

Zoo to You

October, 2008

Kids of all ages at Willow Park and Elm Park Apartments were recently treated to a special community event when Bienestar partnered with the Oregon Zoo to bring ZAP and zoo animals to the communities.

ZAP (Zoo Animal Presenters) is a paid 3 year internship program of the Oregon Zoo for low-income teens. Following training, the ZAP teens give live animal presentations all over the Portland metro area. The presentations are free to nonprofit organizations that serve families and children.

Over 100 Bienestar parents and children enjoyed two events this fall. The ZAP teens brought small animals and reptiles from the zoo, provided information about each one, and then let the kids line up and touch or pet the animals. There was great excitement and lots of questions from the kids about each animal. Included among the animals they got to meet: duck, rabbit, turtle, chicken, snake, iguana, hedgehog.

Many of the children in attendance had never been to the zoo, so this was a special treat. So was the pizza. Thanks to Gracie Garcia, Program Services Manager, and Maria Moreno, Program Coordinator, for their help in making these events so much fun.

