

2 0 1 3 A N N U A L E D I T I O N

day worker center of mountain view



RELIABLE WORKERS ☺ READY TO SERVE

Sueños de Esperanza DREAMS OF HOPE

"You should return / to your country, / my heart says loudly. / Stay here longer and work, / My reason advises," pines Lilia, one of the four immigrant women whose stories of heartbreak and hope premiered in *Sueños de Esperanza (Dreams of Hope)*, a musical program written especially for the Day Worker Center as a fundraiser.



Elena sings of Lilia's quandary.
(Photo by Ausencio Alvarez.)

To make up the four women in the program, many compañeras from the Center shared their life stories and their fears, anguish and dreams with several interviewers. María Marroquín wove their stories into the four tone poems that make up the program, each poem in the voice of a different character.



Composer, director and accompanist Henry Mollicone presents soprano Elena Galván. (Photo courtesy of Mary Bender.)

Internationally known composer Henry Mollicone then set the poems to beautiful, haunting music and soprano Elena

continued on page 4

EXCERPT FROM "#4 MARÍA"

I repeat it and repeat it until it sticks in my mind.
Still the question is always with me:
To stay here or return to Oaxaca?
To give him food or love?

I ask the Lord that the border
Not divide more families;
I plead for His help
To stop my crying
And stop so much death.

I ask for His presence
to repair so much damage.
He is the almighty.
He also has a mother.



“Connecting Threads” EXHIBIT OF WORKER-MADE QUILTS

While waiting to be employed, about 100 men and women from different countries learned to express their memories, dreams, and hopes through the art of quilting from volunteer and project coordinator Naomi Zamir. As each person created their quilt square, they would talk about it "in class as a fun ... way to practice English," said Zamir. "Each picture opened a window to the inner world of

continued on page 4



Connecting a butterfly panel to one of the beautiful quilts.

Through the Eyes of One Family

THE VILLEGAS-GARCIAS

Jose Villegas was ready to settle down and start a family. For a young man who had only finished middle school before his family needed him to dropout and help at home, the prospects of work in Mexico were slim. So, leaving behind his family and the girl of his dreams, Jose trekked north, searching for work and a better life.

Arriving in the Bay Area, he found a job making pizza. Although it didn't pay a lot, the wages were enough that he could send for his sweetheart, Eloisa Garcia. The family was soon blessed with a boy and girl.

With two more mouths to feed, Eloisa needed to work. From friends, she heard about the Day Worker Center where she could find work as a housekeeper. Each day Eloisa puts her name on the list, one of around 15 women hoping to work, and keeps her fingers crossed that enough

employers will show up to hire everyone on the list. When she does work, it is usually for only four hours. The next day her name goes to the bottom of the list so other workers will have a fair chance. Getting hired is hit and miss; but the Center makes sure she is always paid for her work. Each day when she arrives there is coffee and a roll and later, a hot lunch, which helps stretch her meager wages. If she's not feeling well, Gardner Mobile Health Services provides free health care during its weekly stop at the Center.

It wasn't long before Jose found himself at the Day Worker Center, too: When the pizza restaurant closed, Jose was jobless. With a

family to support, finding work was urgent. Now, Jose signs up to work every day, but can never be sure when he will be hired. He says it's an average of three to five half-days a week, at \$12 an hour.

"These few hours don't cover much," he says, thinking about his basic living necessities. But the Center gives him a roof over his head during the day and a dignified way to look for work. He doesn't have to stand in the cold and rain outside of Home Depot and compete with other men for jobs. Plus, when he's not working, Jose takes free,

volunteer-taught classes at the Day Worker Center to learn English (ESL) and business skills.

Jose's focus is on business workshops and OSHA safety-training classes. He also takes specific job skills classes, like grass-cutting and planting. He chuckled as he said he had even learned to clean a fish tank. "I love to learn new things," said Jose. His English improves by the day.

Eloisa also makes use of the Center's classes. She's a recent graduate of the Community Emergency

Response Team (CERT) training offered by the City of Mountain View, and is certified in CPR and first aid, as well. Eloisa takes ESL, plus computer skills, sewing, jewelry-making, and even house-cleaning classes. As she says, "Even though I know how [to do it], you can always improve."

This is a family that loves to learn. Daniela, now in sixth grade, is at the

Day Worker Center almost as often as her parents, attending the Home-work Club tutoring program offered twice a week by De Anza College students. With her academic prowess, she won President Obama's Award for Outstanding Scholarship two years running and, she also earned a scholarship to attend the prestigious Middle School Camp program at Saint Francis High School. She likes to help around the Center, making seasonal decorations. (Daniela also assisted with this story by helping with translations between her parents and the interviewer.)

