



Reunión Latina to be held in March in Albany, NY



Funder Spotlight
The H. van Ameringen Foundation



Partner Profile:
Project Concern International



Featured Program:
Latinos in the Deep South



"Dimelo" is a quarterly publication of the Latino Commission on AIDS, a non-profit membership organization dedicated to fighting the spread of HIV/AIDS in the Latino/Hispanic community.

www.latioaids.org

dímelo

January-March 2010



Yanira Arias

Honoring a True Latino AIDS Leader

The legacy left by Dennis deLeon (1948-2009)

On December 14, 2009, the AIDS community lost one of its most committed warriors against the disease with the passing of Dennis deLeon at age 61. As President of the Latino Commission on AIDS, Dennis spearheaded its growth, making it the pre-eminent voice of the Latino community in addressing the AIDS epidemic. Under his leadership, the Commission created the first national clearinghouse

for Spanish-language treatment information and the first (and largest) faith-based prevention education network. Dennis was instrumental in initiating National Latino AIDS Awareness Day.

We at the Commission will continue Dennis' fight to eradicate HIV/AIDS, keeping in mind the words that he spoke in 2006: "More is expected of us now but

still the affected teach and direct us every day. Our passion, our stance is their health and love."

The Dennis deLeon Memorial Fund has been created to address a cause always close to Dennis' heart – the enhancement of HIV/AIDS treatment education. Details about the Memorial Fund are on our website www.latioaids.org
ANN MARIE WALKER

RECOGNITION OF DENNIS DELEON



During Dennis' last illness and after his passing, there was an outpouring of support from elected leaders, offering encouragement to Dennis' family, friends and associates. President Obama, Mayor Bloomberg, and Senator Charles Schumer were among those who wrote to express their thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. "At this difficult hour, I hope you find comfort in the principles that have guided you, and in knowing that your passion has helped shape a brighter future for the next generation." President Obama said.

Lessons learned over 20 years



GUILLERMO CHACON

Dear Friends of the Commission,

2010 marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Commission. While we wish to look back in retrospect on the successes achieved and the lessons learned over the years, we would also like 2010 to be an opportunity to look forward at the challenges ahead.

As the number of people living with HIV continues to increase, reaching individuals at risk for HIV with culturally competent

and linguistically appropriate prevention education, HIV testing, treatment education and connecting those in need with care is critical. Innovative prevention and education is especially pertinent with regards to Latino youth. Encouraging quality communication about sex, drugs, HIV, and other sexually transmitted diseases between Latino youth has the potential to promote safer sex practices and thus to prevent the spread of HIV among Latino youth. As we look towards the future, the Commission is committed to addressing, educating, and advocating on behalf of young Latinos, with special attention to Latino gay youth.

For the past 20 years, the Commission has been the active and trusted national, regional and local voice in New York for Latino/Hispanic communities. The Commission's Health Policy Program works to promote the needs, interests, and concerns of the Latino community and our constituency through state and federal legislation and policies. 2010 will see significant and unparalleled changes in the health care system in the United States. For this reason, the Commission will continue its steadfast dedication to participating in a national health and prevention policy document that responds to the crisis.

It is a great honor and privilege to be a part of the Latino Commission on AIDS at this milestone. It is our vision to resolve the HIV/AIDS crisis in the Latino community, where stigma, poverty, discrimination, language barriers, immigration status and access to care deter testing and increase the infection rate. I invite you to participate in the realization of our vision.

Sincerely,

Guillermo Chacon
President and CEO
Latino Commission on AIDS



Rosa Bramble-Weed of Positive Life Programs, an agency that serves Queens County at Reunion Latina 2009.

Reunión Latina to be held in March in Albany

The thirteenth annual Reunión Latina will be held in Albany at the Crowne Plaza Hotel from March 11-12, 2010. Reunión Latina will bring together HIV/AIDS service providers, community and religious leaders, New Yorkers living with HIV/AIDS, and representatives from local and state health departments, and will feature workshops on HIV prevention and testing, skills building and organizational development.

The Community Leadership Awards Dinner will recognize individuals who make a difference in the fight against HIV/AIDS. A non-denominational Prayer and Remembrance service will be held in memory of those who have lost their lives to AIDS, as well as in honor of those living with HIV/

AIDS and those who dedicate their lives to prevention and care. Plans are being formulated to include the Youth Component at Reunión Latina. Young people will share their experiences on the effect of HIV/AIDS on their families, their social networks and their communities. These experiences will inform and educate Reunión Latina attendees as they create and implement programs that meet the needs of Latino youth.

