



Bienestar Receives Neighborhood Builder Award from Bank of America

November 29, 2011

Bienestar is proud to announce receipt of the 2011 Neighborhood Builders award from Bank of America. The award presented to Bienestar by Bank of America market president Roger Hinshaw, recognizes the organization's work in transforming neighborhoods, providing affordable housing and extensive resident service programs for the 462 families it serves. The award includes a grant of \$200,000 over two years. Bienestar's Executive Director Karen Shawcross accepted the award at a gala reception hosted by Bank of America at the Portland Art Museum.



Bank of America's Roger Hinshaw presenting Bienestar award

Photo by Jaycob Desrosiers

In making the announcement to Bienestar, Bank of America's Monique Barton said that the review committee, comprised of community members and Bank of America associates, was particularly impressed with the Listos Para Vida/Ready for Life initiative offered to children who live in Bienestar properties. These programs include five Homework Clubs, Science Clubs, Financial Fitness for Life, Education Navigation, Born to Learn, Summer Lunch & Fun, Explorador Camp, Born to Learn, Soccer & Basketball Clubs, Yoga, Dancing, Kids'

Computer Clubs, PlayWrite for teens, Teen's Build Your Own Computer club, Bien \$tar \$avers, Kids' cooking & nutrition, holiday parties, and special events like Audubon presentations, Zoo to You and more.

"We are committed to making an intervention in the lives of these second generation immigrant children," says Bienestar's Executive Director Karen Shawcross, "so that they stay in school, go on to postsecondary training, and have brighter futures. When we ask our adult residents their dreams for their families, we hear over and over again that their hope is that their children get good educations and better jobs than they have. Our mission is to build housing, hope and futures for the well-being of working families and seniors, and that starts for us with the babies in our Born to Learn program and continues through programs for school-age children, teens and adults. This generous grant from Bank of America will make a tremendous impact to our capacity to run and to expand these programs."



Bienestar's Executive Director thanks Bank of America for award and grant
Photo by Jaycob Desrosiers

Bank of America's Neighborhood Builder award has helped nearly 600 nonprofits across the country continue to address local challenges and grow their programs, enabling them to improve the quality of life for even more individuals. For their outstanding work on behalf of many, and to bolster their reach, Neighborhood Builders receive \$200,000 in unrestricted funding over two years and leadership training development for emerging executives. "We are thrilled to have this generous investment in Bienestar," says Board president John McMeekan, "particularly with such a small staff and 32 different resident

service programs for the 462 families we serve, we struggle with resources to provide the holistic support to working poor families that is our mission. We are very grateful for this award and anticipate an enormous impact to the organization.”



Bienestar staff and board members at Bank of America award event

Photo by Jacob Desrosiers

Bienestar is a nonprofit community development corporation based in Hillsboro providing affordable housing and resident services for farmworkers and low-income working families in Washington and Columbia counties. For 30 years, Bienestar (formerly Housing Development Corporation) has been working to unleash the potential of people to improve the quality of life for themselves, their children, their families and the community. Visit www.bienestar-or.org for more information.

More information about Bank of America's Neighborhood Excellence Initiative is available at www.bankofamerica.com/foundation.