Happy Holidays from PLN!

This holiday season, as we think about what we’re most thankful for in our lives, we at Para Los Niños are our community partners and volunteers for making the holiday season special for our families. This year, thanks to our partners at TimeWarner Cable, Ralph's, Food 4 Less, and the employees

Thanks to Our Partners

- $20,000 through the Los Angeles Times Family Fund, a McCormick Foundation Fund in support of the Gratts Literacy Intervention Program.
- The California Endowment for their award of $20,000 in support of Mental Health services.
- The Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation for their gift of $40,000 for PLN Charter
of the Beverly Hills Hotel, over 400 families received a Thanksgiving meal with all the fixings. On Saturday, our "Felices Fiestas" holiday celebration — our biggest yet— reminded us all of the remarkably compassionate and kindhearted work of our partners and staff without whom none of it would be possible (see below in the lead story).

Thank you all and we wish you the happiest of holidays with your loved ones!

Martine
"The holidays are a great time of joy and hope. We’re thrilled to spend a beautiful Saturday celebrating children and the dreams of their families, and watching the entire community come together to support them," said Martine Singer. "Along with hundreds of children and families are dozens of dedicated volunteers and PLN staffers."

'Felices Fiestas' was made possible by: City National Bank, Herdez-Dona Maria, Kaiser Permanente, Los Angeles Kings, Murad, Manufacturers Bank, the Carol and James Collins Foundation and the Walt Disney Company's voluntEARS.

For more event pictures, visit our Facebook page.

All in the Family: Nurturing Parenting Classes Improving Familial Dynamics

Every morning you can find Sheila Hernandez-Celidon going over the day's agenda with her children Sarah and Aaron before their time for school nears. In the afternoons-- and in between work shifts in the Garment District-- Sheila often rushes to the parent-teacher meetings to track the academic progress of her kids.

"I grew up in Mexico City as an only child and recall being five years old when my parents told me they were separating-- that’s when my single mother decided to migrate to the United States. Once here, she worked incredibly long hours to provide a stable home but I always found myself alone after school. I knew that my mother cared but she had little time for me because she needed to work; we needed to get by. Now as a parent, even though I work like my mother, I strive to be heavily involved in my children's academics because I understand the value of that support," said Sheila.

She credits the Nurturing Parenting Program at the Tina and Rick J. Caruso Early Education Center for helping build her family’s tightly-knit relationship.

"The Nurturing Parenting Classes have become a solid foundation for parents and teachers alike looking to build healthy family dynamics. The road to success begins in the home and we’re proud to offer these invaluable resources to the families who want them," said Dr. Angela Capone, VP of Early Education.

As a mother to two students at the Charter Elementary School and the Tina and Rick J. Caruso Early Education

Interactive Playground in a Cart Wheels Fun onto PLN Campus

A wagon, a spaceship and a robot friend made out of the same toy? Thanks to the Walt Disney Company, Para Los Ninos Charter Elementary students are doing just that with the new Kaboom! Interactive Playground in a Cart. Wheeled on to campus this fall, the Imagination Playground™ is an innovative design in play equipment that encourages creativity, communication, and collaboration. With a collection of over-sized blue foam parts, the set provides a changing array of elements that allow children to turn their playground into a space constantly built and re-built by their imagination.

"Children need to pay in order to become healthy, successful adults," says Cecilia Hernandez, After School Program Director. "Kaboom!"
Center, Sheila makes it a point to encourage other parents to enroll in the Nurturing Parenting Program. For the Hernandez-Celidon brood, it’s about more than just telling their children that they love them— it’s about showing them.

With a focus on appropriate expectations, empathy, discipline, family roles, power & independence, the program is an evidence based curriculum developed by Dr. Stephen Bavolek, a recognized leader in the fields of child abuse and neglect treatment and prevention, and parenting education.

The next schedule of classes begins the second week of January— the 10-15 week long course meets once per week for two-hour sessions.

Playground in a Cart allows our students to play, learn and invent new things every day."

With this playground, kids are exercising their social-emotional, intellectual, and creative muscles.

If you have story ideas for us or would like further information please contact:

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