

A Brighter

# FUTURE

Para Los Niños / For The Children

Holiday 2005

## HITTING A HOME RUN FOR KIDS

MORE THAN \$300,000 RAISED!

## Doing Business With A Heart

*Celebrating 25 Years of Service to the Community*

## Kids Helping Kids

*L.A. Students Reach Out*



PLUS...

**Brighten The Holidays For Children & Families**

## From the President & CEO

**Dear Friends,**

*It's the most wonderful time of the year ...*

This catchy holiday tune captures the excitement we all feel during the holiday season. Gatherings with friends and family are at the heart of the season. Yet, it is so easy to get caught up in the wrapping paper and tinsel and forget about the true meaning of the holidays. After all, it is the season of giving. I would like to encourage you to do something to make someone else's holiday just a little bit brighter. Give someone your time. Volunteer. Donate. Sprinkle some holiday cheer in your life and those around you.



In this issue of *A Brighter Future*, you will find lots of reasons to celebrate and a number of people who have captured the true spirit of giving. This year marks our 25th year of service to Los Angeles and surrounding areas. We have come a long way and are so proud to have the opportunity to help our children succeed.

On page 10, you will read about the new curriculum we have implemented in all of our Child Development Centers to ensure that our children are getting the best start in life. Children attending the Child Development Centers are thriving, and we are so proud of their successes.

On page 4, you will read about our wildly successful *Home Run for Kids* event. Hundreds of baseball fans and Para Los Niños supporters flocked to Dodger Stadium for the third annual *Home Run for Kids: A Tribute to Families* and the 25th Anniversary of Para Los Niños. This event was the perfect opportunity to celebrate a few outstanding families. The families of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio and Corina Villaraigosa, and Bill Guthy and Victoria Jackson, were presented with Lifetime Achievement Awards.

You will also read about some of Los Angeles' most extraordinary students on page 8. We have profiled three students who proved that you are never too young to make a difference. I am sure you will appreciate the good works of Jake, Lucas, and Ali as much as I do.

Thanks to the Capital Group and the Yosemite Institute, students from our Youth Center had the opportunity to experience Yosemite National Park during a one-week outdoor education program. On page 6, you will read all about their adventures.

Please join me this holiday season by supporting Para Los Niños. On page 14, you will read how you can be the magic of the season for the children and families we serve.

Our important work is only possible with the support of friends like you. Thank you for 25 years of support. I hope you and your family have a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mili Jordan". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

President/CEO

# DOING BUSINESS WITH A HEART

*Para Los Niños Celebrates 25 Years of Service to the Community*

If you have toured Para Los Niños' flagship site on 6th Street, just east of downtown Los Angeles, you may have seen a copy of the October 1979 Los Angeles Times article that galvanized a community to found Para Los Niños. The article—the first of many to heighten public awareness of the plight of children and families living in the depths of despair in Los Angeles' inner cities—spoke of children in the Skid Row area who were often kept locked in hotel rooms while parents worked, or were left alone to wander the halls and dangerous neighborhood streets. Twenty-five years ago, the problems of children living on or near Skid Row were largely overlooked. There were few services available and no safe places for these young boys and girls. Ninety percent of children in the area did not attend school.



Within a year of its printing, Para Los Niños' doors opened to serve 45 children in rented warehouse space. A former false eyelash factory came to life with the presence of happy children—eager for a chance to learn, eager for a chance to succeed. The founding of Para Los Niños greatly improved circumstances for children in the central city—and we continue to respond to the ever growing and ever changing needs of the community. From our modest roots, the agency has grown to now provide childcare and comprehensive family services to more than 2,000 children in impoverished Los Angeles neighborhoods and in San Bernardino. A hungry child is fed; a desperate mother is counseled; a teenager learns the study tools he needs to succeed in school. In so many ways, Para Los Niños responds to the most pressing needs of the children and families in our region.

Today, our core services include child development and education, a Charter School, after-school enrichment, youth diversion and delinquency prevention, and youth workforce services. In addition, Para Los Niños offers support to at-risk families, including child abuse prevention and intervention, mental health services and comprehensive family support.

The agency has gained a reputation for excellence throughout Los Angeles and the nation, receiving numerous honors and awards, most recently the National Council of La Raza/ Annie E. Casey Foundation Family Strengthening Award and Excellence in Education Award from Senator Barbara Boxer.

