

CASA DE LA ESPERANZA

Resident Program



Annual Report

2009

CASA DE LA ESPERANZA PROGRAM STAFF

Carlota Loya Hernández, program coordinator,



Is native of México and has worked in this community for over fifteen years, since the inception of the program. The coordinator is bilingual and bicultural and also worked as a seasonal farm worker for eight years of her youth growing up in the San Luis District Valley of Colorado. She is currently also a math teacher with the Boulder Valley School District and holds a Masters degree in Education with a specialization in Instruction, Curriculum, content and Assessment from the University of Colorado in Boulder. Additionally, she completed coursework for certification in Linguistically & Culturally Diverse Education and Gifted & Talented Specialist. She has over twenty years experience working with immigrant populations and in the education of English Language Learners.

Michael Lozano, computer technician & instructor,



Is native of Peru and came to the United States ten years ago. He earned various certificates including computer-networking certification at Front Range Community College. He is completing coursework towards his Associates of Arts degree from Front Range Community College. He is bilingual and bicultural and is fundamental to the maintenance and enhancement of the computer lab. He provides bilingual computer instruction to children and adults. He was the critical as our first MESA advisor and coordinated the first robotics and science programming for our community's students in 1st to 12th grade.

Rosa Mosqueda, program assistant,



Is native of México and came to live at Casa de la Esperanza over four years ago. She was an excellent parent volunteer before joining the staff. Her role is essential in organizing and supervising the student and parental involvement.

Felipe Mosqueda, program assistant,



He was only 7 years old when his family moved as one of the first tenants in the newly constructed Casa de la Esperanza community sixteen years ago. He is a senior at Metropolitan State University completing a BA in Marketing. He has worked for the Lafayette public library, Mi Familia Vota political campaign, at CHFA (Colorado Housing and Finance Authority) in the marketing and strategic development department. Felipe is an exceptional role-model and inspiration for the youth of the program.

Diana Silva, MESA advisor,



She was recruited by the St. Vrain MESA program to coordinate the robotics programming and CU Science League activities. She recently graduated with a degree in engineering from CU Boulder and will continue on to graduate school in the fall 2010.

Casa de la Esperanza Resident Program 2009 Annual Report

The Casa de la Esperanza (House of Hope) is a Boulder County Housing Authority owned and operated 32-unit housing complex which is home to seasonal farm worker families in Longmont. This vibrant community boasts a busy Community Center which is the “Heart” of the community offering residential support, Head Start, academic programming for all ages and family enrichment activities.

The Casa de la Esperanza Resident Program has achieved **15 years** of providing vital & essential services to benefit dozens of immigrant families. High quality programming has allowed student academic achievement while promoting life-long learning. Casa students are succeeding as bilingual professionals that contribute to their community. Families are achieving the American Dream of home ownership; over 45 families have purchased their own home in the last decade.

Casa de la Esperanza Resident Program’s Mission

Is to provide academic support, recreational opportunities and enrichment activities to the farm worker community and other Longmont residents that will allow them greater access to opportunities and success by promoting educational attainment and computer skills.



Outcome Results form the January to December 2009:



- ▲ Supported a total of **52** families with a variety of services; **111** children & **97** adults.
- ▲ Provided **94** school-aged children with academic assistance, educational resources and enrichment classes while promoting post-secondary education.
- ▲ Provided **54** children three to eighteen years of age and **53** adults with computer access & instruction to bridge the technology gap, increasing the community's computer literacy & skills.
- ▲ Provided **63** students aged 4 to 18 years of age with unique enrichment opportunities with MESA (Mathematics, Engineering Science Achievement) Program including:



- ✧ The Casa MESA team 2261 made up of **10** high school students participated for the 3rd consecutive year in the Colorado Regional FIRST Robotics Competition & earned the 2009 FIRST Website Excellence Award www.casamesa.org.
- ✧ Dr. Laurel Mayhew of the University of Colorado JILA NSF Physics Frontier Center in Boulder coordinated weekly Physics sessions using SAM (Stop Action Movies) allowing **19** Casa students in 5th to 8th grade access to hands-on and quality science inquiry and learning with assistance of graduate volunteers for spring, summer & fall semester.



