Latin American Youth Center

NEWSLETTER

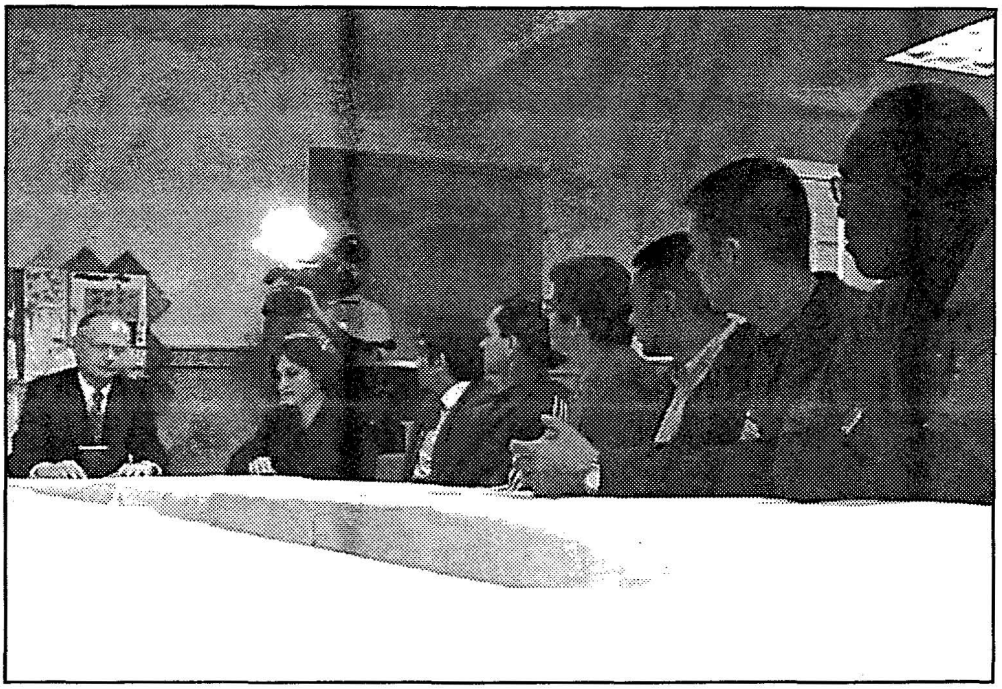
SPRING 2000

U.S. Secretary of Education Riley Visits the Latin American Youth Center

"We need more places like the Latin American Youth Center"

U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley
"Excelencia Para Todos - Excellence For All"
March 15, 2000

BZA
Case No. 16668
Exhibit No. 11



U.S. Secretary of Education Riley visits the Center. Pictured from left to right: U.S. Secretary of Education Riley, Lori Kaplan, LAYC Executive Director, Carlos Vera, Director of LAYC Social Services Division, Silvio Amaya, Next-Step student, Alex Wilson, LAYC Board, John Nutterfield, LAYC Upward Bound, Ernest Yombo, LAYC Division Director of Community Service and Leadership.

On Monday December 6th, 1999 Secretary of Education Riley visited the Latin American Youth Center and The Next Step Public Charter School. His visit was organized by Ms. Sarita Brown, Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans.

The purpose of Secretary Riley's visit was to meet with Latin American Youth Center and Next Step Public Charter School staff and students to learn about the issues that impact Washington, DC Latino and language minority students, parents and teachers.