Para Los Niños' President/CEO Miki Jordan, reflecting on the achievements made by the agency in the past 25 years, as well as the remarkable progress of families and children served, observed that "Para Los Niños is so successful because we operate with a heart. Because we place the needs of children first—yet operate as a sound business—we have been able to steadily increase our services to the community. And because our professional staff have an intense dedication to the work we do, the children we serve are flourishing. I am so proud of the strides we have taken, and I look forward to continuing our work into the next 25 years and beyond." X

**FAST  
FACT**

40% of children in the West—6.8 million—live in low-income families.

# FUNDRAISER HITS A HOME RUN FOR KIDS

***More than \$300,000 Raised to Support Para Los Niños***



*Dodger fan gets an inside peek of Eric Gagne's locker.*

"This year surpassed all our expectations, not only in terms of the money raised but also in the depth and breadth of our support," said Roger Carrick, chair of the Para Los Niños Board of Directors. "We are humbled by the unwavering commitment of these honorees to our work, and by the increasing awareness and support of our programs from throughout Southern California. From the largest donors to our hands-on volunteers and long-time staff, we are truly making a difference in the lives of children and families. We look forward to our next 25 years of service."

Para Los Niños would like to thank the event chairs, Laura Fox and Marla Messing, the event committee, sponsors, and guests for making the event a "grand slam" success! X

Hundreds of baseball fans and Para Los Niños supporters flocked to Dodger Stadium on Saturday, November 5, 2005 for the third annual *Home Run for Kids: A Tribute to Families* and the 25th Anniversary of Para Los Niños, which raised more than \$335,000 for Para Los Niños' vital programs. On a beautiful sunny day, guests had the rare opportunity to enjoy batting practice and a pitching clinic on the field of the world famous Dodger Stadium. Former Dodger players Jimmy Campanis, Rudy Law, Wes Parker and Maury Wills were on hand to provide autographs, and hitting and batting pointers to guests. With Dodger dogs in hand, adults and children alike enjoyed all-American fare, behind-the-scenes tours of Dodger Stadium, a kids corner, and a silent auction.

The program, hosted by KABC television anchor Leslie Sykes, was a celebration of Para Los Niños' 25 years of service. Honored with Lifetime Achievement Awards were the families of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio and Corina Villaraigosa; Bill Guthy and Victoria Jackson; and Para Los Niños' President/ CEO Miki Jordan and her mother, Willie Jordan, in recognition of their outstanding commitment to the children and families of Los Angeles.



*Kristen Buckingham and her daughter enjoy world-famous Dodger dogs.*

**Para Los Niños would like to thank the generous sponsors of Home Run for Kids:**

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*Honorees Bill Guthy and Victoria Jackson*

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*Dodger fans strike a pose in the visitor's dugout.*



*From left to right: Event chair Marla Messing, Donna Scott, and event chair Laura Fox.*



# A YOSEMITE STORY

## Teens Visit the Crown Jewel of National Parks

One fine summer day, 27 students from the Para Los Niños Youth Center traded city lights for five days under the stars. Sleeping bags and backpacks in hand, the teens boarded buses departing for Yosemite—and destined for a life-changing experience.

In its eighth year, the Youth Center Yosemite Camping Trip takes participants on an educational adventure in one of our nation's jewels, Yosemite National Park. For youths living in the inner city, nature only exists in books, websites, and television shows; thanks to this opportunity, they had the chance to experience the natural world firsthand.

Students learned about ecology, geology, and environmental awareness as they spent most of their time outdoors hiking and swimming. They were thrilled to have the opportunity to swim in Tenaya Lake, one of the largest lakes in the park. The multi-faceted program combines environmental education with team-building activities to challenge teens intellectually and physically. During the activities, participants discussed their strengths, fears, and goals in life.

"This trip is so important because

they get to experience nature while escaping from the pressure of the city," Youth Center Supervisor Adriana Martinez said. "Para Los Niños Youth Center exposes teens to a wealth of opportunities, and this is one of the best."

The Youth Center's annual trip to Yosemite is the most anticipated event of the year. To qualify for the week-long expedition, teens earned "points" for active participation in the program, documenting their successes in a comprehensive portfolio of their work at the Youth Center. Points were earned through community service, participation in sports activities and art workshops, fulfilling homework and tutoring requirements, and attending field trips to various universities and colleges.