- ✧ For the second year, **14** Casa students aged 6 to 9 years old participated in JR LEGO League & worked with retired engineer Wayne Bauer & other volunteers. Using the theme of transportation, students built a moving vehicle using LEGOSs & motor.
- ✧ For the third year, we participated in the FIRST LEGO Robotics competition at local qualifier at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden with two teams which placed in 10th and 14th place out of 52 teams. One team qualified to go on to the state competition held at CU-Denver. A total of **26** students from the Casa MESA team aged 9 to 12 years old competed; 11 of which qualified and attended the state competition.



- ✧ **Two** sixteen-year old Casa youth involved in the Robotics programming got their first job as interns working at UCAR in Boulder with a scientist for the summer. Also, a dozen graduate students from the SOARS Protégé Project at UCAR facilitated two science events at the Casa de la Esperanza community in July and August. **30** students aged 5 to 13 enjoyed a variety of engaging hand-on activities & games that promoted atmospheric science.

Provided over 20 structured activities for the school-aged students.

<i>Academic activities</i>	<i>Enrichment activities</i>	<i>Recreational</i>
Math classes (grades 2 to 10th)	Energy Audit Class	Boy Scouts Troop (boys & girls)
CU Science League (5-8th grade)	JR LEGO League (kids 6-9 yrs)	Italian Lang & Culture Class
Computer classes (2nd-10th grade)	LEGO Robotics (kids 9-13 yrs)	Mentoring
Literacy class & groups	Summer camp: Tech Robotics	Chess Club
Tutoring (academic assistance)	FIRST Robotics (high school)	Mural project
Early Learning Program (3-8 yrs)	Latino Boys' Lifeskills/Leadership	Art Class (Firehouse Art Center)
Spanish Literacy class	Latina Girls' Lifeskills/Leadership	Summer 4-H Club

Recruited 238 community and 59 parent volunteers for a total of **297 volunteers** that provided an astonishing **7,407 hours** of services valued at **\$ 133,326** to our community.

- ⊙ Project based- CSU graduate student interior design of expansion project and second group did landscape design of exterior aspects of the property; Capstone CU senior project to update Casa website; CU Boulder group needs assessment
- ⊙ Interns- Assist with grant writing, special projects, facilitate classes or activities;
- ⊙ Robotics- Professional mentors that guide and support robotics teams in competitions & events from Ball Aerospace, IBM, Seagate, & other engineers.
- ⊙ Community Volunteers- Tutor, mentor & provide individual & group instruction
- ⊙ Parent Volunteers- Assist with special events, community services, supervision.



Collaborated with over 23 agencies to provide essential services and resources:

- * University of Colorado of Boulder, Department of Education and other departments: University students provide an average of 25 hours of service **each student** per semester and there are anywhere from 25 to 40 volunteers per semester in our program since 1996.
- * Colorado State University, Building Systems and Landscape Architecture: Graduate and undergraduate students developed site plans, cost estimates, and project analysis on a vacant property (Casa Vista) which is a prospective remodel for expansion of service and space.
- * City of Longmont Community Relations Office, Youth Services, Longmont Museum and Cultural Center: Collaborate to bring vital services and opportunities from City of Longmont government to our community including gang prevention, tenant/conflict resolution, & event collaboration such as the annual Day of the Dead celebration that highlights Latino Culture.
- * St. Vrain Valley School District: Teachers work with the coordinator to communicate on student progress and provide attendance and grades data, and link families to schools and their resources. The Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) program coordinator for the school district collaborates to bring incredible science and math enrichment opportunities to our youth pre-k to 12th grade.
- * Boulder County Community Action Programs: Is a strong advocate of the Casa community and coordinates Latino boys' and girls' life skills classes.
- * Seagate, Ball Aerospace, IBM, Case Logic-a Thule Company, King Soopers, Valmont Presbyterian Church, Central Presbyterian Church of Longmont, Zoll Data, private donors: Provide donations such as furniture, computer hardware, school and office supplies, Christmas gifts, food donations and professional volunteers.
- * Community Food Share: This local food bank provides a weekly drop off of approximately 2-3 thousand pounds of food including fresh fruits and vegetables, snacks, meat, dairy products and juice. For 2009, a total of **185,297 lbs** of food were distributed to 42 families.
- * Rocky Mountain SER: A federal program that provides in-kind salary expense for job training experience & computer class tuition assistance for eligible agricultural workers.
- * Boy Scouts & 4-H Club: Clubs enrich youth's experiences with quality learning activities.
- * Intercambio de Comunidades: Local non-profit that works to build respectful communities and broaden opportunities for immigrants collaborates to provide various levels of English instruction, financial skills, business and citizenship exam preparation classes.
- * UCAR-SOARS Program: Summer internship opportunities for Casa youth & volunteers.
- * Old Firehouse Art Center: Art Attack Program allowed 24 Casa children access to weekly art lessons at their studio. The culmination of their work was exhibited at the "Orgullos Latino" (Latino Pride) event in August with over 500 people attending. Casa parents provided tamales for the event. A Mariachi band played and contributed to a festive atmosphere to celebrate the Latino community's cultural heritage.
- * Volunteer Connection: This non-profit allows the Casa Program to recruit volunteers via their website and is effective in securing dozens of outstanding volunteers candidates.

