May 16th 2007

Hispanic News

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/hispanicnews

Recommended Citation
https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/hispanicnews/178

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections & Archives at CSUSB ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Hispanic News by an authorized administrator of CSUSB ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@csusb.edu.
CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE TO REVIEW VOTING SYSTEMS

SACRAMENTO – California Secretary of State Debra Bowen recently announced a contract with the University of California to conduct a top-to-bottom review of the voting systems certified for use in California beginning the week of May 14, 2007.

In a statement, Secretary Bowen said, “The test of any democracy is whether you can trust the results at the ballot box. Across the country, authoritative studies and nationally recognized experts are asking the question: Are our voting systems secure, accurate, reliable and accessible?”

Bowen stated that in December 2005, California discovered voting system programming code that escaped the review of federal testers; on May 2, 2007, a congressional task force voted to investigate anomalies in 2006 election results in Florida’s 13th Congressional District. These examples, she said, fueled the debate about whether the voting systems voters assure to vote are secure and private sector companies are trustworthy, and whether the testing processes used to certify voting systems are adequate.

Bowen further stated that California is facing three statewide elections in 2008, making it even more essential that its voting equipment is secure, accurate, reliable, and accessible.

In a statement at the meeting of the County of San Bernardino Bilingual Advisory Committee, Registrar of Voter Director Kari Vergil said, “Our county voting system has performed at a high level of operation. However, the department welcomes the review of operational performances and recommendations submitted by the Secretary of State to further verify the voting system in the County.”

Wednesday, May 16, 2007
Volume 20
Number 15

LET US REMEMBER OUR VETERANS ON MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 28

THE INLAND EMPIRE'S ONLY HISPANIC-OWNED ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER

SAN BERNARDINO • RIVERSIDE • COLTON • RIALTO • FONTANA • MORENO VALLEY
ONTARIO • CORONA • BLOOMINGTON • RANCHO CUCAMONGA • HIGHLAND • REDLANDS

AN EARLY BLOW FOR EQUALITY FOR ALL CHILDREN:
A family’s fight 60 years ago against a California school that turned away their kids because they were Mexican helped end segregation in public education
By Tyche Hendricks

Sylvia Mendez was honored Tuesday at the San Francisco federal courthouse where her elementary school — one reserved for “Mexicans” was outlawed 60 years ago in a decision that led California to desegregate all its schools and public facilities.

Mendez’s parents and four other Latino families in Orange County had sued four school districts, in Mendez vs. Westminster, and the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the decades-old federal doctrine of “separate but equal” violated the U.S. Constitution.

It was in their case that NAACP lawyer Thurgood Marshall tried out the winning arguments he was to make in Brown vs. Board of Education before the U.S. Supreme Court, which outlawed segregation nationwide in its decision in the case in 1954 (editor’s emphasis).

Mendez, a 70-year-old retired nurse who lives in Fullerton, was feted at the Ninth Circuit’s Seventh Street courthouse by the San Francisco La Raza Lawyers Association at a screening of an Emmy-winning documentary about her family’s precedent-setting but little-known lawsuit, “Mendez vs. Westminster: For All the Children/Para Todos Los Niños.”

She and the film’s director, Sandra Robbie, plan to tour the country to raise awareness of the decision. The U.S. Postal Service plans to release a boldly colored stamp in September honoring the ruling’s 60th anniversary.

The day in 1943 when 8-year-old Sylvia and her younger brothers were turned away from Westminster Elementary because of their dark skin and Spanish last name remains vivid to her.

She had been excited to start school in their new town after they moved from Santa Ana. Instead, dressed in her best with her hair neatly braided, she was sent away along with her brothers, even though their light-skinned cousins were allowed to enroll.

Her parents, Gonzalo and Felicitas Mendez, who owned a cantina and had moved to Westminster to manage a farm, were appalled. They had thought all the students in the Santa Ana school were Mexican American because they lived in a Mexican American neighborhood. They had no idea state law allowed segregation against Mexican Americans, Sylvia Mendez said.