The Villegas-Garcia family has found a home-away-from-home at the Center. As much as they love their new country, Jose and Eloisa sometimes yearn for the people they

left behind. They also fondly remember traditions and social gatherings, such dancing in the town-square on Independence Day, and caroling from one door to the next for food and drinks during the eight-day La Posada celebrating Christ's birth.

Luckily, they find some of that home-town friendliness at the Day Worker Center. When a cousin had a medical emergency, Jose and Eloisa's compañer@s gave money from their own pockets to help.

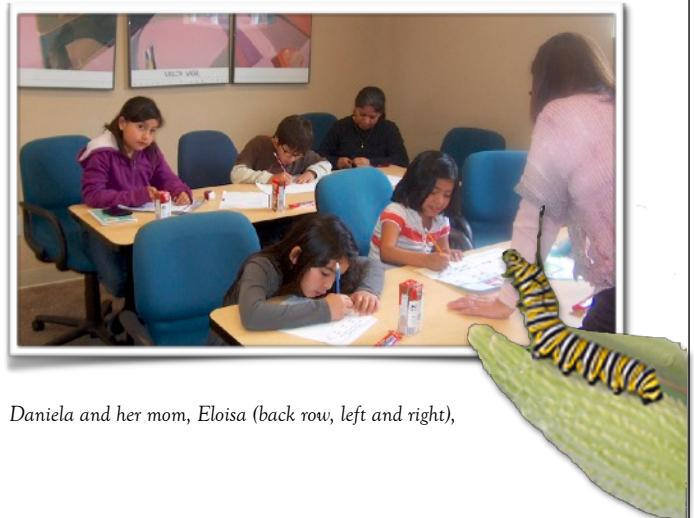
Says Eloisa, "This is the real family, here."



Daniela shows off her academic rewards.

"This is the real family, here."
— Eloisa Garcia

"I love to learn new things."
— Jose Villegas



Daniela and her mom, Eloisa (back row, left and right),

Giving from the Heart

Day workers are generous, neighborly, and always willing to help. "Even though the workers have very little, they give a lot," comments Maria Marroquin, executive director.



Ready in an emergency: Many of our workers are CPR-certified, and quite a few have completed the extensive Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training offered by the City of Mountain View which prepares residents to help their families in an emergency.

fificant amounts of cash.

But emergency fund collecting is just one way that workers contribute. They also pitch in by:

- * Knitting blankets for premature babies at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital
- * Being ready to help in an emergency by training in CPR and CERT
- * Landscaping senior gardens and
- * Working at the Sunnyvale Full Circle Organic Farm
- * Sharing produce from the Center's vegetable garden
- * Cleaning local streets
- * Maintaining the Center's building and grounds
- * Helping Mountain View and Los Altos, churches, organizations, and schools with festivals and events

The compaño@s regularly collect money for other workers or their families who are in need. And when disasters strike in the US or around the world, such as when Hurricane Katrina struck the Louisiana coast, or after Japan's tsunami, they collect signifi-



*Reduce,
Reuse . . .
Re-Imagine*

The compaño@s take recycling to heart, and they give from the heart: the Center's recycling program raises money for the workers' emergency fund. This fund has helped many of the workers and their families when a medical emergency strikes or in other time of need.

Now the workers are learning that recycling can also mean re-imagining. Under the tutelage of Matilde Muñoz of Promotoras Verdes of East Palo Alto, workers transform paper, bottles and cans into baskets and other works of art. In Matilde's popular weekly class "Art From Nothing," students turn free recyclable materials into sellable art.



You can help! Contribute to the workers' emergency fund and the recycled materials art program by dropping off your recyclable bottles and cans at the Center during normal operating hours. Or patronize the Red Rock Cafe or the Mongolian Barbecue in Mountain View where they collect and hold recyclables for us to pick up.

Josefina Bailon presents the artful basket she made from recycled materials.

UNVEILING PARTY

At the June dedication party where we unveiled the stunning "recognition wall" that now graces our lobby, guests sampled tasty worker-made appetizers as the Day Worker Center's Latin Duo serenaded them.

The central brass sculpture of workers was created by supporter Jerry Smith. The striking tile art was created by artists at the Orchard Valley Ceramic Arts Guild. It features tools commonly used by compaño@s surrounding the tiles with

donors' names. All of the artists donated their work to the Center.

After the art piece was unveiled, major donor and volunteer ESL teacher Richard Strock addressed the assembled donors, workers, staff, volunteers, and political dignitaries. He thanked all the donors who supported the Center's new home and whose names are now immortalized on the wall.

Also that evening, the Day Worker Center's conference room was dedicated in memory of founder Kate Wakerley. Her husband, John, relayed how much the Center had

meant to Kate, and expressed his profound gratitude for the Center remembering Kate in such a concrete way.



In front of the eye-catching recognition wall are Maria and two friends from KGO-TV ABC Channel 7.

continued from page 1

Galván artfully interpreted the melodies. Mollicone also directed the program. As master of ceremonies, Day Worker Center board president Craig Sherod kept the evening flowing smoothly.