CASA MESA FIRST LEGO ROBOTICS

For the third year, children from Casa de la Esperanza participated in the FIRST LEGO Robotics Competition. We had two teams (#7775 & #7779) that did well representing our community and our MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement) Program.

Part of the competition is to create a project and the theme was based on different forms of transportation used in the community and in the world. The students had to choose a mode of transportation to research and explain the dangers involved in using that form of transportation, the time spent using that form of transportation, the type of fuel needed and other factors relevant to the chosen mode of transportation. The students used the Internet, books, and other sources of information to prepare their Project which they presented to a panel of judges at the FIRST LEGO competition. The children aged 8 to 11 years old designed, built and programmed the robot using LEGO parts and utilizing math and science concepts, developing their presentation skills as part of their project, working as a team and developing their critical thinking skills. The competition was sponsored by the Colorado School of Mines in Golden and our teams placed well! Casa MESA Team #7779 placed in 10th & Casa MESA team #7775 placed 14th out of a total of 52 teams. We are proud of how well our LEGO robotics teams did this year. Additionally, due to their consistent good performance, Casa MESA Team #7779 qualified to advance to the state competition.

CASA MESA TEAM

- ◆ Angélica Chavez
- ◆ Fernando Guerrero
- ◆ Lizeth Gonzalez
- ◆ Ruby Perez
- ◆ Javier Gonzalez
- ◆ Miguel Perez
- ◆ Oscar Castillo
- ◆ Jennifer de la Cruz
- ◆ Alejandra Chavez
- ◆ Joselin Mosqueda



MENTORS

- Diana Silva
- John Horvath
- Eric Payton
- Kate Koepke

CASAMESA ROBOTICS TEAM-COLORADO REGIONAL

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CASAMESA ROBOTICS TEAM MEMBERS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS: Nishtha Oberai, Kathryn Wicklund, Rosamelia Loredo, Michelle Jacob, Tory Geier, Santiago Arredondo, Alvaro Cintora & Esteban Gonzalez. For the third year, our CasaMESA team participated in the Colorado Regional FIRST Robotics Competition held at the University of Denver. The game for this year's competition was called Lunacy. The robots had to place as many balls as possible in the opponents trailer. This year's game was a challenge since the game arena and the robots' wheels had very little friction and it was difficult to maneuver about. The team CASA MESA earned the 2009 FIRST Website Excellence Award (www.casamesa.org).



SUMMER PROGRAM

AN EDUCATIONAL AND FUN EXPERIENCE



The 2009 Summer Program provided many educational activities delivered in a fun way so the children and youth would have a productive summer vacation.

Thanks to the collaboration of new programs, we were able to add new activities to our summer program so that the children could take advantage their summer vacation to learn new skills and reinforce their knowledge in literacy and numeracy.

Some of the many summer activities provided at Casa de la Esperanza include: 4H Club, Early Learning Program for kids aged 3 to 8 years old, MESA Program (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Program), Literacy Classes, Budget management, computer, math, chess, energy audit, Boy Scouts Club and a week-long computer robotics camp, art exhibit, field day and other special events.



