

"To improve the quality of life for Latino children and families"

The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families

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News

4-Star Rating for CHCF

CHCF has received a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent evaluator of charities.

[Click here to see the report](#)



Verizon Wireless Makes Donation to CHCF

Verizon Wireless, a recognized leader in its commitment to preventing domestic violence, donated \$5,000 to The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families to support programs aimed at preventing intimate partner violence, especially among teens.



The check was presented at an album release party for the band *La Quinta Estación* sponsored by Verizon Wireless. Guests were encouraged to bring old, no-longer used wireless phones, batteries and accessories to the album release party for donation to the company's HopeLine wireless phone recycling program.

Thank you, Verizon Wireless!

GoodSearch Engine

What if The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Well, now we can!



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Recent Events

Seventh Annual "A Slice of Latin America" Gala

CHCF's Seventh Annual "A Slice of Latin America" Gala was a tremendous success, raising over \$375,000 and hosting more guests than ever before. Held on February 28, 2007 at Gotham Hall, the Gala featured the delicious creations of New York City's most celebrated chefs, who delighted guests with samplings of their own Latin-inspired masterpieces.



The Gala also featured a live auction, silent auction, and raffle. Auctioneers Daisy Martínez of *Daisy Cooks!* and Tanya Rivero of CBS2 News encouraged guests to bid on fabulous prizes including a woodcut print by Salvador Dalí and stays in Thailand, Grand Bahama, Montreal, and New York City.



MCs Lynda Lopez of MY9 News and Tanya Rivero of CBS2 News captured the attention of the large crowd as they introduced special guest speakers such as Judge Marilyn Milian of *The People's Court* and Miss Universe, Zuleyka Rivera. The audience was also treated to a performance by the Ballroom Dance group from CHCF's After-school Program at PS/MS 279.



The Gala would not be complete without the presentation of the *CHCF Los Niños Image Award*. This year, CHCF honored José Luis Mendez, President & CEO of Excel Interior Construction Corporation, for his dedication, philanthropy, and high standard of ethics.



[Click here to view our Gala 2007 photos](#)

CHCF's Next Top Chef

A culinary competition titled *CHCF's Next Top Chef* was created this year in an effort to include students from CHCF's Youth Development programs in the annual "A Slice of Latin America" Gala. The competition was designed to encourage the high school students participating in our programs to pursue culinary careers. The Gala served as the culmination of the competition.



CHCF's Next Top Chef consisted of three rounds. To enter the first round students submitted essays explaining why they wanted to be chefs. Twenty-five students were selected to move on to the next round, for which students submitted an original recipe to be reviewed by Chef Daisy Martínez of *Daisy Cooks!* and a panel of judges. Five students were then selected to move on to the next round.



Things began to heat up during the third and final round of the competition, the cook-off. During the cook-off, students had the opportunity to prepare their dishes for the judges at the world renowned Institute for Culinary Education (ICE).



The winner of the cook-off was high school student Alfred de Leon, who prepared Chicken Alfredo. Alfred not only impressed the judges with the delicious dish he prepared, but also with his dedication as he cooked with a broken arm.



He was recognized by Chef Martínez at our Seventh Annual "A Slice of Latin America" Gala held on Wednesday, February 28, 2007, where he was presented with a \$500 gift-card. Impressed by competition runner-up, Alexander Arroyo and his dish, Pork Chops Ali Style, CHCF decided to present him with a certificate of achievement.

Special thanks to the Institute for Culinary Education (ICE) and Chef Andrew Gold for going above and beyond our expectations to make this a truly memorable experience for the students.

Thank you to Daisy Martínez, Miguelina Polanco, Karen DiPeri, and Andrew Gold for judging the competition.

*Thank you to Karen DiPeri of Tribeca Events
for coordinating this event.*



Youth Development

Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program

CHCF is offering a series of pregnancy prevention workshops throughout the school year at Walton Educational Campus' International School for Liberal Arts (ISLA). The *Self-Esteem Empowerment Project* is designed to guide and help students throughout their high school education. The goal of the program is to empower students to make informed decisions that will lead them to a positive and healthy lifestyle during their school years and beyond. Peer educators are a pivotal component of this program. Selected students, trained to facilitate workshops on Adolescent Reproductive Sexual Health, are certified by Planned Parenthood of New York City.