The couple found Los Angeles civil rights lawyer David Marcus and sued on behalf of the estimated 5,000 Mexican American families in Orange County.

“The school district saw that my father had gotten a lawyer, they said we could go to the school,” Mendez said. “But he said, ‘Forget it. I’m going to do this for everybody.’ He decided to keep fighting.”

When a federal district court ruled in the family’s favor, civil rights groups across the country took notice. Attorneys had begun a campaign in the 1930s to challenge official segregation in the United States, and the NAACP had taken on segregated universities. But the district court’s 1946 decision in Mendez tackled “separate but equal” more directly and gave credence to the notion that segregated schools hampered the education of minority students.

After the Mendez ruling, the NAACP filed lawsuits against five segregated school districts in Kansas and across the south, and the U.S. Supreme Court eventually addressed those cases simultaneously in its 1954 decision in Brown vs. Board of Education.

When the school district appealed, the NAACP, the ACLU, the Japanese
AN EARLY BLOW FOR EQUALITY FOR ALL CHILDREN:
A family's fight 60 years ago against a California school that
turned away their kids because they were Mexican helped
end segregation in public education
By Tyche Hendricks

Continued from page 1

American Citizens League, the American Jewish Congress and other
groups filed briefs to support the
ruling that segregated schools were
inherently unequal. And the Ninth
Circuit, on April 14, 1947, agreed that
segregated schools on the basis of
national origin violated the equal
protection clause of the 14th
Amendment.

"It desegregated schools for all
ethnic minorities in California seven
years before the Brown decision," said
Santa Clara County Deputy
District Attorney Christopher Arriola,
an authority on the Mendez case.
"And it has the legacy leading up to
Brown because Thurgood Marshall
said Santa Clara County Deputy
District Attorney Christopher Arriola,
an authority on the Mendez case.
"And it has the legacy leading up to
Brown because Thurgood Marshall
for the first time argued outright for
the overturning of Plessy vs.
Ferguson, which allowed for
segregation."

Earl Warren, then governor of
California, within two months pushed
through a state law invalidating all
segregated facilities in California —
swimming pools, movie theaters,
public parks and schools.

In 1954, as chief justice of
the United States, he wrote the Brown
decision.

Robbie, the filmmaker, who grew
up in Westminster many years after
Mendez did, said she didn't know
segregation had been part of
California's history until she heard of
the Mendez case. "I thought that only
happened in the American South," she
said. "I knew this was a story my
children — every child — had to
know. It brought home the idea that
the civil rights struggle didn't just
happen in the American South but
across the country and that it was
about everybody of every color."

She hopes to see the case taught
in schools as part of the history of the
civil rights movement.

The "Mexican" schools had dirt
yards instead of grassy lawns and
taught vocational skills instead of
literature and science, Mendez said.
But she said she fully understood
discrimination for the first time when
her family moved back to Santa Ana
after the Ninth Circuit ruling — and
she enrolled as the first Latino student
at a former "white" school and was
beaten up and called a "dirty
Mexican."

"I realized then what my father was
fighting for," she said.

She is still inspired by her parents'
fortitude. "My father was really
strong," she said. "He didn't want us
to grow up thinking we were not
equal."

When Mendez told her mother a
few years later that she wanted to be a
telephone operator, her mother
insisted she sign up for microbiology
and become a registered nurse
instead.

This year also marks the 25th
anniversary of the U.S. Supreme
Court decision in Plyler vs. Doe,
which overturned a Texas law
denying illegal immigrant children
access to public schools. The court
ruled that children are entitled to an
education regardless of immigration
status, said Maria Blanco, director
of the San Francisco Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights.

That decision, in turn, was the
district federal court's basis for
overruling California's Proposition
187, which voters passed in 1994 and
would have denied illegal immigrants
access to public services.

