



FICS takes a unique community-centered and holistic approach to research, service and education/training through public-private collaborations

From the Executive Director, Alayne

Unterberger,

Welcome to the second newsletter of the Florida Institute for Community Studies, or as we call it, FICS. Since our last newsletter in January 2003, we have been busy. First, I am very pleased to announce that FICS is

growing!

We have FIVE new staff we would like to introduce to you. Through our newest project, Proyecto Prevencion, we have three new Interviewers:

**Juana Ramirez, Adjani Piñeiro** and **Jorge Avalos**. **Juana Ramirez** has recently emigrated from her native Cuba and is an Interviewer with our Town N Country site. Juana was a teacher in Cuba and is very interested in HIV prevention. Born in Puerto



Rico, with family in Kissimmee, FL,

**Adjani Piñeiro** is a senior at the University of South Florida majoring in Psychology. She is also the founding President of the USF Young Adult Council # 7096 for the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC).



**Jorge Avalos** is new to the Tampa area, having moved from Maryland. Jorge spent 9 years in his native Guatemala working with indigenous Maya in creating sustainable development. Jorge is now working with **Juan Gomez** as a part-time health promotor with Pocos Hijos. FICS is very excited to welcome Juana, Adjani and Jorge to our Proyecto Prevencion team!



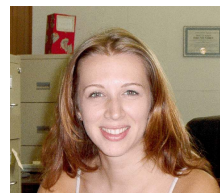
After months of searching for the "right person" to head up the **Vivir Mejor/Live Better Program**, we are very pleased to announce that **Silvia Valdovinos** has joined FICS and has already begun holding

community based classes on cardiovascular health. Based on the Pocos Hijos model, Vivir Mejor is funded by the Gulfcoast Area Health Education Centers. Born in Michoacan, Mexico, Silvia is now a senior at the



University of South Florida majoring in Business. Both Silvia and her husband, Tony Valdovinos, work at the Redlands Christian Migrant Centers as well. ¡Bienvenida, Silvia!

**Yvette Vasquez**, who started out with us when she was a sophomore at USF has now graduated and moved to Texas! (See related article on Page 4.) Yvette cannot be replaced but we now have a new Executive Assistant, who is also serving as the Site



Coordinator for Proyecto Prevencion Town N Country. **Evelyn Hale** is a native of Colombia and is not only fluent in English and Spanish but also sign language. Evelyn has a BS in International Relations from the

University of South Florida and she served as Representative Bob Henriquez's campaign manager last year. We are very glad to have Evelyn on board!

In January the Pocos Hijos Para Darles Mas/Have Fewer Children So You Can Give Them More program hosted our third annual **Three Kings Celebration** at the Wimauma Civic Center, making history since this was the first time children and adults from three different churches united on the same stage! POCOS Hijos also celebrated Father's Day (6/14) with about 70 in



attendance at the Wimauma Civic Center, where **four Exemplary Fathers**, nominated by the community, were recognized as Padres Ejemplares 2003/Exemplary Fathers 2003: **Mr. Pascual Cisneros, Reverend William Cruz, Mr. Javier Izaguirre and Mr. Victor Pecina**. The ceremony was very touching, since the nominators presented the awards to the winners. One of the day's highlights was **Reverend Cruz's** nomination of **Mr. Victor Pecina**, whom he nominated not knowing that he himself had been nominated by his daughter for the same award! ¡Felicidades, son fantasticos! You are great!

The **Rural Youth Soccer Association (RYSA)**, for whom FICS serves as fiscal agent, ended it's fourth season on March 29, 2003 with over 250 four- through nineteen- year olds receiving trophies. Another 24

FICS provides culturally and linguistically appropriate programming and information to help people make more informed decisions.

coaches and assistant coaches were honored as well. The RYSA board awarded three awards this year. **Ms. Alicia Huerta** (Coach U-12) was recognized for her leadership and dedication to making the team a reality. Immediate Past President **Irving Castillo** was awarded a plaque for his vision in getting RYSA going as its first President and **Mary Floyd** (U-14 Girls) was recognized for going the extra mile for her team. As of July 3, 2003, RYSA will be on it's own and FICS will no longer be serving as it's fiscal agent. ¡Buena suerte,

RYSA!

FICS has been hard at work in creating an infrastructure. One of the biggest challenges we faced this year was getting our Institutional Review Board (IRB) up and running. Thanks to FICS Board Member **Dorothy Parker** for serving as the Chair of our IRB! We applied for our Certificate of Confidentiality from the Department of Health and Human Services in April 2003.