When you ask the teens why they like the trip to Yosemite, they tell you about leaving their problems behind and having a much-needed chance to relax. When you ask them why they love the trip to Yosemite, you hear about how much this trip changes their perspective on life. Sixteen-year-old Jessica realized that her problems with her mother were based on their lack of communication.

"THIS TRIP IS SO IMPORTANT BECAUSE THEY GET TO EXPERIENCE NATURE WHILE ESCAPING FROM THE PRESSURE OF THE CITY," YOUTH CENTER SUPERVISOR ADRIANA MARTINEZ SAID. "PARA LOS NIÑOS YOUTH CENTER EXPOSES TEENS TO A WEALTH OF OPPORTUNITIES, AND THIS IS ONE OF THE BEST."

"I learned about trust and communication," said Jessica. "We used to always fight and never listened to each other. I have a really good relationship with my mom now. I like her."

This year, the park was crawling with caterpillars, and the students were determined to preserve them. They hopped, skipped, jumped and leapt to avoid stepping on them.

"There were caterpillars everywhere," said thirteen-year-old Aracely. "Since they taught us to respect nature and all of its creatures, we tried really hard not to step on them. It was very funny to see the looks on other people's faces, seeing us try to hop around them."

The trip to Yosemite also offers students many new and valuable experiences. For many, this was their first time away from their parents for an extended period of time. For most, this was their first time sleeping outdoors and in sleeping bags. For all, this trip was a summer they will remember forever. ✕

*For these gifts, Para Los Niños would like to thank The Capital Group, the American Funds Department, and the Yosemite Institute for their continued support of this extraordinary program.*



*Youth Center teens and staff stop for a quick pose before an early morning hike.*



*Hugo Francisco, 15, takes a close look at the butterfly on his finger.*



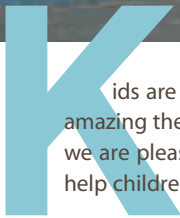
*Students learn how to read topography maps.*

# KIDS HELPING KIDS

*L.A. Students Reach Out to the Children of Para Los Niños*



*Charter School children jump rope at the sports day coordinated by Jake Sonnenberg.*



Kids are busy these days. From internships to extracurricular clubs and sports, it's amazing they can find time for anything else. But despite their demanding schedules, we are pleased to know several generous young people who have made the time to help children in need.



*Lucas Casso plays telephone with preschool children.*

## LUCAS CASSO

Lucas Casso, a ninth grader, wanted an opportunity to practice his Spanish this past summer while, at the same time, fulfilling his community service requirements at his school. Lucas decided to spend part of his summer volunteering as a teacher's assistant at Para Los Niños' S. Mark Taper Family Foundation Child Development Center in the Pico-Union area. Said Lucas, "At first my focus was on completing community service hours, but once I met the kids in the preschool it become more than just a project." In fact, he had such a great time with the kids, he plans to return next summer!

## JAKE SONNENBERG

Jake Sonnenberg, a seventh grader, honored his upcoming Bar Mitzvah by hosting an afternoon of sports and health at Para Los Niños Charter School After-school Program. This program cares for 200 kids, from kindergarten to fourth grade, before and after-school every day. On Thursday, June 16, 2005, Jake organized a festive afternoon of relay sports for the students; at the same time, their parents participated in a health and nutrition class. Jake recruited coaches, friends, and a nutritionist from his school to help him staff the successful event. As the day closed with the sharing of healthy snacks, tired but happy children said they couldn't wait to race again.



Jake Sonnenberg



Members of Girls Who Care posing for the camera in front of their lemonade stand. Pictured from left to right: Kailyn Kariger, Madeline Drake & Ali Guthy. Members not pictured: Jordan Frieseleben, Jackson Guthy & Samantha Stone.

## ALI GUTHY

Ali Guthy, a seventh grader, was introduced to Para Los Niños at last year's *Home Run for Kids* event at Dodger Stadium. After learning about the work of Para Los Niños, she and friends—along with her brother Jackson—raised money for Para Los Niños through their charity club, *Girls Who Care*. In the past year this group organized lemonade stands, and created and sold "Bracelets of Hope." After all their hard work, the club presented Para Los Niños with a check for \$3,000! Special thanks to Ali and Jackson, and to Jordan Freisleben, Kailyn Kariger, Madeline Drake, Samantha Stone, and all the members of *Girls Who Care*.