San Bernardino County Board of
Supervisors in the first order of
business on May 8 honored 40
employees with an overlow
attendance of supporters who
applauded as individual honorees
those who

added to his internal duties: equal
mediates discrimination and sexual
harassment.

Norm Nutez, 24-year employee of
the Sheriff/Coroner Department,
works in the Public Affairs Office.
Nutez has established an excellent
record of community relations with
the public, including minority groups
throughout the county. He organized
the Sheriff's Information Exchange
Committee, a representative group of
employees from various parts of the
county, whereby concerns and
feedback is directed within the law
enforcement agency. He also worked
diligently on the Bark Beetle and
Sawtooth Fire sites, providing
assistance and training to employees.

Added to his internal duties: equal
employment opportunities and
mediates discrimination and sexual
harassment.

Norm Nutez' selection
exemplifies the professionalism
displayed by the honorees.
AN EARLY BLOW FOR EQUALITY FOR ALL CHILDREN:
A family's fight 60 years ago against a California school that turned away their kids because they were Mexican helped end segregation in public education

By Tyche Hendricks

Continued from page 1

American Citizens League, the American Jewish Congress and other groups filed briefs to support the ruling that segregated schools were inherently unequal. And the Ninth Circuit, on April 14, 1947, agreed that segregating schools on the basis of national origin violated the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment.

"It desegregated schools for all ethnic minorities in California seven years before the Brown decision," said Santa Clara County Deputy District Attorney Christopher Arriola, an authority on the Mendez case. "And it has the legacy leading up to Brown because Thurgood Marshall for the first time argued outright for the overturning of Plessy vs. Ferguson, which allowed for segregation."

Earl Warren, then governor of California, within two months pushed through a state law invalidating all segregated facilities in California—swimming pools, movie theaters, public parks and schools.

In 1954, as chief justice of the United States, he wrote the Brown decision.

Robbie, the filmmaker, who grew up in Westminster many years after Mendez did, said she didn't know segregation had been part of California's history until she heard of the Mendez case. "I thought that only happened in the American South," she said. "I knew this was a story my children — every child — had to know. It brought home the idea that the civil rights struggle didn't just happen in the American South but across the country and that it was about everybody of every color."

She hopes to see the case taught in schools as part of the history of the civil rights movement.

"The "Mexican" schools had dirt yards instead of grassy lawns and taught vocational skills instead of literature and science," Mendez said. But she said she fully understood discrimination for the first time when her family moved back to Santa Ana after the Ninth Circuit ruling — and she enrolled as the first Latino student at a former "white" school and was beaten up and called a "dirty Mexican."

"I realized then what my father was fighting for," she said. "She is still inspired by her parents' fortitude. "My father was really strong," she said. "He didn't want us to grow up thinking we were not equal."

When Mendez told her mother a few years later that she wanted to be a telephone operator, her mother insisted she sign up for microbiology and become a registered nurse instead.

This year also marks the 25th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Plyler vs. Doe, which overturned a Texas law denying illegal immigrant children access to public schools. The court ruled that children are entitled to an education regardless of immigration status, said Maria Blanco, director of the San Francisco Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights.

That decision, in turn, was the federal district court's basis for overruling California's Proposition 187, which voters passed in 1994 and would have denied illegal immigrants access to public services.

The Inland Empire Hispanic News is published every two weeks and distributed in the counties of San Bernardino, Riverside, Orange, San Diego, Imperial and Kern Counties. You may subscribe or advertise by contacting the office.

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

S. B. COUNTY HONORS EMPLOYEES

San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors in the first order of business on May 8 honored 40 employees with an overflow attendance of supporters who applauded as individual honorees were recognized by the board. The occasion was part of the 18th National Public Service Recognition Week where outstanding employees are rewarded for extraordinary service to the public.

