



HISPANIC FAMILY CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY

Providing the community with a broad range of culturally relevant social services and advocacy programs that promote and encourage empowerment and self sufficiency since 1976.

PRESS RELEASE

ANNUAL HEALTH FAIR RAISES AWARENESS FOR HIV/AIDS IN THE LATINO COMMUNITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Camden, NJ (October 16, 2008) – In honor of National Latino AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD) the Hispanic Family Center is sponsoring a community wide health fair in Camden, NJ on Saturday, October 18, 2008. This year's theme, *Unidos Podemos: HIV/AIDS Stops Here, Prevention Starts with Us*, identifies the need for comprehensive prevention services, such as the Hispanic Family Center's LUCES and Latino Initiative Programs, in high-risk population areas. Elsa Candelario, Hispanic Family Center Executive Director, advocates for the need for health education services, "Prevention programs such as these educate members of the Latino community about HIV/AIDS, encourage people to get tested for HIV, help connect them to appropriate medical care, and offer support for those living with the disease. These services are absolutely necessary if we want to help stop the spread of HIV."

Miriam Parrotto, Program Director of Health Education and Family Prevention Services at the Hispanic Family Center, describes the annual health fair as, "A one day event set to engage and empower Latinos in Camden to raise the visibility of the HIV/AIDS crisis within their communities." The event is expected to draw a minimum of 200 Latinos from the City of Camden and 24 health related vendors providing a community informational forum. Keeping in line with the event's theme, the Hispanic Family Center has also invited the Camden Area Health Education Center and the Cooper Early Intervention Program, in conjunction with Project H.O.P.E., to provide HIV counseling, testing, and referral services for all health fair participants. Also, a panel of speakers will discuss HIV/AIDS issues in the Hispanic community. Community members are encouraged to join the festivities which include music from a DJ, dancing, giveaways, prizes, and free catered lunch. Face painting, a clown, a bounce house, a popcorn machine, balloons, and much more will be offered to participants with children. The fair will take place at the Hispanic Family Center parking lot on 27th and Westfield and last from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturday.

The Hispanic Family Center of Southern New Jersey is a multi-service agency dedicated to providing the community with a broad range of culturally relevant social services and advocacy programs that promote and encourage empowerment and self-sufficiency. To meet this goal the Hispanic Family Center of Southern New Jersey offers over 30 programs including after school programs, employment and training programs, health education and prevention services, mental health services, senior services and substance abuse treatment. Each year the Hispanic Family Center of Southern New Jersey serves over 6,000 individuals and families.

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