continued on page 2

Latin American Youth Center
Spring 2000

1419 Columbia Road, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009
Tel. 202.319.2225

Layout by Cristian Gajardo

visit our website!
www.layc-dc.org

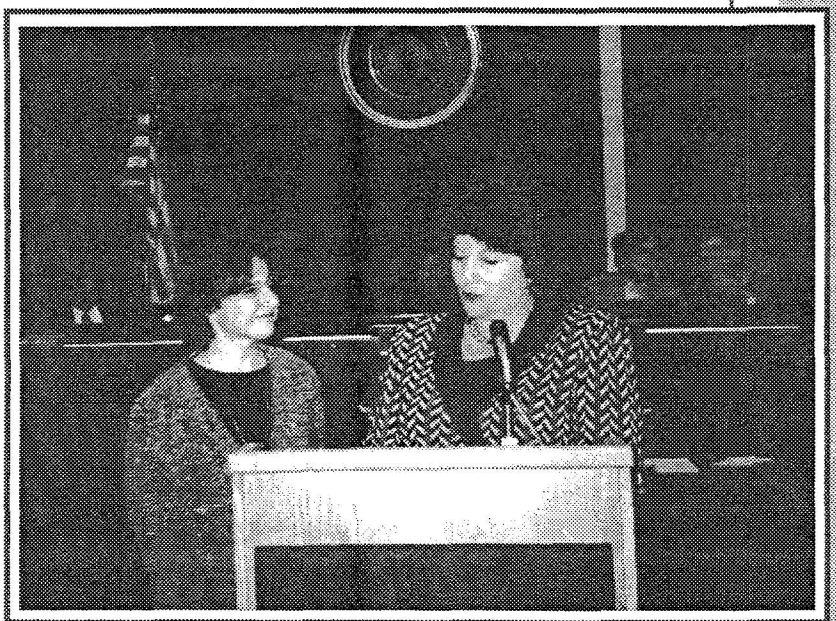
Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16668
EXHIBIT NO.11

Secretary Riley had lunch with LAYC staff, teachers and students and participated in a very lively and informative discussion.

As a result of the Secretary's visit, the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans will co-sponsor a one day conference "Excelencia en Educación", for Latino parents of children in the D.C. Public Schools and educational advocates in the District of Columbia.

Mark your calendars now as this important conference will take place on September 9, 2000!. For more information on the conference contact Ms. Stephanie Mintz, (202) 319-8644.

COUNCIL MEMBER SCHWARTZ PRESENTS LAYC WITH A CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF THE LAYC'S EXEMPLARY WORK IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



LAYC Executive Director Lori Kaplan (left) and CouncilMember Carol Schwartz (right)

Last December 7th 1999, Council Member Carol Schwartz, at a Committee of the Whole City Council session, presented the LAYC with a beautiful Resolution in recognition of the LAYC's exemplary work and history in the District of Columbia. Signed and voted on by every member of the Council of the District of Columbia, this Resolution was a true "vote of confidence" for the Center's work. Thank you Councilmember Schwartz and all members of the D.C. City Council for your recognition of the Center's important work with children, youth and families in the District of Columbia.

U.S. Secretary of Education Riley also visited Bell Multicultural High School and here is a quote from his speech "Excelencia Para Todos - Excellence For All":

"A few months ago I had the opportunity to visit a community learning center with after-school programs - an enriching center right down the street from here. I had a wonderful discussion with some of the students and counselors. I was very impressed. In addition to housing a creative public charter school, the Center offers a wealth of support services to young people in the community, including some who have left school and want to return to the world of learning. We need more places like the Latin American Youth Center".

FOCUS ON KIDS

By Vannessa Zorrilla, *Parent Coordinator*

February was kick off month for Focus on Kids, an HIV and Substance Abuse Prevention project that helps youth learn the needed skills to make positive choices in their lives. The LAYC, in collaboration with the University of Maryland at Baltimore, is evaluating this curriculum and the impact it has on the Latino community in Washington, DC.



Focus on Kids participants make good use of their time at the LAYC Computer Lab.

Groups of youth participants are assisted by LAYC staff and one Peer Facilitator. The Peer facilitators have gone through the Focus on Kids program and have received two full day trainings. Peer Facilitators use this experience as their internship, a requirement needed to graduate from high school. The closing reception for the first group of youth was on March 18th. The participants took a post-test, received a certificate of completion, and an education stipend.

We are currently recruiting for the next wave of youth. Please contact Doris Romero or Vanessa Zorrilla at (202) 319-2225 if you have youth to refer to Focus on Kids as participants or Peer Facilitators.

FAMILY STRENGTHENING

By Stephanie Mintz, *Program Coordinator*

In an effort to involve parents more actively at the LAYC, the Family Strengthening Program has begun. This exciting two-year initiative focuses on how parents can help to prevent substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, teen pregnancy and violence.

