



FLORIDA INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY STUDIES, INC. (FICS)
El Instituto de Estudios Comunitarios de la Florida, Inc.

Newsletter Fall 2008

Volume 6, #2



Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Fall has finally arrived and with it our latest news from the Florida Institute for Community Studies (FICS). In this edition, we CELEBRATE many successes, including hundreds of youth and parents in our targeted communities: Town n Country, Plant City, Wimauma, Dover, Ruskin, Riverview, even Pasco County. We share highlights from the **Multicultural Food and Art Celebration**, **Health Careers** and **Summer Brilla Showcase**. Next we are celebrating our **6th Anniversary** on December 4th at the Davis Island Garden Center (7-10 PM) and our **Annual Open House** on December 5th at the **Multicultural Family Center, 6704 Hanley Road, Tampa 33634**. Thank you for six great years! **Please join us!**



PROYECTO PREVENCIÓN *Nadia Palomino, Program Leader,*
Project Prevention is Recognized as Everyday Hero by Bay
News 9!

FICS is very happy to report that our very own Nadia, aka Miss Nadia, of Project Prevention was featured as October's Everyday Hero by Bay News 9 for her tireless work to prevent teen pregnancy, gang involvement, substance abuse and HIV/AIDS.

Project Prevention, our 4-year SAMHSA-funded HIV and Substance Abuse Prevention initiative, graduated 678 youth between the ages of 10 and 18. Nadia remembers all their names, their parents' names and even their siblings' names! Way to go Nadia and Project Prevention! Watch here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3i9DUMNI70E>
Has Project Prevention made a difference in your life?
Tell us: ficsnadia@yahoo.com



92.5 Maxima staff helped out on National Hispanic-Latino HIV Testing Day,

motivating 18 people to get tested for the first time! Thanks to Abel Samaniego, Hills. County Health Department and Armando at Metro Charities for helping do bilingual tests!



The Florida Institute For Community Studies cordially invites you to celebrate

Celebrate!



Support!



Enjoy!

our **6th Anniversary!**



Where: Davis Island Garden Club
 81 Columbia Drive, Tampa FL, 33606

When: Thursday December 4th, 2008

Time: 7pm-10pm, free parking

Theme: Caribbean Nights

Cost: \$25 per person

\$40 per couple

\$160- Table of 8 sponsorship



THIS EVENT INCLUDES A SILENT AUCTION, DINNER BUFFET, MUSIC, DANCING, AND ENTERTAINMENT. DONATE A TOY & PLEASE RSVP: 813-249-8100, OR 813-477-2882, YOU CAN ALSO EMAIL [FICSVIVIAN@YAHOO.COM](mailto:ficsvivan@yahoo.com).



Volunteer Corner: ¡Dando Gracias! Thanks to Taina and the Tampa Big Givers who gave out 60 backpacks filled with school supplies to our Safe Summer Youth. **Pictured here is Taina with our Cespedes kids (Sara, Ana, Jonathan and Joshua) in front of FICS' Multicultural Family Center.**

We need volunteers! Call 249.8100 or write Alayne@tampabay.rr.com anytime and our Volunteer Orientation is held the second Wednesday of the Month.

Summer Happenings: FICS on the Move Everywhere!



State Representative Mike Scionti, his legislative assistant John Rodriguez and FICS Board member Jack Levine visited the FICS Summer Program youth and discussed the future of Town n Country and Tampa.



This year, FICS had a summer program with 20 youth and our joint FICS-YMCA summer program had another 40 youth, for a total of 60 youth served! Summer is always a busy time at FICS but this summer was especially fun for all. **This year, our youth learned more words in English and Spanish and learned a great deal of geography!** Below are some pictures from Fear Factor, our Talent Show and End of Summer Bash, where we said “Hasta Luego” to Miss Arlene (below right) ! Please think of donating to FICS now to help us next summer and get your tax deduction now!



First Annual Multicultural Food and Art Celebration Puts FICS in the Creative Economy! By Aldo Gamez, FICS Studio Assistant



The Annual Multicultural Food and Art Celebration is a celebration that allows for young as well as local artists to showcase and sell their work. The event focused on showcasing the arts and we raised \$500 for new art supplies at the FICS Multicultural Family Center! The atmosphere is that of a true art gallery. Giving young artists a sense of pride in their works, the celebration also gives them valuable experience in showcasing of art for future shows. The food served came from around the globe, making it one of the most diverse selections one will ever find under a single roof, from Ethiopia to Cuba! Singer-songwriter Ngaire, from St. Petersburg stopped by and wowed us all with her original songs! This event is one of a kind, and brings everyone in the community together to see how talented the children and local artists are. **Stay tuned for our next shows!**



Combating – and Winning – the War on Diabetes with Support from the Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida



Ana Sanchez has lived in Wimauma, Florida, since her parents moved from Guerrero, Mexico to work in the fields some fifteen years ago. They migrated for awhile but eventually settled in South Hillsborough County, where Ana now lives with her husband and child. When she became our Promotora – Health Promoter – for the **Sweethearts Program**, her major qualification was that she was the caretaker for her stubborn grandmother who had diabetes. After receiving training from FICS and partners at Suncoast Community Health Centers and Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA), Ana went straight to the missions, houses, camps. Almost a year later, she is a champion and leader in her community. So much so that when **Don Luviano**, pictured

above, was very sick and unable to walk, one of the ladies went straight to Ana to ask for help. Ana went out to the travel trailer where he lived and was shocked to see how ill he really was.