Colorado University Gold Leadership Program

On Saturday, October 10, we had a marathon of activities including Junior LEGO Robotics and FIRST LEGO Robotics at Casa de la Esperanza and swimming and wall climbing at the Longmont Recreation Center. A total of 46 children aged 3 to 13 years old enjoyed the extra personal attention and mentoring assistance of this special group of 29 students from the University of Colorado of Boulder Gold Leadership Program. Our sincerest appreciation to Mark Moskowitz for organizing this very successful community service event and his encouragement in organizing the collaboration of the Gold Leadership volunteers with our children of our community.



Group of volunteers from CU Gold Leadership Program and children from Casa de la Esperanza

Casa de la Esperanza

Art Link Photography Project

During the summer 2009, the youth from Casa de la Esperanza participated in the Longmont Art Link event held in August. Playing on this year's theme "A child's perspective of their community", in which the youth learned how to use their cameras, students portrayed what they deemed important in their community. The project consisted of taking pictures of what they want the public to know about the Casa de la Esperanza community, and what things they would like to improve. They also wrote a brief description of their photos explaining their perspective. The compilation of Casa student work was displayed at the City of Longmont Art Link event along with many other displays promoting the arts. Special thanks to John Clarke of the City of Longmont Community & Neighborhood Resources Office for allowing the youth of Casa de la Esperanza this special opportunity to shine and showcase their pride for their community.

Participants

Pedro Rascon
Ofelia Raygoza
Dulce Jimenez
Alexis Rodriguez
Maria Gonzalez
Angelica Chavez
Joselin Mosqueda
Alejandra Chavez
Javier Gonzalez
Fernando Guerrero
Veronica Rodriguez
Jonathan Jimenez
Dulce Torres
Manuel Leon
Kevin Falcon
Jose Jimenez
Leo Bencomo
Mario Bencomo



Art Link Projects
Exhibition

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES 2009

Four young women from our community graduated from high school. They are all attending college and are proud as the first generation students to attend an institution of higher learning in their family. The community celebrated this great accomplishment with a dinner and dance in their honor in late May.



Niwot High
Graduates:



Michelle Jacob
Monica Crespo
Columba Hernández

Elizabeth Amaya



Graduate of
Alexander
Dawson



FUTURE EXPANSION

A steering committee has been formed to assist with the process of remodeling Casa Vista as an expansion to the Casa Program. Private donors & fundraising efforts have contributed almost \$ 15,000 towards the expansion project. We are in the predevelopment phase and are compiling the documentation required to apply for and undergo a Special Land Review & become an official project. Currently, space constraints require we pursue more programming on Saturdays until we resolve the space issues. A key partner in the expansion efforts is Karen Hunter of St. Vrain MESA Program which has collaborated in the last six years to develop a model MESA program at Casa de la Esperanza community.

MESA programming at Casa de la Esperanza has reached a stable level of high quality enrichment activities with math, science, robotics, computer technology and other MESA activities. Substantial support from St. Vrain MESA has allowed the Casa MESA program to flourish with a record high **63** Casa children participating.



The Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (MESA)

Program's mission is to encourage, motivate, support and prepare students for success in the pursuit of undergraduate degrees and careers in mathematics, engineering, science and technology. MESA serves all students but has a particular interest and focus on students from groups that are historically underrepresented in science, engineering and other math based careers.

This initiative presents an opportunity to collaborate with CU Boulder and CSU Engineering Professors, Multicultural Engineering Program (MEP), Women In Engineering (WIEP), CU architecture and engineering students, licensed and trained professionals, MESA, and Casa de la Esperanza to develop a state of the art “green building” community learning center and housing for more three to four more agricultural families.

The Community Learning Center will allow students and their families to participate in hands-on engineering, science and mathematics opportunities. The center will feature space for:

- A duplication of successful academic support, recreational activity and enrichment activities from the Casa de la Esperanza community to the new center as an extension of the community services; more than doubling the space for high quality programming.
- Programming for up to **50 middle and high school students** with flexible space use conducive to program needs and students interests.
- Project based learning opportunities facilitated by University MEP & WIEP students & other volunteers in the afternoons, evenings, on weekends, and during vacation periods.
- Special guests from the science community to lead exciting **state of the art activities**.
- Observation of **best practices** in sustainable development and renewable energy.
- **Continuing education** opportunities for Casa parents & other adults.

