



# Bienestar

Building housing, hope and futures

## Summer Lunch and Activities Montebello and Sunset Gardens June 20- August 19, 2011



For nine weeks during the summer of 2011, Bienestar hosted Summer Lunch and Fun Program at two of its properties: Montebello located on 220 SE 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Sunset Gardens located on 951 SE 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Hillsboro, OR.

Bienestar offered the Summer Food Service Program to resident children and children from the community at large in partnership with the Hillsboro School District and the Oregon Department of Education, and was partially funded by a grant from Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon. Bienestar also offered activities each day after lunch at each site. This summer 4,980 lunches were served at both sites. We had lower attendance at the beginning of the summer due to summer school; however, once summer school was out we had more children attend.



Both Bienestar Summer Lunch and Fun Programs were held at the apartments' community rooms and fields. Lunch was served from 12:00-12:30pm and activities were provided from 12:45- 2:00pm each day. This summer a curriculum was developed for the summer activities providing different activities each day. The activities included: arts and crafts, reading/math/science, sports, community events/game day, and cultural awareness. We had a great deal of help to make the Summer Lunches and Activities a success this year

because of the many volunteers and staff that helped throughout the summer. Javier Urenda was the lead at Montebello and Elena Barreto was the lead at Sunset Gardens. Staff members Juan Carlos Aguilera, Gracie Garcia, Maria Moreno, Alexsi Merilainen, and Jorge Tello, helped throughout the summer. Bienestar was able to hire Debi Myers, Shannon St. Hilaire, and Promotoras Jenny Soriano and Marisela Iñiguez to help staff the program. Resident teens Dulce and Andrea Flores-Cruz also worked the program again this summer and received stipends for their work, thanks to a grant from Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon. Bienestar was also lucky to have many generous volunteers for this summer's program: Myra Urenda, Kory Anderson, Carina Soriano, Sonja Mundt, and Rachel Ruffin. Two teen residents: Zureima Regalado and Maria Guadalupe Regalado also volunteered daily at Sunset Gardens. Each volunteer provided an exceptional service to the children who attend the program.

Each day children were lined up outside community rooms, sometimes as much as an hour in advance, waiting for lunch. Staff and volunteers could always hear a chorus of children knocking on doors and windows asking, "is it time yet, what time is it?" until the clock struck noon and lunch was served. Over the course of the summer, Bienestar staff and volunteers served 1,875 lunches at Sunset Gardens Apartments and 3,105 lunches at Montebello Apartments for a total of 4,980 lunches over 44 days. The lunches were greatly appreciated by the children as well as the parents who



accompanied them. Staff and volunteers frequently received heartfelt thank yous from mothers after their children had been fed.



Activity time during the Summer Lunch and Fun program was an opportunity for the children to be engaged five days a week for 75 minutes a day. This year's curriculum was developed by volunteers Selina George and Debi Myers, and staff members Elena Barreto, Javier Urenda, and Gracie Garcia for the Summer Activities incorporating a different activity each day. The activities included arts and crafts, sports, community event day/ game day, cultural awareness, and reading/math/science, which incorporated a nine week reading competition called "Go for the

Gold". "Go for the Gold" was implemented as an incentive to get kids to read during the summer and as a way to prevent some of the summer learning loss that we noticed across all four Homework Clubs last year. The child who read the most in their respective category: K-2, 3-4, 5-6, and 7-12 would win \$30, second prize was \$10, and third prize was \$5. Carrie Miller and Debi Myers helped provide the funds for the winners, many thanks! In addition, once a week there would be an education aspect to the program. The first four weeks consisted of reading activities led by Debi Myers. She would read a book to the children then engage them in an art activity related to the story. The last 5 weeks alternated between math and science. For math the kids would work on fun worksheets for 15-20 minutes, and then play math games. For science we used the remaining A.K.A Science experiments from the year about water and static electricity. On cultural awareness day we introduced the children to different cultures, celebrations, or important figures, such as Cesar Chavez, Ramadan, Hanukkah, why we celebrate Fourth of July, Native American and Japanese cultures, and people with disabilities. At the end there was a celebration of differences so each child new that what makes you unique is what makes you special.



Special guests also came to the two Bienestar Summer Lunch and Fun sites throughout the summer. Representatives came from the Hillsboro Fire Department to talk to the children about fire safety and brought the fire truck. At the end of the tour of the fire truck the children were allowed to get up in it for a few moments. Zoo to You, a program through the Oregon Zoo came to each site with a variety of small animals including an Indian Running Duck, a Blue Tongue Skink, a hedgehog, a ferret, and a snake. The children were taught about the characteristics of each animal by the teens that led the activity, and then were given the opportunity to touch the animals. Bienestar was given the opportunity to use a generous amount of supplies from the Washington County Commission on Children and Families. We were able to use the supplies in a variety of activities on a daily basis. The supplies were essential for our arts and crafts days, sports days, and game days. On average we had 15 kids attend the activities each day.

The Summer Lunch and Fun Program was a success for Bienestar and the families and children we were able to serve. We had an average of 43 children a day come to lunch at Sunset Gardens and 70 at Montebello. About 15 children stayed for activities every day and we had 9 children participate in “Go for the Gold” reading race. Thank you to all those who dedicated their time and efforts to making this summer’s Lunch and Fun Program a success.

Respectfully,

Elena Barreto,  
Program Coordinator