Honorees selected by fellow employees from the 40 departments in the county received a plaque from board members as each was recognized for individual attributes within their departments.

Selected employees received special recognition for program developments to service the public; others were acclaimed for exemplary direct public services.

Supervisor Gary Ovitt, temporary chair, praised the honorees for their service to the public, and others who were outstanding in special circumstances in emergency situations. The county is growing and each department's responsibilities to the public have increased, creating a greater burden for employees to better serve constituents, the tax payers, he said.

Norm Nunez, a 24-year employee of the Sheriff/Coroner Department, works in the Public Affairs Office. Nunez has established an excellent record of community relations with the public, including minority groups throughout the county. He organized the Sheriff's Information Exchange Committee, a representative group of citizens from various sectors of the county, whereby concerns and feedback is directed within the law enforcement agency. He also worked diligently on the Bark Beetle and Sawtooth Fire sites, providing assistance and training to employees.

Added to his internal duties: equal employment opportunities and meditates discrimination and sexual harassment.

Nunez' selection exemplifies the professionalism displayed by the honorees.
SAN BERNARDINO — A record 2,228 Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) seniors representing 70 high schools from Riverside, Inyo, Mono and San Bernardino (RIMS) counties were honored at a recognition ceremony at the University of California, Riverside (UCR).

Among the students to be honored will be 37 seniors who will receive scholarships from UCR, California State University, San Bernardino and the RIMS AVID/Community Foundation Scholarship program, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation.

AVID is an international education program that began in San Diego and targets students in the academic middle who have a willingness to want to go to college. Typically, AVID students are the first in their families to attend college, and many are from low-income or minority families.

RIMS AVID is one of 11 regional programs set up in California. This year's graduating seniors in RIMS AVID reached the following goals:

- Eighty-seven percent have been accepted to at least one four-year university (1,942 seniors);
- Twenty-four percent have been accepted to at least one UC school (537 seniors);
- Eleven percent have been accepted to at least one private college or university (236 seniors);
- Eight percent have been accepted to at least one out-of-state college or university (182 seniors).

The following students earned scholarships from Cal State San Bernardino:

- David Anders, Corona High; Nina Black, Granite Hills High; Alyssa Prickett, Victor Valley High; Thuy Vu, Granite Hills High.

The following students earned scholarships from UCR:

- Calvin Ericson, Canyon Springs High, and Diana Gonzalez, Murrieta Valley High.

The following students earned scholarships from the RIMS AVID Community Foundation program:

- Aryan Badery, Temescal Canyon High; Charlenea Chagoya, Colton High; Elsie Franco, Perris High; Luis Garcia, San Bernardino High; John Gutierrez, Arlington High; Mahbuba Hammad, Colton High; Stephanie Jara, Vista Murrieta High; Mary Mans, Vista Murrieta High; Itzel Mondragon, Middle College High; Thembinkosi Noko, Colton High; Veronica Rivera, Rubidoux High; Orlando Rosas, Cathedral City High; Vanessa Santana, Bishop Union High; and Brenda Torres, Ramona High.

The following students will be honored as Gates Millennium Scholars:

- Daniel Galvan, Ramona High; Fernando Pimental, Ramona High; and Orlando Rosas, Cathedral City High.

The following students will be honored as Dell Scholars:

- Hugo Martinez, Bernardino, Arlington High; Alma Colchado, Corona High; Rebecca Garcia, Desert Mirage High; David Gomez, Cajon High; Freddy Gomez, Desert Mirage High; Jessica Higareda, Rancho Verde High; Tomás Lagunas, Arlington High; De’Jon Perkins, Moreno Valley High; Denise Rodriguez, Cajon High; Marcela Rodriguez, Norte Vista High; Bianca Ruiz, Rancho Verde High; Salem Salem, West Valley High; Alfonso Silva, Desert Mirage; and Nancy Velgara, Paloma Valley High.

