadership Academy Inaugural class.

Dan was born in Detroit, Michigan and raised in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. He is a graduate of Cardinal Newman High School in West Palm Beach and Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. While in law school, Dan was awarded the Edward J. Bright Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in Trial Advocacy. Dan currently resides in Jupiter, Florida, with his wife and two children.
“StoryMapping” Training

From September 30 through October 3, a group of El Sol employees and VISTAs attended the Palm Healthcare Foundation workshop, “StoryMapping” in West Palm Beach. This workshop is part of Palm Health Care’s new Healthier Together Initiative. Participants learned how to create their own digital stories, highlighting health issues they are passionate about in their communities.

Workshop participants Betzy Rega, Auby Leon, and Kelley Walton have brought the skills gained at this workshop back to El Sol. Throughout the next year they will train other El Sol employees, volunteers, workers, and students in making their own videos.

These videos will make engaging stories of the impact El Sol has in Jupiter each day more accessible to the community. As one participant observed, “It’s empowering to make your own story. People think their stories don’t matter... you share it and realize, ‘wow, this can help!’

You can see inspiring videos of El Sol’s StoryMapping participants. Look for personal stories on El Sol’s Youtube Channel, which can be reached through friendsofelsol.org. The stories can be viewed directly at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/user/ElSolJupiter or by clicking below:

Promotores

The Promotore program training for this session was attended by 8 of our wonderful community leaders. Healthy relationships was our topic.

Worker Training

Since 2012, El Sol has trained 379 workers in safety and health issues. El Sol is closing the year with a total of 158 workers trained in health and safety matters following OSHA guidelines under the $9,600 grant given through the National Day Labor and Organizing Network (NDLON) during the period of October 2013 through September 2014.

The various trainings are prepared by El Sol’s health coordinator, Betzy Rega, who has been previously trained by NDLON. This training utilizes an approach that enables workers to feel comfortable practicing concepts through interactive classes.

In 2015, El Sol will begin its fourth consecutive year as a recipient of Susan Harwood –OSHA grant. El Sol plans to continue worker education with basic electricity safety training, hazards recognition, and ergonomics at work the site. The goal is to help workers to recognize potential health and safety risks, as well as avoiding work related injuries.
A Multicultural Celebration

90.1 percent of attendees believe that ArtFest promotes intercultural understanding between immigrants and the general population. In addition to this finding, an outstanding 68.1 percent of attendees experienced an increase of appreciation for Hispanic culture as a result of Sunday’s festival. “We hoped the festival would strengthen our community outreach and promote a two-way integration of immigrants and other residents and that was positively alive at ArtFest,” said Executive Director Jocelyn Skolnik.

ArtFest 2014 included a special performance from Iq Balam of Lake Worth. The “Deer Dance” is a Mayan ceremonial dance with origins in the Popul Voh, which is a collection of mytho-historical narratives of the K’iche’ kingdom in Guatemala. Dancers wear traditional costumes and masks depicting characters like the deer, jaguar, monkey, and hunter. ArtFest 2014 included festive musical performances.

There were a variety of food vendors at ArtFest 2014. Alyssa Wood, Garden and Kitchen Coordinator, was pleased with the large turnout and support for the green smoothie booth at ArtFest 2014. All purchases helped fundraise for the next growing season.
El Sol’s First ArtFest Preview Party

El Sol’s first ArtFest Preview Night took place on Saturday, Nov 1st from 6 to 9pm. The fundraising event was in the Sunshine Organic Community Garden. Preview Night gave guests “VIP Previewing” of art to be sold at ArtFest, along with live music and live painting.

Preview Night hosted approximately 150 people. The garden was beautifully decorated with twinkle lights, a donation courtesy of Let There Be Lights, Inc. Board President Ed Ricci made the opening remarks, and The Golden Paintbrush Award was presented by Board Member Jill Hanson to longtime volunteers, Jeronimo Camposeco and Mike Richmond. The awards were handcrafted in honor of ArtFest and engraved “Thank you for painting the lives of El Sol”.

Auction items included gift cards from local restaurants, handmade jewelry, and goods from local stores. The silent auction included items such as gift cards from local restaurants, handmade jewelry, goods from local stores, a private cooking class, tickets to Miami Heat, first pitch for Spring Training at Roger Dean stadium, and Lunch with the Mayor. Throughout the evening, Spanish artist, Marta Llorens, and Haitan artist, Jason “JaFleu” Fleurant, painted diligently under lit corners of the pergola as party guests watched.

A vocal performance was given by an El Sol worker Nestor Montejo, followed by a poem read by an El Sol student Hipolito Lazo. Preview Night Coordinator, Aubry Leon announced auction winners, followed by Mariachi Band, Pancho Villa.

The entire evening was quite lively and enchanting; filled with music, art, prizes, and all set in a magical garden. The overall profit ended up to be double the target goal, rounding out to be around $11,000! El Sol would like to thank everyone who helped to make it such a beautiful and successful night!

TCM Appartments in Jupiter Donates Gifts to El Sol Workers

Jupiter residents have once again demonstrated their support for El Sol. In early October, Dora Valdivia, El Sol’s Associate Director gave a talk to Floresta TGM Apartments in Jupiter. She discussed the community services offered by El Sol, its programs, and opportunities for volunteering or giving. Ms Valdivia explained the last ceremony this year was to be held on November 20. Brandy Schubert, Community Director at TGM and her staff members immediately offered their help organizing a drive to collect items to be delivered to the workers. More than 30 residents at their site decided to donate in stylish bags and various items helpful to the workers.