This is just a sampling of the amazing projects students are organizing these days to give back to their community and to help kids in need. We would like to thank all of the students who have supported Para Los Niños in our mission to help children succeed. ✕

## Wish List

As a non-profit agency, Para Los Niños does not always have all the things we need to help the families we serve. Your kind support will make a big difference—especially during the holidays—and is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

**Here's how to make your donation:**

- Small donations (clothes, books, toys, etc.) may be dropped off at our program site at, 838 East 6th Street Los Angeles, CA 90021, between 8:30 am and 2:00 pm, Monday through Friday.
- For large and heavy donations (furniture, etc.), please schedule an appointment to drop off your donation by calling Evelyn Ramirez-Schultz at: (213) 250-4800, ext. 506.
- Sports equipment
- Books, Spanish and English
- Comic books
- Pencils
- Office supplies
- Stereo receiver and CD player
- Dry-erase markers
- Acrylic and tempera paints
- Paint brushes
- Canvases
- Pencil sharpeners, one-size-fits-all
- Science materials for preschool-age children
- Photo albums
- Sleeping bags
- Camping equipment
- Playground equipment
- Baby clothes, gently used or new
- Bassinettes
- High-chairs
- Baby dressers
- Children's outerwear, gently used or new
- School uniforms, gently used or new
- Children's underwear and socks, new
- Children's bedding, new



Photo by Damian James

# A GOOD BEGINNING

## Para Los Niños' Child Development Centers

**P**ara Los Niños' acclaimed Child Development Centers serve some of Southern California's most impoverished children—in some of the most challenging neighborhoods. Para Los Niños continues to expand our network, with two new Centers opening this past year, now caring for 875 children every day in eight Child Development Centers in South and Central Los Angeles, and Pico-Union, in Ontario in San Bernardino county, and in our newest Center in South El Monte.

This summer, 430 five-year-olds proudly graduated from the Child Development Centers, ready to enter kindergarten fully prepared to succeed in school. Now, in all eight of Para Los Niños' Centers, the school year sees a brand new group of three-year-olds beginning their educational journeys in our high-quality Centers.

Our Child Development Centers are widely recognized as centers of excellence. Para Los Niños is accredited by the Council on Accreditation; only *one percent* of all family service agencies receive this hard-earned recognition. Last spring, our Vermont Avenue Child Development Center was named a demonstration site for Los Angeles Universal Preschool, the Proposition 10-funded initiative to provide preschool for all four year olds in Los Angeles.

In keeping with the latest research into how young children learn, and to better fulfill our mission of helping children succeed, Para Los Niños has adopted a new curriculum in our Centers. *The Creative Curriculum for Pre-school* encourages children to initiate activities, and focuses on children's innate creativity and curiosity. Much preparation and planning went into the transition to the new curriculum. All teachers received training in the curriculum, and the physical space of each classroom was redesigned to accommodate art, literacy, manipulative, and creative play "centers." The result of the change in curriculum is clearly evident in the classrooms, where children's faces reflect their joy and engagement in the learning process.

As always, in keeping with our model of comprehensive and holistic care for children and their families, all families are eligible to receive services from Para Los Niños' Family Support Services. These services range from emergency groceries to long-term case management and, if needed, mental health services. The Family Resource Centers are located near most Child Development Centers, making it easy for families to access the services.

Taken together, Para Los Niños' programs ensure the children we serve the very best

start in their education. As he watched the pre-school class of 2005 graduate, Ray Hernandez, Para Los Niños' director of child development services, commented, "Para Los Niños Child Development Centers are doing the job they are meant to do—preparing the next generation to learn and succeed in school. We send our graduates on their way with high hopes for the future. And, the very next day, we focus our attention on our new students, helping them transition into the program and begin their life-long educational journeys." ✕



*Two preschoolers learn that reptiles are nice!*

## CELEBRANDO NUESTRAS CULTURAS

Almost all children attending Para Los Niños' Child Development Centers are first-generation Americans; their families have roots in Mexico, Guatemala, the Philippines, El Salvador, Nicaragua and France. To celebrate the children's heritage, Para Los Niños recently presented "Celebrando Nuestras Cultura" at our W. M. Keck Foundation Child Development Center and S. Mark Taper Foundation Child and Family Center, both located in the Pico-Union neighborhood.

Children and their parents participated in an array of activities designed to celebrate their cultural legacies. Parents created costumes for their children, which were proudly worn to the celebration. During the event, children made necklaces and bracelets, listened to story-tellers, and recorded their family stories in journals.