FREE BOOKS (10,000) WERE DISTRIBUTED TO 75 SCHOOLS

SAN BERNARDINO - A total of 10,000 books were distributed for free to 75 San Bernardino County elementary schools, representing 14 school districts and the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools (SBCSS), on April 21.

The children's books are being awarded through the Los Angeles Times Reading by 9 Book Drive. SBCSS is a co-sponsor and is helping with the distribution of books, which started at 10 a.m. in Colton at U.S. Xpress, Inc., at 2200 S. Riverside Ave.

The books were donated by Scholastic Books. The intent of this distribution is to increase the availability of books for children to read-either by disbursement to homes or by maintaining a classroom checkout library system. Books are primarily K-3 with some upper-grade titles and some in Spanish.


For more information concerning this event, contact Marie Painter of the Curriculum and Instruction Division at SBCSS at (909) 386-2624.

CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATED THROUGHOUT INLAND EMPIRE

Cinco de Mayo celebrations were scheduled throughout the Inland Empire included the cities of Moreno Valley, Riverside, San Bernardino, Redlands, Rialto, Ontario and Upper Desert, and including numerous school districts. One of the celebrations was at the San Bernardino County Central Administration sponsored by the Hispanic Employees Alliance.

Patronize our Advertisers
CHARO'S RIVERSIDE SBA WOMEN'S CENTER AHEAD OF SCHEDULE IN CREATING COMMERCE IN RIVERSIDE

RIVERSIDE CA. - CHARO Riverside SBA Women's Center is making a positive impact on Southern Riverside Communities, exceeding monthly goals and expectations.

CHARO's SBA Women's Center promotes business enterprise development within the community by providing assistance to the early-stage growth of small business. The SBA Women's Center annual goals included assisting at least 45 small and emerging businesses, help in creating five new businesses and, as a result, creating 35 new jobs in the workforce.

In the month of April, the center counseled 17 individuals in the process of starting or growing their businesses and provided general training to more than 165 aspiring entrepreneurs on various business planning topics such as: How to Start and Grow your Business, International Trade, and the ABC's of Starting your Own Business.

In six months of operation, CHARO has exceeded performance requirements for training attendance by 117%, of the required 245 training attendees, provided general training to 287.

One of the beneficiaries was Ms. Kathy Macias, owner of "Fernando's Auto Care" who received one-on-one counseling this past month of April, "it is hard to be a business owner and even harder to be a Latina business owner in the automotive repair industry" stated Ms. Macias. Through CHARO's technical assistance and counseling Ms. Macias was able to successfully present and market her business at networking events and to the public; skills that have recently helped her acquire a contract with the local Riverside Marriott.

The business counseling and workshops continue to be offered in both Spanish and English and the Center has received a positive response from the community. Importantly for small business owners (and aspiring small business owners), local community groups, including the City of Riverside Public Library, have expressed their interest in partnering with the Riverside SBA Women's Center as a way to extend their services to the community.

For information on CHARO's services visit our website at mevans@charocorp.com or contact Maria Evans at (951) 320-7020.

CHARO-SBA Women's Center-Riverside is partially funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration. SBA's funding is not an endorsement of any products, opinions, or services. All SBA funded programs are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis.

SALE REPRESENTATIVES WANTED

The IEHN is seeking assertive persons as sale representatives within the INLAND EMPIRE. GOOD commissions. Call (909) 381-6259 for appointment.

You Can Teach!

Do you hold a college degree?

Complete your teaching credential in as little as 9 months, or be a paid intern teacher while you complete the program.

The College of Education at California State University San Bernardino has programs in Elementary, Secondary, Bilingual and Special Education.

Take a positive step toward your future!

