



A Resource In Serving Equality

Winter 2011 - Vol. 42

**25 Years Strengthening Our Communities
25 Años Fortaleciendo Nuestras Comunidades**

Dear friends: This holiday season we would like to thank you for your continued support. ARISE is entering its 25th year of serving families in the colonias. Your generosity & support has been essential to our success and has allowed us to continue our work.

Enjoy your holidays and our newsletter!

LOOKING FORWARD: REVISIONING OUR ELDC PROGRAM

ARISE's ELDC (English Language Development) program was started in an effort to provide extra support in reading and writing to first and second grade children whose native language is Spanish. This year we decided to revise the program by bringing in Lili Estrada, a UTPA Bilingual Education Graduate. Every week she met with the animadoras of all the ELDC classes to introduce new strategies, techniques, and activities that can be implemented into their classes. We asked her to share her experience with our ELDC program. *I take pleasure in working at ARISE because I am surrounded with optimistic people who care for children and want to help them reach the necessary academic success to become productive members of society. ELDC offers children the opportunity*

to engage in fun learning activities such as Read-Alouds, journal writing, baking (using recipes and following each step), singing, playing games, etc. It is also important to form a strong academic foundation in one's native language in order for concepts and skills to transfer to the second language. My job is to make sure that the animadoras are presenting quality lessons that will help bilingual learners improve their reading and writing skills. I also assist them by answering questions, guiding them, providing advice and suggestions to better their teaching methods, and providing in-service sessions to help the animadoras build better relationships with their students, parents, and schools. Together we can accomplish more for the education of our bilingual learners.



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1 & 2. ELDC training sessions with Lili Estrada, 3. ARISE South Tower ELDC class with their animadora Ashley, 4. ARISE Las Milpas ELDC class with their animadora Mayra, 5. ARISE South Tower ELDC class with their animadora Irma, 6. ARISE Muñiz ELDC class with their animadora Azanette



IDRA, ARISE & FAIR FUNDING NOW!

ARISE implements education into everything we do, working with both youth and adults in our communities. IDRA, the Intercultural Development Research Association, has been working with ARISE for the past 10 years, providing us with the technical support, training, and leadership skills needed to understand the education system and legislation in the U.S. A few weeks ago, they spent the entire day with ARISE, explaining their Fair Funding Now! Initiative. In an effort to give a voice to students and parents affected by school funding cuts, Fair Funding Now! provides a way to document the changes seen in schools. Our morning began with the monthly PTA meeting, in which Aurelio & Hector showed parents how to participate in Fair Funding Now! In the afternoon IDRA broadcast a live webinar, focusing on PTA comunitarios.

PTA members Eva Carranza, Lourdes Flores, and Sandra Carrillo discussed various topics with Aurelio, while people from other parts of the U.S. were listening in. In the evening over 75 youth were invited for a Fair Funding Now! workshop. IDRA showed students how to input stories via the website, email and twitter. Many of the youth stood up and shared changes they had noticed in their schools such as: less security guards, no after-school tutoring, and how many of the kids have to now wait on the corner of their streets because busses won't drive into neighborhoods anymore. It is important that kids and parents in our communities SPEAK UP because they are the worst affected. Now is the time to show how much we care about the future of our youth and the changes we want to see implemented for a better education in our schools.



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Large companies get privileges that result in limited resources for schools. The Texas Legislature had the power to demand higher contributions by big businesses and yet chose to reduce funding for education. Is this fair?

(from IDRA's presentation on Fair Funding Now!)



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1. ARISE PTA Comunitario monthly meeting

2. IDRA's live webinar featuring ARISE PTA Comunitario (Aurelio, Eva, Lourdes, Hector)

3 – 6. Evening meeting with youth from the community to discuss Fair Funding Now!



ARISE WOMEN SPEAK AT MACC



From L to R: Andrea Landeros, Lourdes Sierra, Denise Sausville

MACC held a symposium focusing on violence on the border and invited people living in different parts of the border to share their experiences. Denise Sausville, RSM, an ARISE volunteer, was asked to speak about a paper she had written called “The Mexican Immigrant & The Violence Of Scapegoating”. Denise invited Andrea Landeros & Lourdes Sierra, two ARISE staff members, to accompany her to the symposium and share their thoughts on why they came to the U.S. and their experiences as immigrants in this country. In her paper she explains how history shows that “any new population of immigrants that come in will be at the bottom of the heap and will be scapegoated”. She also touches on xenophobia (fear of the unknown), racism, and nativism (the idea that one group defines who is an American). To begin demythologizing immigrants people need to meet immigrants and hear their stories.

COSTURA HARGILL

Hargill is a small community located north of Edinburg, TX. Although ARISE does not have a community center in Hargill, we have been reaching out to the community with classes and different activities for a few years. Esperanza Berrones, an ARISE Muñiz staff member, takes a volunteer from ARISE, Imelda Castillo to give sewing classes in Hargill. Imelda learned how to sew when taking classes at ARISE Muñiz. “The women from Hargill are very open and cooperative. I loved their hospitality and warmth and they are always very supportive of each other and keep each other informed and they have lots of enthusiasm to learn.” Imelda is one example of how participation and learning something new leads to leadership. She is now planting leadership seeds in the women of Hargill.



Imelda Castillo teaches women sewing in Hargill, TX

MUJERES SEMBRANDO PARA UN FUTURO MEJOR

Growing Organic Vegetables at ARISE Support Center

NUESTRO JARDIN



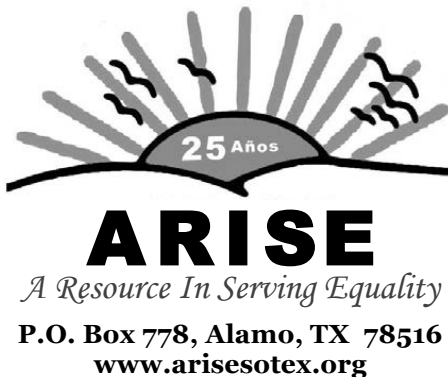
DAMOS GRACIAS POR:

Dear friends, we have many things to be thankful for this year. Every day we are presented with new challenges. We are thankful for having family and friends that give us hope and by their actions show us a way to fulfillment. We also thank God for:

- *the 100 high school students who spend part of their summer putting a smile on children's faces.*
- *the 80 young people who gave up their Thursday evening to attend a workshop about fair funding for schools to see what they can do to make a difference*
- *the 40 young people who gave up their Saturday to participate in a Mercy retreat*
- *Taylor, a summer volunteer, who was so touched by her experience with children from our summer program that she spent her 16th Birthday raising money for ARISE*
- *Pedro, a youth from the community, who came home from college to visit his family for Thanksgiving and spent a morning with ARISE in a community celebration*
- *Aida, who after losing her house in a fire, always had a smile as a sign of hope and gratitude*
- *Jasmine, who spent a day at her mom's work & at the end of the day said, "Mommy I love your work!"*
- *all those who spent many hours sewing quilts to make 100 families warm during winter*
- *all the ARISE staff whose love and dedication to the communities is immeasurable and unstoppable*
- *all those who have touched our lives and have helped in the growth and leadership of ARISE*
- *all the things that God has given and denied us*
- *all those who were part of our formation*

May the coming year be filled with joy and many accomplishments! Feliz Navidad!

*Lourdes Flores,
President of ARISE Support Center*



Please visit us at: arisesotex.org to learn more about the transformations that are happening in communities that ARISE serves. You can also make an online donation. It's fast & easy! To stop receiving ARISE information please contact us at (956) 783-6959 or arisesotex@arisesotex.org.

We also always welcome letters to the above address. Thank you for the continued support!