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## **UWEX AmeriCorps\*VISTA Success Story**

**By Lucina Dura, VISTA Member**

My success story is about Summer Fun Club that was held from June 22nd to July 24th of 2009. Tracy Strother, 4-H Youth Development Educator and I planned and ordered the first two weeks worth of projects for the instructors and their helpers. Then I met with the three instructors and Maria Alvarez, Youth and Family Community Corrdinator who was also the Director of the club. The instructors, Maria and I discussed the themes that Tracy and I had planned for the five weeks. Staff and volunteers then reviewed plans and looked at supply catalogs and decided which projects they would like to do for their class for each theme. The projects were ordered all at once so if there were items on back order then another project could be substituted in its place. There were two instructors for each class and some of them had some great fill-in activities to do when the projects were done and needed something for the youth to do. If they ran into problems or had questions they would call and I would find an answer for them. I went to deliver some items that were on backorder and when I entered the room a girl came up to me and asked if I was going to be in that class. I said yes and she lit up and had such a big smile on her face. I had to sit next to her the rest of the day and help with the project. I ended up helping the whole table because everyone was asking for me to help. Then when I had to leave a couple of youth asked if I could stay. On the last day, July 24th we had a celebration. It was called Fun-A-Palooza. When the youth arrived they did a few small projects and then we all went outside for games and prizes. There were 7 different stations for them to go to. They were divided into different groups and each group went to a different station. They had about 20 minutes to do that game and win a ticket to be put in for a drawing later. There was bowling, balloon toss, a costume race, face painting, popcorn flavoring, hula-hoops and a beanbag toss. At 1:30 the parents were invited to take part in the Ice Cream Social and Ceremony. Awards were handed out along with a certificate. The drawing was done while we ate ice cream. The members' projects were displayed in the gym for the parents and family to see. After the celebration was over some of the youth were disappointed that this was the last day and wanted to know why we were not doing it

longer. Some have come to me and said that they want to do it again next year. The parents want us to open it up to siblings because they saw all the neat things being done in the class and heard about the cool field trips, as one child put it, that their brother did and wanted to know why he could not go. I was very pleased that the youth enjoyed the projects that were picked for them and wanted to do more. Lucina M. Dura