Call us today at: (909) 537-5603

www.csusb.edu/coe

MOTHERS HONORED AT CONCIERTO PARA LAS MADRES

The Concierto Para Las Madres presented by the Sinfonia Mexicana on Saturday, May 12, at the California Theatre of Performing Arts, San Bernardino, was a tremendous successful event to honor the mothers in the area on their special day. The nearly full theatre of mothers of all ages, accompanied by their spouses and children enjoyed the performances by Mariachi Divas and Latin Jazz by Luis Villegas and his group, with the talented singing voice of Nydia Rojas. Favorite Mexican ballads that have been enjoyed for decades by Latinos were dedicated to the mothers in the audience. The Annual Mother's Concert continues to be one of the major events in the Inland Empire.
Take The Lead...
Be A Designated Driver

Budweiser
Responsibility Matters
THE AMERICAN GI FORUM, HACR, AND FLORENTINE FILMS AGREE ON INTEGRATING THE VOICES OF HISPANIC VETERANS INTO "THE WAR"

WASHINGTON, DC — The American GI Forum, the Hispanic Association of Corporate Responsibility (HACR), and Florentine Films reached an understanding that recognizes legitimate Latino concerns about Ken Burns's upcoming documentary series, "The War," and equally recognizes that the artistic decisions of what appears in his film are his and his alone to make. They announce today that the narratives and voices of Hispanic World War II veterans will be incorporated into Ken Burns's artistic vision for his film "The War."

The upcoming 14½ hour documentary, due to air on PBS in September during Hispanic Heritage Month, tells the story of WWII from the perspective of veterans from four different American towns. "The role of Hispanic American veterans in WWII is one that lends itself to the versatility of this film," said Mr. Burns "and merits being included in my film."

NEW NCLR REPORT CALLS FOR GREATER INVESTMENT IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION TO HELP CLOSE LATINO ACHIEVEMENT GAP

WASHINGTON, DC – A new report by the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the U.S., concludes that investing in high-quality, comprehensive early childhood education programs could help narrow the growing school readiness gap between Latino and other children. The report, Buenos Principios: Latino Children in the Earliest Years of Life, released today at an event on Capitol Hill with Latino children to commemorate Dia de los Niños, provides a demographic profile of Latino infants and toddlers and examines the root causes of the school readiness gap.

"Research shows that early childhood education (ECE) programs are the single most effective investment we can make to prepare a child for the first day of school. Yet, Latino children are underrepresented in the key ECE programs that are proven to work, and these programs are woefully underfunded. The time to invest is early, and we must do it starting at birth," said Janet Murguía, NCLR President and CEO. Among the report's findings:

- Latino children under age three are more likely than other racial and ethnic groups not to have health insurance and 63% of young Latino children lack access to a regular medical provider, which is important for healthy development and school readiness.
- The families of two-thirds of Hispanic children (67%) under the age of three have income that is 200% below the poverty line. This compares to 39% of White families with infants and toddlers. Economic hardship can have an adverse effect on child development.
- Latino children under age three are less likely to be read to on a daily basis. White households with young children average 83 children's books in the home, compared to 33 children's books in similar Hispanic households. The years from birth to age three represent a critical period for building skills associated with later reading proficiency. The report also makes a series of recommendations for policy-makers to improve the quality of life and school readiness for Latino children in the U.S.:
  - Congress should invest in programs that can boost the chances of success in school and in life for Latino children.
  - Congress should restore funds to early literacy and child development programs such as Even Start and Early Head Start; remove barriers to the State Children's Health Insurance Program to ensure that more children can grow up healthy; and strengthen the access, outreach, and accountability of the Child Care and Development Block Grant, the nation's largest program to fund child care.
  - This report provides the data that policy-makers need to make decisions about what is best for our children, who represent the future workforce of this nation," concluded Murguía.

The report can be downloaded from NCLR's website at www.nclr.org.