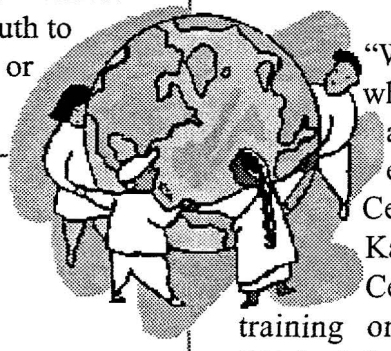
Over the past few months, we have conducted focus groups and individual interviews with community leaders and parents. We have also researched effective program models that have successfully worked with Hispanic families.

Our first group of families will begin in May of this year. If you know of any parents who might benefit from this program or if you have any questions, please call Stephanie Mintz at (202) 319-8644 or Ariel Silber at (202) 319-2246.

SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH INITIATIVE GAINS MOMENTUM

By Kevin Davis, *Sexual Minority Health Coordinator*

In January, 1999 LAYC began a diversity assessment to evaluate the level of awareness and knowledge of diversity issues. Most importantly, Center staff want to insure inclusion throughout all LAYC programs of sexual minority youth, young persons who self identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or those who are questioning their sexual identity/ orientation.



"We want LAYC to be among those places where sexual minority youth feel safe to ask questions, get information, share experiences and participate in our Center's programs." expresses Lori Kaplan, LAYC Executive Director. The Center recently held an "all-day" staff training on sexual minority youth awareness falicited by Marianna Toledo, of the Latina/o Lesbian and Gay National Organiztion and Beth Beck, of Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League.

LAYC was awarded a grant by The Bridge Builders

Foundation to conduct outreach among the gay, lesbian bisexual, transgender (GLBT) community to promote Center programs and services, and to educate staff. The Center is currently recruiting 10 youth to participate in a 10 session discussion group and art project exploring gender identity and community.



Please call Kevin Davis at (202) 319-2264 for more information or to get involved with the Sexual Minority Youth Initiative Project.

PEACE IN OUR STREETS 2000

By Donna Geraci, *Clinical Supervisor*

The kick-off month for Peace in our Streets 2000 was great fun for youth and families in our community. March began with a staff and youth indoor soccer game/luncheon and later a Wilderness Challenge Ropes Course. Also, throughout the month, LAYC and community youth prepared essays, poems, and posters for a contest depicting how violence has affected their lives, and how we can all work towards creating a non-violent community.

March finished with a Family Dinner and Talent Show showcasing more of Columbia Heights' creative young people. The winners of the poetry, essay, poster, and graffiti art contests were announced during this event. The winning essay by Joel Street is on page 5.



LAYC youth get together for Peace In Our Streets 2000

Thanks so much to all the youth, families, community members, and LAYC staff who have put a great deal of time, energy, ideas, and heart into this Peace in Our Streets 2000 initiative.

LAYC KICKS OFF NEW $1,000,000 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The LAYC is pleased to announce the "Kick-off" of its $1,000,000 Capital Campaign in 2000! LAYC plans to renovate and furnish four properties currently owned by the Center. After leaving the corner of 15th and Irving Streets, N.W. for the Center's new headquarters, the LAYC is proud to be going back to 15th St., NW to renovate the old LAYC headquarters and three additional buildings that are run down and boarded up.

The LAYC capital campaign will accomplish the following:

• Renovate 3045 15th St., NW into a state-of-the art transitional living program for young women and teen mothers

• Renovate 3043 15th St., NW into a state-of-the art transitional living program for homeless and unaccompanied minor boys

• Create emergency short term support for young



3033 and 3035 15th St., N.W.

boys and girls who are on the street at night with no safe and supervised home.

• Renovate 3033 St., NW into a single family household. Columbia Heights YouthBuild will renovate the home.

• Renovate 3035 15th St., NW into a youth centered entrepreneural arts learning community with gallery, outdoor theater and performing arts facility and space for visual and performing arts classes and activities.