*A serious moment during the Celebrando Nuestras Culturas event, honoring Para Los Niños' families' cultures.*

A highlight of the celebration was the food contest. Parents prepared foods from their native countries for a competition. Para Los Niños management and donors served as panelists. Posole, mole and tinga—the cuisine of Mexico—took first place honors.

Commented Taper Center Site Supervisor Lisa Montaña, "As we celebrate diversity, we also are teaching children that unity is what is most important—even though children come from many different places, they are united as one."

**FAST  
FACT**

After a decade of decline, the proportion of children living in low-income families is rising again, a trend that began in 2000.

Our Thoughts...

## A CITY WITHIN A CITY

Hurricane Katrina ravaged the city of New Orleans, destroying homes, schools, jobs. As the extent of the damage became apparent, this overwhelming tragedy brought forth an unprecedented outpouring of assistance, as Americans—and friends from around the world—opened their hearts to offer assistance. Here at Para Los Niños, we immediately reached out to those helping victims of the storm who have found refuge in Los Angeles.

Before Hurricane Katrina, most people's images of New Orleans included the French Quarter, Cajun food, Mardi Gras. But as the hurricane tore New Orleans apart, it also destroyed the facades that shield the face of poverty from those better off. We now see that the poor are women, children, families... people like you and me. Living from paycheck to paycheck, usually working low-paying jobs, they lacked the resources to escape the rising waters and were caught in the disaster.

Here in Southern California, as we zoom down the 405, drive across valley vistas, or into the O.C.—what do you see? Do you see sunny skies, vistas of palm trees, the promise of days at the beach? Or do you see the crushing poverty that here, as in New Orleans, affects the lives of hundreds of thousands of children and their families?

In 2002, the Children's Planning Council estimated that there were 579,142 children living in poverty in Los Angeles—more than the entire population of New Orleans. A city within a city, the parents of these children struggle every day—to put food on the table, to put a roof over their children's heads, to pay monthly bills. With every penny accounted for, there is no room for saving for emergencies—let alone a natural disaster.

We have seen the impact of living in poverty in the face of a disaster, but the day-to-day life in poverty is, in itself, a clear and present danger. Poverty is the single best predictor of poor outcomes for children, with decreased levels of school achievement, lower levels of mental health, and higher levels of school drop-out. Yet, a recent study from The Institute for Research on Poverty showed that a \$1,000 increase in family income raises reading test scores 3.6 percent, and math scores 2.1 percent.

Para Los Niños is proud to serve 2,000 children living in poverty every day. Our holistic services care for children as we support parents in their quest to pull themselves out of poverty. It is our fervent hope that all families—here, in New Orleans, and across the country—will some day not have to cope with the disasters, large and small, brought on by living in poverty. ✕

## Food Wish List

*Para Los Niños often helps the families we serve with emergency food supplies. Our food pantry is stocked with donations from our supporters, and your gifts of canned and non-perishable foods are greatly appreciated.*

*Donations may be dropped off Monday through Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., at our Family Resource Center at 234 S. Loma Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90017. For more information, please contact: Evelyn Ramirez-Schultz*

- Applesauce, natural preferred
- Canned fruit or fruit cocktail
- Sliced peaches in light syrup
- Pears
- Pineapples
- Beef ravioli
- Chili beans
- "Sloppy Joe" meat and sauce
- Spaghetti rings with meatballs
- Chicken broth
- Tuna, packed in water
- Condensed milk
- Powdered milk
- Picante sauce
- Spaghetti sauce
- Cheese sauce
- Diced green chili
- Olives
- Enchilada sauce
- Canned soups
- Canned vegetables
- Instant potatoes
- Tomato paste
- Hominy
- Pasta sauces
- Beans
- Rice



# COME HOME TO PARA LOS NIÑOS

## *Brighten the Holidays for Children and Families*

The holidays are a time to count life's many blessings. For most, there is much to be thankful for. For the low-income families served by Para Los Niños, however, the holidays often create stress and anxiety. With an average income falling well below the poverty line, finding extra money for gifts and holiday meals is not easy.

Each holiday season, Para Los Niños offers several opportunities through which you can help the children and families we serve. These opportunities include our **Toy Drive**, **Food Drive**, and **Holiday Greeting Card**, **Tribute Card** and **Adopt-a-Classroom Programs**.

■ The holiday season for children at Para Los Niños will once again be made more festive thanks to our annual **TOY DRIVE**. Our goal is to provide at least one new gift for each of the 2,000 children who participate in Para Los Niños' programs every day. As you can imagine, our children love to receive dolls, teddy bears, toy cars and trucks. We also encourage the donation of educational gifts such as books, games and art supplies that can provide lasting benefits to those we serve.