---

The proposed placement embodied the lack of Hispanic leaders about the lack of Hispanic stories, Mr. Burns and his team set out to find personal Latino stories and include them as supplemental material following the documentary. After listening to the concerns of the Latino community and political leaders about the lack of Hispanic stories, Mr. Burns and his team set out to find personal Latino stories and include them as supplemental material following the documentary. The proposed placement embodied the lack of Hispanic leaders about the lack of Hispanic stories, Mr. Burns and his team set out to find personal Latino stories and include them as supplemental material following the documentary. After listening to the concerns of the Latino community and political leaders about the lack of Hispanic stories, Mr. Burns and his team set out to find personal Latino stories and include them as supplemental material following the documentary. After listening to the concerns of the Latino community and political leaders about the lack of Hispanic stories, Mr. Burns and his team set out to find personal Latino stories and include them as supplemental material following the documentary. After listening to the concerns of the Latino community and political leaders about the lack of Hispanic stories, Mr. Burns and his team set out to find personal Latino stories and include them as supplemental material following the documentary. After listening to the concerns of the Latino community and political leaders about the lack of Hispanic stories, Mr. Burns and his team set out to find personal Latino stories and include them as supplemental material following the documentary. After listening to the concerns of the Latino community and political leaders about the lack of Hispanic stories, Mr. Burns and his team set out to find personal Latino stories and include them as supplemental material following the documentary. After listening to the concerns of the Latino community and political leaders about the lack of Hispanic stories, Mr. Burns and his team set out to find personal Latino stories and include them as supplemental material following the documentary.

---

The report by the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the U.S., concludes that investing in high-quality, comprehensive early childhood education programs could help narrow the growing school readiness gap between Latino and other children. The report, Buenos Principios: Latino Children in the Earliest Years of Life, released today at an event on Capitol Hill with Latino children to commemorate Dia de los Niños, provides a demographic profile of Latino infants and toddlers and examines the root causes of the school readiness gap.

"Research shows that early childhood education (ECE) programs are the single most effective investment we can make to prepare a child for the first day of school. Yet, Latino children are underrepresented in the key ECE programs that are proven to work, and these programs are woefully underfunded. The time to invest is early, and we must do it starting at birth," said Janet Murguía, NCLR President and CEO. Among the report's findings:

- Latino children under age three account for one in five (21.8%) of all infants and toddlers in the U.S. Further, the number of Latino children under the age of two is expected to grow from more than 2.2 million in 2000 to more than 5.1 million in 2050.
- The vast majority (97%) of Latino children under the age of two are U.S. citizens, and 64% of Hispanic children under the age of two are part of immigrant families.
- Most Hispanic infants and toddlers are exposed to English as their primary language at home, but more than one-quarter (27.9%) reside in linguistically isolated households.
- The families of two-thirds of Hispanic children (67%) under the age of three have income that is 200% below the poverty line. This compares to 39% of White families with infants and toddlers. Economic hardship can have an adverse effect on child development.
- Latino children under age three are less likely to have health insurance and 63% of young Latino children lack access to a regular medical provider, which is important for healthy development and school readiness.
- The years from birth to age three represent a critical period for building skills associated with later reading proficiency.

The report also makes a series of recommendations for policy-makers to improve the quality of life and school readiness for Latino children in the U.S.:

- Congress should invest in programs that can boost the chances of success in school and in life for Latino children.
- Congress should restore funds to early literacy and child development programs such as Even Start and Early Head Start; remove barriers to the State Children's Health Insurance Program to ensure that more children can grow up healthy; and strengthen the access, outreach, and accountability of the Child Care and Development Block Grant, the nation's largest program to fund child care.

"This report provides the data that policy-makers need to make decisions about what is best for our children, who represent the future workforce of this nation," concluded Murguía. The report can be downloaded from NCLR's website at www.nclr.org.
Each year since 1975, the County of San Bernardino has qualified to receive federal housing and community development grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The funds are to develop viable communities by providing decent housing, suitable living environments and expanded economic opportunities, primarily to low- and moderate-income persons in the County. The County is expected to receive HUD funds for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) activities through the year 2007.