Thanks to technical assistance from our funder, the **Centers for Substance Abuse**

**Prevention**, FICS was able to provide a training for our staff and others on "How to Plan for Prevention Services in a Multicultural World" with **Ms. Martha Castañeda**, an outside consultant. The half-day training was well-received and hopefully will serve as a stepping stone for more widespread discussions on HIV and Substance Abuse prevention planning across lines of gender, color, ethnicity, language, class and sexual orientation.



Plant City/Dover Community Advisory Members (l-r): Marisa, Ruby, Eddie and Roxana

**PROYECTO PREVENCIÓN 2003 UPDATE**

As many of you know, our grant from the Centers for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP/SAMHSA), calls for a youth and an adult summit in determining the strategic plan through the consensus model we have been implementing in **Plant City/Dover, Town N**



Wimauma and Ruskin Community Advisory members Gerardo Hurtado (l), DJ Moyo (aka Greg Burgos) and Jaime Juarez

**Country and Wimauma/Ruskin**, areas that were chosen since they have high concentrations of Latinos and also struggle with HIV/AIDS. Site Coordinators, staff, community advisory boards and volunteers have been hard at work to organize the **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Latino Youth Summit**, which will be held at the University of Tampa on July 19,

2003. **CSAP approved our receiving technical assistance from the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation staff Lovelle McMichael and Shylah Moreno**, who will serve as presenters to help us facilitate on this day.

The Summit is being planned with and for the youth and we are proud to announce that our community has come together to provide the extra funding to make the Summit a success. FICS has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the **Children's Board of Hillsborough County** to cover the many expenses involved with a county-wide event for 120+ Latino youth aged 10-18.

**HARTline** is a **Gold Sponsor** by providing "one 39 passenger bus to pick up youth from two locations in Town and Country and one 39 passenger bus to pick up youth at one location in Plant City and one in Dover and transport everyone to/from the event at the University of Tampa." Another **Gold Sponsor** is the **Youth Education Services (YES)** is donating a bus from the South County area of Wimauma and Ruskin to the event. Thank you!

The **University of Tampa** is also a Gold Sponsor and has donated the cost of the historic Fletcher Lounge in the main building and has given a discount on the food for the teens. **Wild 98.7, Sigma Delta Tau** sorority at **USF, Univision Channel 62, Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation Department and RCMA** are co-sponsors for the day, providing radio and television personalities, staff and judges for the Hip Hop Contest. **DJ Moyo of Moyotyme Music** is the Master of Ceremonies for the day's events, which, in addition to the prioritizing and strategic planning, will include:

- Presentations by **Representative Bob**

**Henriquez, County Commissioner Kathy Castor (invited) and Hillsborough County Hispanic Liaison Tony Morejon**

- College and scholarship information from the **ENLACE Program** and **University of Tampa**
- A short training on Teatro Popular (Popular Theater) with **Dr. Jose Blanco**, Florida State University and FICS Board Member



drugs/alcohol

- **Hip Hop Contest:** teens will rap on issues related to Proyecto Prevencion, such as safer sex, abstinence, avoiding violence and

*Proyecto Prevencion Interviewer Adjani Piñeiro (far left, with USF medical student Logan Graddy and Interviewer Jorge Avalos) explains the importance of FICS' involvement with youth:*

It is important for the Florida Institute for Community Studies to be involved with projects like Proyecto Prevención because these programs serve as a voice for the community. The parents and youth get a sense of empowerment because we ask them what THEY want and not what we think they want. It allows them to feel like they have a say in the direction their and their kids lives will take. When are these under represented communities ever asked their needs and wants?

The answer is NEVER! The kids I have gone out and interviewed



have been surprised when I ask them what sorts of things they would like to see in their communities. If you could only see the excitement they get when they start thinking about it, it's as if finally maybe something will get done with them in mind.



**Volunteers and Student Interns**

Our Spring 2003 student intern **Christian Reed** (USF Anthropology, MA student) is off to Botswana and South Africa on his **CDC Global AIDS Program Internship** to do key informant interviews with companies that have workforce HIV Prevention or



Treatment Programs in these countries. Way to go, Christian! **“Dr. Larry” Simpson** also interned with us in Spring 2003 as part of his MPH requirements in the **USF College of Public Health in**



**Health Policy and Management.** An Emergency Room physician, “Dr. Larry” was a lifesaver for us because he learned Access and designed our databases for Proyecto Prevencion. ¡Gracias, Dr. Larry! **Amy Stencel** is a 19-year old intern from the **University of the South** who is majoring in Spanish. Amy is interning and working for FICS as a part-time interviewer.