“I was amazed to witness the generosity and good will of people in Jupiter that had no second thoughts about giving away items to help the workers in the center. Gestures like this makes us even more responsible to continue shaping our programs and working towards real integration of all members in the community”, said Ms. Valdivia.

The heartfelt TGM Floresta message in the bags stated: “We are working on putting supply bags together for the students at El Sol that work all day on the Florida heat for minimum pay and then go to school at night trying to make a better life for their families”.

The items donated to the workers consisted of goggles, water bottles, sunblock creams, and work gloves. In addition, TGM will donate 25 snacks to the children of those workers attending our last 2014 graduation ceremony.

El Sol would like to express its gratitude to TGM Floresta management and its residents for this extraordinary show of support for our community.
Garden Information

Do You Know Your Greens?

Mural in progress at El Sol

When teacher Kristin Lerner called El Sol to ask about bringing a group of high school students over for a class project to benefit El Sol; Kitchen and Garden Coordinator Alyssa Wood was quick to come up with an idea that would be a perfect way to join the talents of art students with the needs of El Sol.

On October 15, 2014 a group of ten high school art students from the Benjamin School came to El Sol to share their very special artistic talents to provide color and excitement to our kitchen. They sketched out a mural on the food preparation counter depicting El Sol’s own Sunshine Organic Garden. The sketches include a sunrise, a lighthouse, bicycles, fruits and veggies, and words to remind our clients to “Comer sano estar sabo” (Eat healthy, be healthy). A hawk that delighted everyone when he landed on the pergola in garden made it into the picture.

The students were at El Sol for about two hours. After a tour that included a comprehensive history lesson about El Sol and how it benefits the community, they got right down to work on the mural.

Alyssa gave them a little inspiration in the form of some colorful pictures and the students got to work on their project. The students created a mural on the side of the food preparation counter. This new and colorful mural can be seen by people waiting at the counter for their food.

We are so grateful to the students at The Benjamin School and are anxiously awaiting the completion of the project. The sketches are so pretty, but when they are filled with brilliant colors, the mural will be positively breathtaking.
A Few Bits and Pieces...

El Sol Soccer Team

The El Sol Soccer Team was invited to join West Palm Beach Police Departments City Soccer in their outreach game to the Hispanic community.

Carlos Lopez our team Captain did a great job at securing an excellent team with female representation made by Kelley Walton. All played hard and competitive but most of all had fun.

El Sol’s Sunshine Organic Community Garden Yields its First 1,000 Pounds!!

In 6 Months, Our Garden and Gardeners
• Grew over 1,000 pounds of organic produce
• Which provided nearly 5,000 healthy meals
• 376 people attended healthy cooking or gardening workshops

What it Took
• 220 volunteer hours/ 7 weekly harvest volunteers
• The sweat of 30 garden members and families
• Seeds from 12 heirloom seed companies
• 15 “seed starter” volunteers
• Support from Town of Jupiter, Palm Healthcare Foundation, June o’Hagen, The Weinig Foundation, and many generous community supporters.

We invite you to celebrate with us!

GRADUATION CEREMONY

On Thursday, November 20, 2014
from 7:00PM to 9:00PM

We’re recognizing the achievements of our students participating in El Sol’s Summer 2014 Educational Programs.

Summer classes included English as a Second language, computer skills, sewing, and Spanish Literacy (Plazas Comunitarias).

In addition, the Mexican Consulate General will grant funding to support our Plazas Comunitarias Program!!

Beverages will be served at the end of event

Thanksgiving FEAST!

Special Holiday Menu
Traditional Turkey Dinner including Guatemalan Radish Salad, Plantain Stuffing, and Aqua fresca

‘Kids Activities and Learning Opportunity
Learn about Thanksgiving, Get a family portrait taken, and have your kids make crafts!

Food Donated by
Culinary Cafe, Whole Foods Palm Beach Gardens, Kitchen Volunteer Kathy, and many more!
El Sol, JNRC | 106 Military Trail | Jupiter, FL | elsonlinefl.org

— NOVEMBER 27, 2014 —
2pm–4pm • Bring your families!
El Sol Shines Oct/Nov 2014

El Sol’s Vision 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 Shines is published six times a year

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

El Sol’s ‘Wish List’

Kitchen
• Knives
• Cutting boards
• Fresh fruit

Education
• Funding for Plazas Comunitarias in order to help workers achieve Spanish-language proficiency

Labor Program
• Bottled water
• Sunscreen, hats

Community Garden
• Wine cooler to store seeds

Day Upcoming El Sol Events / Time
11/8 Workshop: English and Spanish Gardening Vocabulary 10-11AM
11/12 Workshop: Street Corn 12-1PM
11/19 Workshop: Veggie Thanksgiving 12-1PM
11/20 Graduation Ceremony 7:00PM to 9:00PM
11/22 Workshop: Basic Plant Biology 10-11AM
11/27 Thanksgiving Day Celebration 2PM
12/3 Visiting Nurse Association 10 AM - 1 PM
12/20 Christmas for kids 2-4 (by invitation only)
12/25 Christmas Day Celebration on 2-4PM

To get involved with our beautiful garden, please contact Alyssa at Alyssa@friendsofelsol.org. You can also stop by El Sol Saturday mornings between 7am - 1pm