The County is the lead agency for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. HUD funds are available for programs and activities in the following general areas:

- Housing Assistance
- Community Facilities
- Economic Development
- Administration

The County has submitted a Consolidated Plan for fiscal years 2007-2008. The Consolidated Plan contains a description of the County's current and planned local or regional housing, economic development, and community facilities programs. It specifies strategies for serving the needs of low and moderate-income persons, and it outlines the procedures used to select among eligible applicants.

The Consolidated Plan must be submitted to HUD no later than 30 days after the end of the calendar year for which the plan is submitted. The Consolidated Plan for fiscal years 2007-2008 was approved by the County Board of Supervisors on March 13, 2007.

The Consolidated Plan includes the following:

- **Program Priorities and Objectives:**
  - The primary goal of the CDBG program is to meet the needs and priorities of low- and moderate-income persons.
  - The plan outlines strategies for addressing these needs, including the provision of housing, community facilities, and economic development opportunities.

- **Funding:**
  - The County is eligible to receive CDBG funds for the fiscal years 2007-2008.
  - The total amount of CDBG funds available for the fiscal year 2007-2008 is $4,251,007.

- **Programs and Activities:**
  - CDBG funds can be used for a variety of programs, including housing, community facilities, and economic development activities.

The County has also been awarded ESG and HOME grant funds for the same period. The total amount of ESG funds is $327,759, and the total amount of HOME funds is $4,251,007 (which includes $65,092 for the American Dream Downpayment Initiative (ADDI) from HUD).


The Consolidated Plan includes the following:

- **Programs and Activities:**
  - The Consolidated Plan includes descriptions of the programs and activities funded by CDBG, ESG, and HOME grant funds, including:
    - Housing assistance programs
    - Community facilities
    - Economic development programs
    - Administration

The Consolidated Plan also includes an Action Plan, which outlines specific strategies and objectives for achieving the goals and objectives of the Consolidated Plan.

The County of San Bernardino will follow to minimize displacement during the implementation of program activities are described in the Anti-Displacement Plan section of the Consolidated Plan. In the unlikely event that displacement occurs, the County will provide relocation benefits and replacement housing as prescribed by the federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended (URA); and Section 104(b) of the federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.
JOIN THE SBPD TEAM

The San Bernardino Police Department is now hiring for the position of Police Officer.

Salary: $4685-$6442 monthly

Additional Positions Include:

- Law Enforcement Trainee
- Dispatcher I
- Community Service Officer I
- Records Technician

The San Bernardino Police Department is seeking qualified individuals to work in the exciting field of law enforcement. Along with a competitive salary and benefits package, the San Bernardino Police Department offers a 4/10 work schedule along with paid vacation, holiday time and sick leave.

For additional information log on to www.JoinSBPD.org or contact the recruiter at (909)388-4847

ROUTE 210 ROUNDPUP

COME PLAY ON THE FREEWAY!

Saturday, June 23, 7 am to 1 pm

to celebrate the Route 210 Pre-Grand Opening on the newly paved Route 210 in Rialto & San Bernardino

(ACCESS will be available using the Riverside and Ayala ramps in Rialto)

Entertainment and fun for the whole family. Don't miss the chance to Come Play on the Freeway!

- 10K Gary Moon Memorial run/walk
- 5K Marilyn Cardosi Memorial run/walk
- Dedication & ribbon-cutting ceremony
- 5-mile & 10-mile fun bike ride
- Bounce houses
- Skateboarding
- Rock climbing
- Boats and exhibits
- Photo and video opportunities

Route 210 will open officially to motorists during second half of 2007.

Come Play on the Freeway: The Finale! is sponsored in part by San Bernardino Associated Governments, Caltrans, the County of San Bernardino, the cities of Rialto and San Bernardino and The Sun.

For more information, go to www.playonthe210.org or call the Route 210 Helpline: 1-866-HELP-210 (Se habla español)