This is a prospect of great impact for the future generations of the Casa de la Esperanza and broader Longmont community. Students will gain hands-on experience with state of the art “green” building strategies and materials. We will integrate photovoltaics, investigate hot water solar panels, wind energy, use natural products throughout the center. For example, countertops may be made from recycled glass, cabinetry from wheat straw particleboard, lots of energy efficiency and renewable ideas. Students & parents will participate in the design & construction.

Much momentum has been gained as of just this December due to our collaboration with Professor Brian Dunbar of CSU in Ft. Collins. Professional students in Dr. Dunbar’s sustainability certification course demonstrated high interest in contributing to our project. They have joined forces with the loyal steering committee that has worked for almost two years in support of an expansion of space and services for the Casa de la Esperanza Resident Program. James Trujillo (JT) has volunteered to lead as project manager and head this exciting project.

2010 Active members-Casa de la Esperanza Expansion Project, Steering Committee

Dr. Bernard Amadei– Engineers Without Borders– USA, CU Professor of Civil Engineering

Gale Day– Multicultural Engineering Program, CU Boulder

Dr. Luis Summers Pagador– retired Professor of Architectural Engineering, CU Boulder

Robyn Sandekian– Associate Director, Eng. Dev. Communities, CU Boulder

Michael Lozano– Casa de la Esperanza Computer Technician/Instructor

Jeff Scott– President / Owner Sol Source

Dan Benavidez-businessman & community leader, Eco-Cycle Board of Directors

James Trujillo (JT)-volunteer project manager, experienced in building and construction

Jill Fitzsimmons, Colorado-Licensed Architect & Jennifer Menke, Landscape Architect

Karen Hunter, MESA Coordinator, St. Vrain Valley School District

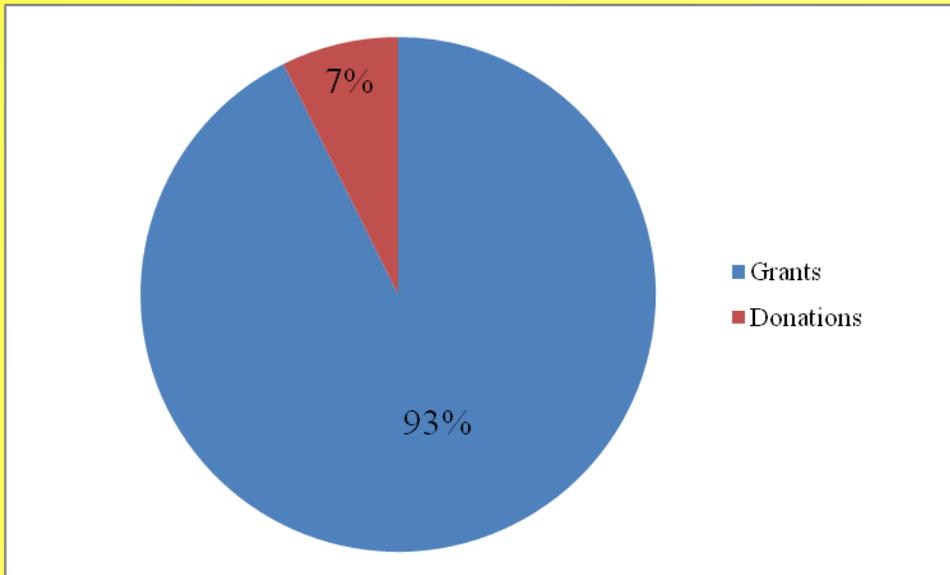
Carlota Loya-Hernández, Resident Program Coordinator, Casa de la Esperanza

Other professional volunteers with expertise in sustainable development & building

Boulder Community Housing Corporation Casa de la Esperanza – Resident Program

Financial Activities for the year-ended December 31, 2009

TOTAL REVENUE \$ 100, 394



TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 91, 151

