

PlayWrite Program for Teens Outcome Report 2010

On August 24, 2010 eight inspiring, courageous, and deeply thoughtful plays were performed at the Walters Cultural Centre in downtown Hillsboro. The writers and directors of these touching works of theatre were teen residents of Bienestar properties. The performances were a culmination of hard work by the teen writers, PlayWrite writing coaches, and talented actors from the Portland area.

Bienestar partnered with PlayWrite to facilitate the bilingual production *Muchas voces. Muchas historias*. Bienestar began planning with PlayWrite in June for the joint program. PlayWrite Inc works to engage underserved youth by providing them the confidence and knowledge to create meaningful and original works of art. It is the goal of PlayWrite to provide the teens a safe environment have an experience where they can explore their struggles and emotions and ultimately have their voices heard. During an intense two-week workshop our teens worked one-on-one with trained coaches to create their plays in the Community Room of the Sunset Gardens Apartments in Hillsboro. The teens who participated were Gustavo Martinez, Dulce Flores, Francisco Flores, Andrea Flores, Fernando Alvarez, Maria Rosales, Edwin Ortega, and Luis Sierra Torres.



photo courtesy of Annaliese Moyer, Stage Right Photo



Each play included two non-human characters to convey a wide range of emotions and personal issues including humor, anger, sadness, identity struggles of a first generation American, troublesome social interactions, family conflicts, anxieties of a future unknown, and more. Families, friends, and community members came to support the teens and watch the beautiful performances. The evening culminated with the teens taking their turn on stage to accept the passionate applause from the audience. Bienestar was honored to

be a part of this experience that was also made possible by the PGE Foundation, Oregon Arts Commission, Regional Arts & Cultural Council, and Meyer Memorial Trust.



PlayWrite has all of our teens' productions posted on their website at:
http://www.playwriteinc.org/performances/detail/muchas_voces_muchas_historias/

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda Schuft