

Gulfton Neighbors

September 2005

On the road

By Solly Diaz, Christus Southwest Medical Center

Family Road is a unique program that assists families in learning practical skills that help put them on the road to better health and well-being. Through the wide range of classes offered, its passionate team empowers families with the necessary knowledge and tools, leading them to healthier, more self-sufficient, and more productive lives for themselves and their families. Some classes include nutrition, parenting, Spanish and English literacy, diabetes management, car seat safety, new baby care, and more than 20 other educational opportunities. On average there are 1,200 monthly contacts, and in its 6 years more than 5,000 households have been served. The program also collaborates with other agencies to maximize resources in the most efficient and effective way, rather than reinventing the wheel. We take great pride in our work because we see small miracles each day. For more information, please call us at 713-779-6400, extension 308.



Addressing housing and social needs

By Michael Marquez, Hispanic Housing Education Corporation

In order for children to learn they must first live in an environment where they feel safe and in a place they can be proud of. Founded in 1991, Hispanic Housing Education Corporation (HHEC) has sought to provide affordable housing and educational programs for low income families. That need was well recognized in Southwest Houston. HHEC acquired Las Americas Apartments in 1995 where they invited HISD to provide Pre-K education to its residents while HHEC focused on renovation. Located in the heart of Gulfton, Las Americas Education Center now delivers education to HISD Pre-K, Kindergarten and middle school students living in Las Americas Apartments. For more information, please



Reach out to dropouts day

In the early morning of August 27, more than 1,300 volunteers headed to the neighborhoods of 16 HISD schools with HISD staff on a mission to reach out to dropouts. Reach out to Dropouts Day is a door-to-door campaign where HISD staff, volunteers and former dropouts head into communities knocking on the doors of students who have dropped out with the hopes of encouraging them to return to school.

One of the participating schools is our very own Robert E. Lee High School, who has been part of this event for several years, and who gathered many volunteers that morning with the same mission.

According to HISD, an impressive number of 49 students re-enrolled that morning, some directly at their local schools, and others during the home visits; an additional 256 students committed to re-enroll in the near future. As an incentive, students received school supplies, individual assistance with making graduation plans, and access to specialists to ensure their graduation plans are followed.

Our hats are off to the many HISD administrators, teachers, volunteers and former dropouts who committed their time this Saturday to help Houston's future. Many congratulations to the students who took the courageous step to re-enroll.



Gulfton Voices

On August 18, a community meeting was held at Lee High School by Neighborhood Centers Inc. to report on the strengths and assets of the Gulfton community. The report shared five themes that emerged from a series of interviews and focus groups of community residents, business owners and individuals at nonprofit/public organizations. NCI shared an image of what these themes represented followed by a panel of six individuals who offered their expertise and opinions on the strengths of Gulfton. It is a small step in bringing resources, education and connection to Gulfton. If you would like to receive a copy of the report, please call 713-669-5228.

Immigration Services Providers

The Family Road Program - Christus SW Community Health Center, 6441 High Star, 713.779.6400 x 308
 The Alliance for Multicultural Community Services, 6440 Hillcroft, Ste. 411, 713.776.4700 x 120
 GANO/CARECEN, 6006 Bellaire Blvd., Ste. 100, 713.665.1284
 YMCA Int'l Services, 6300 Westpark, Ste. 600, 713.339.9015
 CRECEN, 6601 Hillcroft, Ste. 125, 713.271.9703
 HONDUTEX, 6601 Hillcroft, Ste. 224, 713.270.6262
 Immigration Counseling Center, Inc., 5959 Westheimer, Ste. 207, 713.953.0047
 Jóvenes Inmigrantes por un Futuro Mejor (Lee High School), 6529 Beverly Hill Ln., 713.917.3682
 SOLES, 6006 Bellaire, Ste. 208, 713.668.0071
 HISD Refugee Program (Lee High School), 6529 Beverly Hill Ln. - T-13, 713.917.3678

Neighborhood Updates

Meetings

Houston Police Department, 5980 Renwick, 713-668-4141, Contact: Officer Walter Parker
 PIP: Positive Interaction Program Meeting
 4th Tues every month 12 - 1pm

TRIAD Prevention Program, 4500 Bissonnet, Suite 200, 713-314-3551, Contact: Ramiro Guzman
 Service Providers Meeting 9/21 12 - 1pm

Courses/Enrollments

The BRIDGE/EL PUENTE, 6114 Renwick Drive, Apt. 199B, 713-592-0288, Contact: Marisol Casarez
 ESL (English as second language) classes
 M - Th 8:30 - 11am
 El Civic classes (English literacy and civics education)
 M - Th 11am - 12pm
 Computer classes T or Th 12 - 1:30pm
 PACT (Parent and child time together classes)
 Wed 12:30 - 2pm
 Early Childhood education classes (ages 0-7 yrs old)
 M - Th 8:30am-2pm
 Parenting classes (ESCAPE family resource center)
 Fri 9 - 11am

Houston Community College System, 5407 Gulfton, 713-718-7720
 ESL classes Starts 9/12
 Community Family Centers, 6856 Bellaire Blvd., 713-773-9900
 Free ESL and GED classes
 Gulfton Learning Center, 5982 Renwick Drive, 713-314-3554
 Information and job referrals: Free internet access
 SER- Jobs for Progress, 6615 Rookin Street, 713-773-6000
 Job referral and training: Literacy training
 Burnett Bayland Community Center, Burnett Bayland Park, 713-668-4516
 After School Enrichment Program
 09/12/05 - 12/16/05, 3 - 6pm
 01/03/06 - 05/12/06, 3 - 6pm
 Indoor Soccer League Play
 09/24/05 - 12/12/05



Neighborhood Centers Inc.
 Lifting hearts.
 Building futures.



OYE! Your input will make Gulfton Neighbors an even stronger resource for the community. Call Oriana Garcia at 713-669-5228. We're listening!