

## 2008 Southern District Innovative Grant Proposal Green County Latino Programming

### 1. Project Coordinator:

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### 2. Statement of Need:

The 2000 U.S. Census showed that the Latino/Hispanic population in Green County more than doubled since the 1990 Census. In 2000, the local Latino population was 327. The arrival of two Hispanic groceries and an increase in the ESL services of the Literacy Council of Green County are two indicators that the number of local Latino immigrants is growing dramatically. For the past two years, the UW-Extension office in Green County has been identified as a resource for coordinating educational efforts aimed at diversity and cultural awareness, and for disseminating information to Spanish speaking families in the county. Programming has been collaborative between the Community Resource Development and Family Living Agents.

### 3. Project Goals/Objectives:

This proposal is seeking funding to support a suite of education efforts designed to continue work related to Green County's growing Latino population. Each effort is outlined briefly below:

- a) **Haciendo Amigos:** This one-page (front/back) newsletter is produced by the UWEX office and distributed throughout the county on a monthly basis. It contains information in Spanish focused on families, children, and community. Much of the content comes from UWEX and other governmental and educational sources.
- b) **Latinos in the U.S. Literature Series:** This book discussion program has been taking place in the county since November of 2007. The program has included participants from Green and Lafayette County. Discussions include dialogue with local Latino immigrants and they are building cultural awareness and bridges. Three of the books in the series (each written by Latino authors) are borrowed from the Wisconsin Humanities Council, however the last book *Denison, Iowa* has been added because of its focus on a Midwestern community who has seen a great deal of immigration.
- c) **2008 Rural Immigration Summit:** While other counties in the Southern District have held such summits we have received consistent feedback from local service providers and employers about their need to better understand Latino culture so they can more effectively serve and work with Latino immigrants. In addition, many service providers are unsure of eligibility of immigrants for services, and employers are unclear of immigrant hiring laws. Our Agriculture Agent has been receiving a number of requests from local producers for such information. This summit would address these needs and provide opportunity for cultural interaction for Green and Lafayette counties.
- d) **Community Development Field Trip:** As we build relationships with the Latino community we would like to become equal partners in creating community support and leadership for Latino residents. Green County has no specific resource targeting the Latino population; therefore, we would like to learn more about Latino Community Centers. Our Community Resource Development Educator toured the United Community Center while in the UWEX Administrative Leadership Program several years ago. The intent of this field trip will be to take six to eight people (including Latino representatives) to visit the United Community Center and the Latino Community Center in order to learn how they are providing leadership to Milwaukee's Hispanic Community. Following the visit the group will discuss ways in which we could locally provide such services (albeit on a smaller scale).

### 4. Personnel:

Project partners include the UW-Extension Green County office, Literacy Council of Green County, Monroe Campus of Blackhawk Technical College, The Monroe Clinic Parish Nurse Program, Spanish Department of Albany School District, and other individuals (including Latino residents) who have been an active part of the Green County Latino Needs Committee. Additionally, we plan to partner where appropriate with the UW-Extension office in Lafayette County as many of the needs are similar between the two counties, and many of our Latinos residents work in Lafayette County and vice versa.

### 5. Budget and Dollars Requested:

We are requesting \$1,417.50 in grant dollars, to be matched by over \$770 in actual and in-kind contributions. See Attached Spreadsheet