Please join us at this important forum on the state of the AIDS epidemic in the Latino community. There are scholarships for people living with HIV. For more information, contact Melissa Ramírez at mramirez@latinoaids.org or visit www.latinoaids.org.

ANN MARIE WALKER

Funder Spotlight The H. van Ameringen Foundation

The H. van Ameringen Foundation has been a staunch supporter of the Commission and its work for more than a decade. As one of the largest philanthropies giving to AIDS organizations in New York City, the support of the H. van Ameringen Foundation has enabled the

Commission to continue to "fill in the gaps" in funding its programs serving the Latino community in New York City and other areas. The H. van Ameringen Foundation was created by Henry P. van Ameringen in 1967. In addition to its support of organizations which

address the AIDS crisis, the Foundation also funds programs which focus on civil rights, health care and other human services. The Foundation is especially interested in non-profits which work with the LGBT community.

ANN MARIE WALKER

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Featured
Program:

Latinos in the Deep South

Thousands of workers from Central and South America are entering the southern United States either as temporary workers or permanent residents. However, rapid Latino population growth is outpacing the provision of social services, including HIV prevention and care services. Some 2 million Latino residents in the South face severe limitations in their access to health care of any sort, a major obstacle to HIV/AIDS prevention and care efforts. In response to these unmet needs, the Latino Commission on AIDS launched the Deep South Project in 2006.

Focusing on the emerging Latino populations in seven southern states - Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Caro-



Latino workers in South Carolina, waiting to be picked up by contractors to perform manual work.

Archive

lina, South Carolina, and Tennessee - the Deep South Project's mission is to provide capacity-building services and an on-going needs assessment to Latino-serving agencies in these states. Existing AIDS prevention organizations and health departments are constrained by a severe shortage of bilingual and bicultural health professionals in the region.

Christian F. Castro, Director of the Project, states, "As funding con-

tinues to decrease for HIV/AIDS programs and services, partnerships need to be strengthened. Coalitions and community mobilization efforts can help mitigate the spread of HIV/AIDS in our neighborhoods."

To date, the Project has co-sponsored seven statewide roundtables on HIV/AIDS prevention and care services reaching Latinos and convened a follow-up meeting in Alabama that brought together re-

searchers, students and providers to outline a research agenda and forge cooperative links. This intensive work with partners across the seven states resulted in the creation of a report focusing on Latinos in the Deep South titled, "Shaping the New Response: HIV/AIDS and Latinos in the Deep South."

For more information, including the complete report and downloadable materials, visit www.latinoaids.org.

ANNIE MULGREW

Partner Profile:

Project Concern International

Each year, the Latino Commission on AIDS partners with a host of community-based organizations, health departments and key stakeholders to deliver its Institute for Health & Treatment Education curriculum, which trains Spanish-speaking HIV healthcare professionals across the country on new HIV/AIDS treatments and proven strategies for HIV education in Spanish. This curriculum has been refined into a four-day program covering the fundamentals of HIV/AIDS and hepatitis, vaccines and microbicides, HIV pathogenesis, medication adherence, as well as the many socio-cultural aspects of HIV/AIDS.

The Commission relies on the help of certain organizations to remotely facilitate collaboration with other agencies interested in attending the four-day Institutes.

In 2008, The Commission partnered with Project Concern International (PCI), a group that offers health and poverty solutions worldwide through disease prevention, HIV/AIDS crisis response, improving child survival, delivering immunizations and administering humanitarian aid. PCI was instrumental in helping the Commission deliver groundbreaking curriculum in the cities of Calexico, San Ysidro and San Francisco, California - com-



municating directly with the University of San Diego, the California Department of Public Health - Office of AIDS, and the San Francisco Department of Health to secure appropriate venues for the Institutes.

All told, 90 health professionals from more than 50 health organizations attended the Commission's series of California Institutes. The Commission would like to salute PCI for its initiative and assistance in the planning and execution of the Institutes. The Commission considers this collaboration an asset to the Spanish-speaking HIV prevention, care and treatment community.

ZACHARY AMENDT

SUPPORT THE LATINO COMMISSION ON AIDS TODAY!

Your contribution allows the Commission to continue its fight in response to the HIV/AIDS crisis in Latino communities.

To make a donation, please visit www.latinoaids.org/donate or call Annie Mulgrew, Development Officer, at 212-675-3288.

If you would like to donate by check, you may send it to:

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