In addition, the program offers bilingual Spanish/English individual and group counseling. During counseling sessions, students and CHCF counselors further discuss workshop themes, which serves as a way to reinforce concepts learned. Counseling also includes assistance with resumes and job searches.

Circus Arts Presentation

Third-grade students at PS/MS 279, who participated in the ten-week *Circus Arts* program facilitated by Marquis Studio, performed in a "one-ring circus" for a cheering audience. In addition to creating comedic skits, the young performers learned how to balance a feather on their chin, juggle handkerchiefs and rotate a plate on a stick. Apparently, clown school is as fun as we imagined it would be!



Thank you, Marquis Studio!

Preventing Drop Out

Vladimil Ruiz, Site Coordinator of the CHCF Drop Out Prevention Program at Columbus High School, was quoted in an article published in El Diario/La Prensa. The article characterizes the high drop out rate in the Hispanic community as a “national tragedy.” Ruiz is convinced that appropriate intervention, such as CHCF's program, can be effective, particularly if students clearly understand the correlation between dropping out and poverty.



[Click here to read the article in Spanish](#)
[Click here to read the English translation](#)

Child Care Services

Lee y serás

CHCF has added a new workshop series to its child care provider training curriculum. The workshop series, *Lee y serás*, consists of 6 sessions during which child care providers learn how to use Latino cultural traditions to better foster the early literacy development of their children. The series was designed to improve children's literacy learning experiences; validate the role of families and child care providers; and help caregivers build a sound knowledge base on early literacy.

Lee y serás is a national initiative created to foster literacy in children in the Hispanic community. The program is led nationally by Scholastic, Verizon, and the National Council of La Raza.

Child Care Newsletter

As part of our Child Care Services program, CHCF produces two newsletters each year dedicated to providing helpful tips and educational information about caring for children. Titled *Cuidando Nuestros Niños/Caring for Our Children*, the newsletter was initially created for child care providers. However, the information in this newsletter is valuable to anyone caring for children.



[Click here to view our Fall/Winter newsletter](#)

Like it? Have it sent directly to your e-mail inbox by [subscribing](#). Click on the "+" to view subscription options.

Family Health Education

Responsible Fatherhood

The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families (CHCF) is working with the Puerto Rican Family Institute on a responsible fatherhood initiative. CHCF is offering healthy relationship activities for the Latino students enrolled in our Drop Out Prevention Program at Columbus High School in the Bronx. Workshops will be provided to 25 expectant non-married adolescents, who will take the *Preparing for Fatherhood* workshops. In addition to these students, 50 adolescents from CHCF's Drop Out Prevention Program at Columbus High School will also participate in a year long relationship skills workshop series. All workshops will be taught in both Spanish and English, if necessary, by a bilingual/bicultural staff member or consultant.

The *Preparing for Fatherhood* workshops will focus on financial management, job and career advancement, conflict resolution, and parenting skills. By helping these young parents learn how to obtain gainful employment, manage their income, improve relationship skills and utilize best parenting techniques, they will be more prepared to successfully navigate the varied responsibilities of fatherhood.

Latino Family Policy Center

City Council Briefing

The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, Inc. (CHCF), Council Member Melissa Mark Viverito, and Council Member Annabel Palma hosted a City Council briefing on March 13, 2007 at the CHCF office. The briefing addressed child welfare issues in New York City.



In 2005 Latino children accounted for 39% of substantiated child abuse and neglect cases and 35% of children entering foster care. Clearly, New York City's child welfare system will benefit from developing a citywide response that incorporates the collaboration of the community, elected officials and administration. Taking part in the City Council briefing was a step in the collaborative process necessary to address the community's concerns.



The event was well attended by members of the City Council and their staff, as well as by community based organizations and members of the press.



[Click here to view the information presented at the briefing](#)

[Click here to read the article published in El Diario/La Prensa](#)

[Click here to read the English translation](#)

[Click here to read the article published in Hoy](#)

[Click here to read the English translation](#)



About CHCF

Since 1982, The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, Inc. (CHCF) has been dedicated to improving the quality of life for Latino children and their families. CHCF provides a number of programs and services to the community in the areas of Youth Development, Child Care Services, and Family Health Education. Grounded in its direct services, CHCF is active in the local, state, and national policy arenas around issues of child welfare and the well-being of Latino children.