The women's stories in *Sueños de Esperanza* (*Dreams of Hope*) deeply touched the audience of workers, staff, board members and

supporters who attended the premier performance on October 25 at the Community School of Music and Arts in Mountain View.

The character Alicia pleads the prayer of every parent the world over: “*Our children are / our blessing / To protect them so that / they don't feel any pain, / That they study, that they prosper / Is our most important mission.... / To help them achieve their dreams. / This is all that I ask.*”

Following the program, the audience took part in a witty musical auction of three on-the-spot musical compositions by Mollicone. Leading the auction was local baritone, conductor and director Michael Morris. This humorous ending to the evening raised even more funds for the Day Worker Center.

Our heart-felt thanks to the Community School of Music and Arts in Mountain View for graciously offering us their facilities for both events.



continued from page 1

the individuals ... and provided a focal point for conversations among them.”

Said compañera Sobeida Lopez, “We have such a good time while we wait for work, singing and talking and being productive, too. We sing in English, we talk about other



cultures, and we enjoy each other's company.”

Reyna Hernandez enjoyed singing as she quilted.

“While sewing, we hear the romantic music, which reminds us of our youth and those happy

moments that passed. We practice

similar words of Spanish and

English and we communicate with each other.”

As guests mingled at the October 25 wine and

cheese reception at the Community School of Music and Arts awaiting entrance to *Sueños de Esperanza* (*Dreams of Hope*), they were treated to an exhibit of these stunning quilts. Worker Demetrio Renteria addressed the assembled group, “Thank you



I know my life is very good because our Day Worker Center exists.”

— Demetrio Renteria, day

for coming

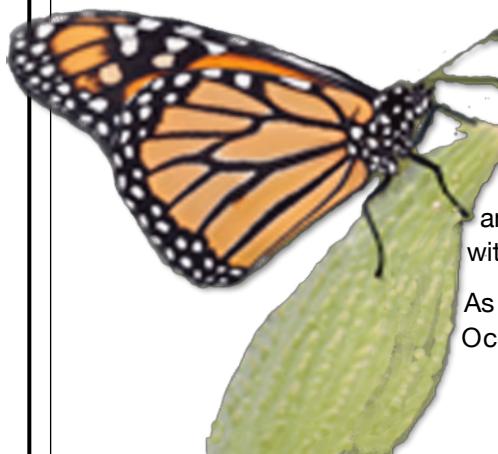
tonight,” he said. “Singing and sewing we learn how to make beautiful and colorful little blankets better known as quilts. All of this was

new for all the day workers. We enjoy that learning process for the last four years. I know my life is very good because our Day Worker Center exists. The workers love you!”

The exhibit of these heartfelt worker masterpieces began on October 11, and continues through November 30.

Don't miss it!

A special thank-you to volunteer project coordinator Naomi Zamir for interviewing the compañer@s, and to all the workers who shared their thoughts.



Tools & Equipment Needed!

When workers can borrow equipment from the Center, they secure more jobs, provide better service and do better work. If you have spare tools in good condition, consider donating them to the Center. (New tools welcome, too!) Please don't feel limited by our suggestions.

Sewing machines	Tiller	Leaf blower	Level
Canning supplies	Tamper	Garden clippers	Measuring tape
Large cooking pans	Stud sensor	Gloves	Rubber mallet
Paint brushes	5-in-1 tool	Goggles	Adjustable wrench
Paint rollers	Drill	Hard hat	Tile-cutter
Drop cloth	Vacuum	Lifting belt	Reference books &
Buckets	Glue guns	Tool belt	DVDs
Pegboard	Bike pump		

PREFER TO DONATE BY CHECK?

YOUR MONETARY GIFT WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARD FULFILLING ITEMS ON OUR WISH



Changing Lives, One Class at a Time

Almost two-thirds of the workers who show up at the Center each day will not be hired not be hired for the whole day. However, their time is still productive because of the classes they can take to improve their skills.

The Day Worker Center invites “graduates” from the Center and other professionals to volunteer their time and expertise to teach specific skills, and organizations like OSHA and the ACLU give workshops on workers’ safety and rights. Says executive director María Marroquín, “We prepare people to fly with their own wings.”

Here are just some of the classes the Center provides.

- * English as a Second Language: Our amazing, all-volunteer-run ESL program runs six days a week, two to three classes a day. Individual tutoring is also available.
- * Spanish Literacy: De Anza College students teach Spanish literacy once a week. Our goal is to have all the workers literate in both Spanish and English.
- * Homework Club: De Anza College students tutor workers’ children in English, Spanish, math, and other subjects.
- * Computer Skills: Computer literacy program includes basic and advanced, group or individual.
- * Job Skills & Job-Training Workshops: Heat exhaustion safety, cleaning houses quickly and effectively, “green” house-cleaning, setting a restaurant table, gardening, how to prune roses / rake / remove weeds, proper and safe use of gardening tools, house maintenance, proper moving and handling techniques, car detailing, preparation and painting basics, and various workshops on workers’ safety and rights.
- * Resumés: Workers learn to create their resumés to take the next step in professionalism and self-sufficiency.

