

2005 NCLR / Annie E. Casey Foundation Family Strengthening Award Winners

Affiliate Organization: Chicanos Por La Causa – Tucson

Region: Far West

Winning Program: Youth Leadership and Prevention

The mission of Chicanos Por La Causa – Tucson is to promote stronger and healthier communities with housing and community development, economic development, education, and youth leadership. The Youth Programs Department focuses on helping youth develop their mind, body, spirit, and community. The main program, *Corazón de Aztlán*, is a leadership development/dropout prevention program geared to at-risk and disadvantaged youth. *Corazón de Aztlán* provides individualized case management services, tutoring, and a year-long series of holistic workshops, conferences, and retreats which focus on a range of elements: cultural awareness, career planning, family relations, violence prevention, community service, and many more. The Youth Programs Department supports a college scholarship program for middle school students in order to motivate them to pursue a postsecondary education and operates a Youth Drop-In Center that provides a culturally welcoming atmosphere for family members and a tutoring/computer center.

Affiliate Organization: El Centro, Inc.

Region: Midwest

Winning Program: Home Ownership Center

El Centro's purpose is to create and sustain educational, social, and economic opportunities for families. The Home Ownership Center combines six services that promote healthy financial choices, assist families in saving for major goals, provide education and capital for homeownership, and provide continuing education for entire families on maintaining a safe home. These services include Home Buyer Education, Housing Rehab, Financial Literacy, Mortgage Lending, Home Maintenance classes, and Home Safety classes. The Home Ownership Center targets low-income Latino immigrants who may not have access to traditional sources of capital. By means of language-appropriate education, a housing inventory of low-cost rehabilitated units, financial literacy programs, and a focus on protecting assets through maintenance and safety, El Centro makes homeownership a reality for immigrant families. It provides nontraditional lending opportunities for immigrant families and generates excitement with funders because of the impact the program has in helping these families to purchase homes. Since 1996, 500 families have become homeowners, with 105 in the 2003-2004 fiscal year (representing \$6 million in purchases in the Kansas City community), the median income of homeowners being \$30,000.

Affiliate Organization: Texas Migrant Council, Inc.

Region: Texas

Winning Program: Migrant/Seasonal Head Start Family Literacy Program (MSHS Family Literacy Program)

Texas Migrant Council, Inc.(TMC) is a five-state multiservice agency that strives to improve the conditions of low-income families – particularly migrant and seasonal farm workers – by providing health care, day care, adult education, employment services, and infant/ toddler/ preschool education in 64 Head Start centers. Through ELL, literacy, and adult basic education, job training, and parent-child mentoring, the MSHS Family Literacy Program improves educational and job opportunities for parents and boosts their children’s academic performance. This program gives Hispanic migrant families an opportunity to advance on an educational and professional level and to be a resource throughout their own children’s schooling. TMC has family literacy services for farmworker adults in ten towns within three service states and to date has served more than 650 farmworkers through this program. Services include ABE reading and writing classes, ELL classes, GED tutorial assistance, community referrals for education, home parent-child early literacy programs, and life skills/job training development.

Affiliate Organization: Mary’s Center for Maternal and Child Care, Inc.

Region: East Coast

Winning Program: Healthy Families DC (HFDC)

The mission of Mary’s Center is to build better futures through health care, education, and social services while embracing culturally diverse communities. Healthy Families DC helps overburdened families at risk for child neglect and abuse by providing intensive home visitation, linkages with outside services, and parent activities. Families receive weekly home visits for 6-12 months, and then as needed for up to five years, from a family support worker who provides them with information on child development, family planning, prenatal care, parent-child bonding, child safety, and child care providers. Family support workers also assist families in accessing services in response to the varying needs of each, ranging from housing and educational linkages to domestic violence and mental health supports.

Affiliate Organization: Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE)

Region: California

Winning Program: Nine-Week Parent Involvement Program

The Nine-Week Parent Involvement Program teaches parents how to improve the home and school educational environment of their children. Parents learn how to effectively interact with school teachers, counselors, and principals, follow their children’s academic progress, learn how to navigate the school system, and prepare their children for postsecondary education. In addition, parents discover how to identify and avoid obstacles that can hinder school success while supporting their children’s emotional and

social development. Since 1987, PIQE has graduated more than 330,000 parents from its nine-week program, and several studies have found the curriculum to be effective in informing parents about the educational system, helping them support their children with their schoolwork, and helping them to motivate their children to pursue higher education.