

Gulfton Neighbors

February
2006

America's Medical Clinic

During the summer of 2003, the Alliance of Multicultural Community Services began expanding its health services to fill the community need for comprehensive medical, dental, optical, and mental health treatment. The resultant entity, America's Medical Clinic began limited operation in 2004. Now in full operation, the Clinic fills the need for affordable medical services for the underserved refugee, immigrant and low-income residents of the Houston metro area. For more information, please call 713-995-5700.

The Building Strong Families Program

by Lucia de la Fuente

The Building Strong Families, a Healthy Family Initiatives program, in Texas offers free services that help unmarried couples with a new baby learn how to get along better with each other and do what is best for their child. Couples will learn about marriage, communication, trust, affection, dealing with stress, and how to care for their baby. Referrals to employment assistance, health care and mental health services, and other needed services will also be provided. Dads also have the opportunity to participate in the fathering group "Dads Make a Difference Program" which is an opportunity for dads to meet and exchange ideas and actively participate in the lives of their children. To find out more about these two programs, please contact Healthy Family Initiatives of Houston at (713) 270-6299 ext. 32 or 31.

Community Asset Development

Yolanda Londoño, Senior Vice President of Corporate Philanthropy and Sponsorship for JPMorgan Chase, strongly connects to many of the stories of Gulfton families. Born in Bogota, Colombia and a former resident of Ecuador, England and Zimbabwe, Yolanda called Gulfton home when she first moved to Houston in the early 1990s. Today, the community continues to have a special place in her heart. "Gulfton is home to so many families from around the world who come to America with a hope for finding a home that welcomes the dreams and aspirations for themselves and for their children." As former President/CEO of the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and as one of the most prominent and recognized Hispanic women in business, Yolanda has had the opportunity to visit many neighborhoods and build relationships with key community leaders. In her current role with Chase, Yolanda has helped to create partnerships with community organizations such as the Camara de Empresarios Latinos and Neighborhood Centers Inc. that both share in the corporation's goal of helping people find affordable housing, quality jobs and business opportunities. "We at Chase are proud to invest in Gulfton and we look forward to engaging our employees and partners in helping to give back to this dynamic community. In the long-term, Gulfton will be an example to other neighborhoods of how to embrace internationalism and multiculturalism as one of our nation's strongest assets."

Gulfton Providers for Economic Development

Houston Asset Building Coalition - free tax prep, financial education, earned income credit, www.houstonassetbuilding.org, 713-223-1864
Houston Better Business Bureau - guidelines on business standards and information about businesses to consumers, www.bbbhou.org, 713-341-6144
ACCION Texas - small business loans and support services to entrepreneurs, www.acciontexas.org, 866-312-9774
Camara de Empresarios Latinos de Houston - business start ups, www.empresarioslatinos.org, 713-774-5002

Gulfton Super Neighborhood Council

The Gulfton Super Neighborhood Council meets every third Thursday of the month at Benavidez Elementary School. These meetings are designed for residents, civic organizations, institutions and businesses to work together to identify, plan, and set priorities to address the needs and concerns of their community. If you are interested in joining these monthly meetings, please contact Tammy Rodriguez at 832-242-5655.

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
Gulfton Superneighborhood Meeting, Benavidez Elementary, 832-242-5655, Contact: Tammy Rodriguez
3rd Thur every month 6 - 8 pm

Courses/Enrollments

The BRIDGE/EL PUENTE, 6114 Renwick Drive, Apt. 199B, 713-592-0288, Contact: Marisol Casarez
ESL (English as a second language) classes
M - Th 8:30 - 11am
EI 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

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 01/03/06 - 05/12/06
3 - 6pm

Amigos Por Vida Charter School, 5500 El Camino Del Rey, 713-779-7082
ESL (English as a second language) classes M - Fri 9 am
Parenting classes Fri 9 - 11am
Group for Mothers Wed 12:30 - 2:30pm
Computer courses M & Th 6 pm
GED courses M & W 7:30 pm
After School Enrichment Classes M - Fri
(art, basketball, piano, soccer, theater, Girl Scouts, modern dance, health and nutrition)

Events

Burnett Bayland Community Center, Burnett Bayland Park, 713-668-4516
Indoor Soccer League Play

OYE!

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



Neighborhood
Centers Inc.
Lifting hearts.
Building futures.