She's only here this summer but she's been invaluable!



L-R, Kylie Ranger, Promotional Edge, Hero JoAnn Mumford (Brooksville, FL), Rick Ryan, Alayne Unterberger and Hero Liane Mark (Hawaii)

Thanks to FICS Board Member and Super-volunteer, **Rick Ryan**, [www.ficsinc.org](http://www.ficsinc.org) got a make-over and is much easier to navigate!

**FICS Founder Alayne Unterberger Recognized as a Lifetime Television Hometown**

**Hero, by Rick Ryan**

As a board member of FICS, I am committed to helping turn this good idea into a reality that will meet our mission statement. That takes all kinds of efforts - but especially FUNDING. One night while on the Internet, I saw that Lifetime Television was accepting nominations for Hometown Hero awards to recognize outstanding women who are active in making their communities better places for others to live. I nominated Alayne to represent the Tampa Bay region for her seemingly tireless work with the underserved in Hillsborough county, most notably the migrant farmworker community.

In my nomination letter to Lifetime, I told them about FICS' projects like “¡Pocos Hijos Para Darles Mas!” which translates as “Have Fewer Children, So You Can Give Them More!” and a newer project “Vivir Mejor” (“Live Better”). These projects responded to problems that community people brought to her attention, which is why they work.

In addition to researching, setting up and running these projects, Alayne has also worked endless hours to write grants to attempt to secure funding for all of the projects' futures. Until recently Alayne has done all of this completely by herself! I feel that Alayne, through her efforts, has been able to significantly impact the lives of many people in a positive manner. I have not met anyone who gives more of themselves, for others. It's likely many people view this fantastic woman as a hero in their communities!

Lifetime did not reward FICS with any monetary compensation but they did send us to New

York City, where we met other outstanding women (as seen in the photo). The Lifetime TV website has details at: [http://www.lifetimetv.com/community/olc/hero/local\\_heroes.html](http://www.lifetimetv.com/community/olc/hero/local_heroes.html).

***I urge you to make a tax-deductible contribution of whatever you can to FICS to help offset the costs associated with this kind of work, such as food for community meetings, liability insurance, utilities and office supplies (such as copier paper!).***  
Congratulations, Alayne!

### Do you want to help?

There are many ways you can help FICS. We have opportunities for donors, membership, student internships, collaboration on grants/projects, consulting and we welcome FICS faculty who have ideas for projects. We always need help in the form of:

Phone Answerers	Marketers or Fundraisers
General Office Support	Newsletter Editors
Researchers	Data Entry/Analysis

You can also help by making a **tax deductible donation** (Gold \$200+, Silver \$100-199 and Bronze \$99 or less) for the Adult Summit (to offset t-shirts, etc.) or to offset the invisible costs we have acquired (like office supplies, liability insurance, electricity, etc).

### ***Thanks to all of the following individuals for their recent contributions to FICS:***

Larry Simpson, MD	Donna Parrino
Ann Cranston-Gingras, PhD	John Sinnott, MD
Durand and Pat Smoot	Dorothy Parker
John Wills J	uan Gomez
Hendrick	Serrie, PhD



*Thanks also to the following organizations and businesses:* Cigar Factory (furniture), Holland and Knight (furniture/file cabinets), University of Tampa (computers)



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## Congratulations!



Most of you know **Yvette Vasquez**, who has worked with the Pocos Hijos program since 2000. Since May 3, 2003, she's now **Yvette Vasquez, BS**. We are very proud of Yvette, who became the first person in her family to graduate from college. Yvette leaves us to relocate to the Dallas area where she has already gotten a well-paying job with Enterprise Rent A Car. You go, girl!

We are also happy to announce that **Gabriela Ramirez**, the Behavioral Epidemiologist on the SAMHSA Proyecto Prevencion project, received her doctorate in Epidemiology at USF the same day Yvette graduated. Both Yvette and Gabriela are wonderful role models for our youth!  
¡Sí, se puede! Congratulations!  
¡Felicitaciones a las dos!



### Upcoming Events

September 2003	Latino Summit (Adult)
October 2003	Distribution of Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS and Substance Abuse
December 2003	One Year Anniversary FICS

### Contact us for more information:

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