After a week in the hospital and many clinic appointments, Ana has acquired a #1 Fan in Don Luviano, who calls Alayne regularly to tell her how grateful he is that “Anita” saved his life. Today, as you can see above at the FICS’ – Beth-El Mission Mexican Independence Day Celebration, Don Luviano is much better, the wound on his foot is healing and his diabetes is under control. Luviano is only one of the 600 patients who have been helped by Sweethearts in under one year. We have detected dozens of cases of undiagnosed diabetes and assisted with 500 high-risk Suncoast patients to get their diabetes under control through peer education and home visitation. **Gabriela Sauza is covering East Hillsborough County and Ana is covering South County.** They prove every day that one person can indeed make a difference! Our next event is **Three Kings Day in Wimauma**, where there will be free health screenings, toys, food and fun! Please call Ana or Alayne at 813.249.8100 for more information. ¡Sí, se puede! Yes we can! Join us.

TC Prodigy Shines * Summer Brilla & Fall Showcases

Our youth have lost their fear – no stagefright anymore here in Town n Country with Prodigy!

We had a standing-room only show in August at the Town n Country Recreation Center and are gearing up for our Fall Showcase at the Jackson Springs Recreation Center on November 15, 2008. Youth and parents shine – *brillan* – at the prospect of success! We offer capoeira (Brazilian dance), dance, drums, art and photography. We have two Fall Showcases: November 15, 2008 (2-4 PM, Jackson Springs Park, TNC) and December 13 (UACDC, 22nd Street, Tampa).



Health Careers Trains 82 Multicultural Youth in Two Expeditions



For the third year in a row, FICS teamed up with **Gulfcoast North AHEC** and provided intensive career education regarding university entrance, health related occupations and even dissection of a sheep heart/lungs at MOSI. FICS targeted the youth from partner agency **Redlands Christian Migrant Association** (pictured at right with **Dr. Larry Simpson at St. Anthony’s Hospital**), several schools in Hillsborough and Pasco County and the University Area Community Development

Corporation. We send a special “shout out” to Dr. Simpson and administrators at St. Anthony’s Hospital who allowed us to tour a working ER, Blood Bank/Lab, Physical Therapy and Radiology Department! Thank you to our sites and presenters: **Museum of Science and Industry**, **University of South Florida**, **Gus Halawani**, **Dr. Dexter Frederick**, **St. Petersburg College**, **Dr. Slone (USF Patient Simulator)**, **St. Petersburg Free Clinic**, **Shriner’s Hospital** and **BayFlite/BayFront Hospital!**

Yusuf Isin, director, visits FICS and talks to youth about making movies and avoiding substance abuse. Thanks Yusuf!



Become a Madrina or Padrino today!



My name is Jade. I have been coming to the Center for 3 years. The kids appreciate your help! Thanks!

We need your support to fund our Summer and Afterschool Programs!
Every little bit helps...mail your tax-deductible contribution to Florida Institute for Community Studies (FICS), PO Box 16745, Tampa FL 33687

Thanks....¡Mil Gracias! FICS has raised a total of

\$12,859 so far in 2008, with \$6739 in cash and \$6130 in-kind donations.

- \$4100 Maria Antonieta Riveros Revello
- \$2000 Starbucks/ Westshore Mall (Derek Kurhs)
- \$ 675 Chili's Restaurant, Hillsborough (Kevin Montgomery)
- \$1300 Jack Levine, JD
- \$ 600 Tampa Big Givers/Taina
- \$1500 Pablo Sierra

Less than \$500: Business Donors: Casper's Corporation (Bob Conigliaro), Club 15, Inc., Home Depot (Sun City Center), Queen of Sheeba Restaurant (Seble Gizaw), Walmart (Sun City Center) & Wal-Mart (Tomas Perez-TC).

Individual Donors: Harold Adrich, Larry Aiello, Hulda Aleman, Alfredo Alfonso, Fernando Alfonso, Leonard Alfonso, Yaime Alfonso, Nestor Alonso, Randall Alvarez, Richard Appelbaum, Marvis Aguilar, Vivienne Brown, Heather Burg, Rosallie Castro, Jessica Coppin, Sara Deats, Oriana Eversole, Epi Febres, Vivian Fisk, Ernestina Galmafus, Matilda Garcia, Josh Geary, Ernestina Gittens, Luis Gomez, Natalia Gordillo, Juan Grandal, Taina Benites Grufado, Rina Herasme, Mat Horner, Paula Jory, Patricia Kemp, Carlton Lewis, Dan Linderman, Marleny Lopez, Octavio Lopez, Joffre Macias, Nilsa Martinez, Samon Martinez, Lydia Medrano, Georgina Mirales, Lisa Montelione, Kevin Montgomery, John Napora, Silvia Panzavolta, Astrid Rendon, Maria Reyes, Martha Robinson, Giannina Rodriquez, Ana Sanchez, Dr. Hendrick Serrie, Margaret Shepard, Dr. Larry Simpson, Giovanna Taylor, Gillian Thiebe, Carlos Utera, Andrew Wellington, Dr. Alvin and Barbara Wolfe, Dafani Yunez and Joe Zuñiga

Florida Institute for Community Studies (FICS) Statistics FY 2008-9	
Sign Ins since 2005:	12,085
HIV tests completed	280
# HIV positive tests	1
Health Careers Expeditions 2008	82
Project Prevention Graduates	678
Prodigy Students (2007-8 only)	480
Prodigy Students (July 2008 -present)	227
Summer Program (2008 only)	72



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