- * Professionalism Series: Topics include interview skills, talking to employers, dealing with difficult situations, being work ready, the importance of getting a good review, using Craigslist and other technologies for job searches.
- * Arts and Crafts: Jewelry, arts and crafts with recyclables, guitar playing and painting, sewing, cake baking and decorating.
- * Emergency Skills: CERT training (City of Mountain View), and CPR.
- * Health: Healthy eating, safe biking, and Zumba and other fitness classes every morning.
- * Living Skills: Consumer’s rights, tenant’s rights, parenting, and budgeting classes, to name just a few.



Workers learn computer skills from Sergio Martinez.
(Photo courtesy of Mary Bender.)

You Can Help! DEVELOPING JOBS

Could you feed your family on \$96 a week? Of the 70-some workers at the Center each day, around 30 will be matched to employers and sent on jobs. But as the rainy season arrives and people hire less help with gardening or moving, the jobs dwindle to a handful a day.

This is why the Job Development program is crucial. The program has two major goals: generate more employment opportunities for workers, and prepare workers for jobs with skill-building workshops.

There are so many things you can do to help the jobs drive and, ultimately, better the life of a day worker:



- * Hire a worker.
- * Tell your friends and family about us.
- * Arrange a presentation at your church,

KMVT interviews Robin at the Mountain View Art & Wine Festival about the Day Worker Center.

neighborhood association, book club, or school.

- * Post flyers in the neighborhood.
- * Staff a table at a festival or street fair.
- * Volunteer by phone-banking or canvassing.
- * Donate tools, safety wear or other supplies for the workers.
- * Teach a jobs-skills workshop.

It is such a pleasure to work as the Jobs Developer Coordinator! I have had the opportunity to meet so many amazing people; it is such a wonderful community. Thank you for all that you do for the Day Worker Center.

— Robin Goka, Jobs Developer Coordinator

Flying Solo, Together

Preparing people to fly, connecting the threads to foster their hopes and dreams, we improve lives through education delivered with the love and passion of our many caring and talented volunteers.

Thanks to your support, the Day Worker Center celebrates another year of amazing achievements! From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank you for your steady, stalwart and continued support, and assure you that we will always do our very best to help the workers fly with strong wings, proving that together we can do it. *Si Se Puede!*

— María Marroquín
Executive Director

Maria Named “Local Hero”

The Day Worker Center is a strong community and a hub for area activities and services. In tribute to the Day Worker Center and its executive director's hard work over the past 15 years dedicated to immigrant rights and empowering day workers, María Marroquín was chosen as a 2013 Bay Area Local Hero for Latino Heritage! Bestowed annually in September by public television station KQED and Union Bank, the award honors four local heroes doing outstanding

ing work in the Latino community.

Giving credit to the workers, volunteers, staff, and donors, María invited the entire Center community to share in the awards ceremony joy on September 10 at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco. A caravan to San Francisco was organized so that many workers could attend.

“Each and every one of you have contributed

so much,” said María. “[The Center] would not be what it is today without all your support, volunteer hours, donations, energy, and enthusiasm. Thank you so much for everything.”

The Day Worker Center staff thanks KQED and Union Bank for the special recognition. Our workers, volunteers, staff, and board members enjoyed the awards ceremony and the grand reception with the sumptuous

food and wine. Listening to three different Latin bands and mingling with dignitaries of every stripe and

other guests from all over the Bay Area was a real treat.



Maria receives the Local Hero award from sponsoring Union Bank vice president Victor Vazquez.

Lights, camera, action! The Center was awash with lights and abuzz with activity one morning in August when public television station KQED arrived to make a short video for the Local Heroes awards. They filmed all kinds of activities around the Center, including employers hiring workers, workers gardening and preparing lunch, volunteers teaching ESL, painting, and computer classes, De Anza College students chatting with workers during arts and crafts session, workers sewing quilts, the recycled materials artisans class, compañeras attending the Center's women's meeting, several volunteers in action, even a special presentation of *bailé folclórico*. The video also ran on KQED throughout October.

Do we have your Email address?

To save on mailing costs, we announce many events by email. Please make sure we have your most recent address!

- Send it to the above address.
- Call us.
- Send a note from your email address to info@dayworkercenter.org.
- If you send us a donation, write your email address on the enclosed envelope.



113 Escuela Avenue
Mountain View, CA 94040
650.903.4102
www.dayworkercentermv.org