■ Of course, the holiday season at Para Los Niños would also not be complete without our important **FOOD DRIVE**—a project that helps stock our food pantries. The pantries provide emergency food to parents and their children in desperate need during the months ahead. Your donations of non-perishable items are gratefully accepted and ensure that our children and families receive nutritious meals during the holidays and throughout the year.

■ Celebrate the special people and occasions in your life—or make a meaningful gift to the person who seems to have everything—through a **TRIBUTE CARD**. When you make a tribute gift to Para Los Niños, we send a special note to the honoree(s) to announce that a contribution has been made in their name. Word of your thoughtfulness arrives in the form of a tasteful greeting card. All donations to Para Los Niños help support our programs for impoverished children and their families.

■ Interested in spreading holiday cheer to children in need? Each year Para Los Niños invites individuals or business groups to adopt a classroom by hosting a few hours of fun for our children. As classroom parent, you would work with the Director of Special Events in selecting a classroom and organizing fun activities for the children. The activities could include a visit from Santa, a snack of cookies and milk, or holiday gifts for each classroom student. **THE ADOPT-A-CLASSROOM** program is a great way to bring holiday cheer into the lives of impoverished children!



Para Los Niños has partnered with *Cards With a Heart* and *einvite* to offer high-quality **HOLIDAY GREETING CARDS** to support our programs that serve children, youth, and families living in poverty. These unique, competitively priced cards are professionally printed on heavy card stock, and can even be ordered in bulk and personalized. What a perfect way to let your family, friends, and business associates know that you support the important work of Para Los Niños! **To order our greeting cards online, go to:**

[www.einvite.com/pln](http://www.einvite.com/pln)

For questions or to participate in one or more of these programs, please call Evelyn Ramirez-Schultz at: (213) 250-4800, x506.

# NEWS CLIPS

## Introducing Elena Stern, Vice President of Government & Media Relations

Para Los Niños is pleased to welcome Elena Stern as vice president of government and media relations. Stern is a 20-year veteran of California political campaigns and the public policy arena. An alumna of the University of Southern California, Stern brings with her a distinguished history of work in the field.

Stern will promote the work of Para Los Niños through targeted media outreach. She is also responsible for developing and enhancing relationships with government and elected officials at the local, state and federal levels, as well as establishing partnerships with other key community organizations.



Elena Stern, Vice President of Government and Media Relations

## Para Los Niños Services Expand to South El Monte

Para Los Niños recently expanded its services to 72 pre-schoolers with the opening of a new child development center in South El Monte. The program helps families who need full-day care for their children because parents are working or attending school or training that will lead to employment. The City of South El Monte chose Para Los Niños for this project because of the organization's reputation for providing quality services to families and children.

Ray Hernandez, Para Los Niños' director of early childhood services remarked, "I am excited about the expansion of our child care services into this new area where the need is so great."



During their visit to Philadelphia, the youth participated in a DREAM Act Rally for higher education.



Community service projects were also on the agenda during the Philadelphia visit.

## Youth Explore Philadelphia

In July, twelve young people from the Workforce Investment Program experienced the opportunity of a lifetime when they traveled across the country to attend the Lideres Summit (Leaders Summit) for youth in Philadelphia, PA.

During their week-long stay, the youth participated in community service projects, workshops, networking, a talent show, and a DREAM Act rally. They also attended a financial literacy presentation featuring words of inspiration from Senator Hillary Clinton and advice from personal finance expert, Suze Orman.

Mario Prietto, Para Los Niños' director of youth workforce services commented, "This was the first time most of these kids flew on an airplane and traveled out of state. We were able to take them out of their neighborhoods, out of what is familiar to them, and inspire them to think outside of themselves. As a result, all of the participants were excited to return back home to begin creating change within their own communities."

Next year, the Lideres Summit will take place in Los Angeles. This year's participants will play an active role in planning this very special event.



Para Los Niños works to help children today for a brighter tomorrow . . .

**Our mission:** Helping children succeed. **Our vision:** Is to become the leading provider of high quality services for children.

**Our values:** Children come first • Excellence in all areas • Respecting and embracing diversity • Responsive, compassionate, and inspiring to those we serve • Highest ethical standards • Transparency and accountability • Teamwork

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