To date, $220,000, or 22%, of the campaign goal has been raised. LAYC partners include Covington and Burling and MANNA, Inc.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Please send your generous contribution in the enclosed envelope and identify it as a capital campaign contribution!



Reality Check

By Joel Street

Growing up in the ghetto, living a life to please himself and no one else. Defending his community to the fullest that's all that mattered, anywhere he went some one was always there to watch his back! That's what he thought. The fast life was at full speed and there was nothing to live for but, money, girls, and popularity. At the young age committing crime without a second thought just to impress his older friends and to be down with the crew. Anywhere he went he had his best friend, Betsy that is, the chrome 9 millimeter always loaded and ready to fire, on any one it didn't matter.

Police on him like the shirt back, breading and sleeping violence. Sleeping with Betsy on his bedside, with nightmares and all the problems in the world on his mind every time he put his head on the pillow. 17 years of age and he already did some of the things no big man would dare do. Why? For something so simple but yet so deep and that is respect. One day sitting on the block listening to his friends brag about how they were not going to work for Babylon and how there where going to get back at the guys from downtown, loading up the car with the 16 gauge shot gun in the trunk, they were on a mission.

The guys from downtown were expecting them. The atmosphere was clean and clear at first, but after a few seconds the place was like World War all over again. The block clouded and filled with gun smoke. After all the commotion, he realized that he was lying on the ground bleeding. He got shot four times; he was in critical state in the hospital and the doctor said that he had no chance of getting through this. At age 17 and four slugs in his chest everyone thought that it was the end of his life. He was in a coma for two months, but he woke up. He realized that his so call friends never came to see him. After getting out of the hospital he went to get his best friend Betsy that is, he turned it into the police. He decided to go all out to get his life on track, changing the way he lived day by day and one step at a time. He told his so called friends, the same ones who left him in the hospital that he got his reality check and he is changing his life, gang banging is not part of it. Since then he has not looked back, known he is 19 and going to school in the week and working on the weekend also he is keeping himself occupied with athletic. He is a student athlete with a 3.5 GPA and he is on his way to the top. He realized that everyone is not as fortunate as he is to get a second chance, so he is on a mission to push himself mentally, physically, and spiritually.

Family Connections
Social Services Team

For each newsletter the LAYC will focus on a cluster of LAYC services. The Spring Edition highlights the work of our Social Services Team.

The Social Services/Family Connection Team (SSFCT) has been a corner stone in the development of the Latin American Youth Center since mid 1980's. Staffed with a group of talented, committed, active, community oriented bilingual staff, interns and volunteers the SSFCT assists children, adolescents and their families by enhancing their well being, reducing the impact of internal and external stressors, facilitating their access to community resources and improving their capacity and opportunities to change and meet their own needs.

All interventions are based on promoting community involvement, equality, respect for ethnic and cultural diversity, self-determination and an explicit commitment to social change. The SSFCT provides an array of services including: Outreach, advocacy, crisis intervention, case management, psychosocial assessments, counseling, housing, tutoring, school based support assistance, referrals, and follow up services.

The SSFCT encompasses the following programs:

Diversion: The goals of this program are to support and to strengthen youth who are experiencing educational and family problems and are at risk of entering the juvenile justice system.

Host Homes: Provides temporary shelter for homeless and runaway female youth in a culturally sensitive community-based setting. For referrals contact Barrie Lynn Tapia (202) 319-2225

Family Strengthening: The goal of this program is to prevent substance use, HIV and early pregnancy among Latino youth.

Foster Care: Provides foster care services to children aged 0 to 18 who have been temporarily removed from their biological homes as a result of abuse and neglect. The program recruits, trains and assists future foster parents through in the licensure process.

Street Outreach (SOP): Provides emergency shelter, crisis intervention, education and prevention services to reduce the incidence of runaway and homeless youth. The program is open to female and male youth aged 16 to 21.

Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment: This is an outpatient program that provides prevention and treatment services to children, adolescents and their families. The goals of the program are to prevent youth from involvement in drug use, and provide counseling services to youth who are drug and or alcohol dependent. The prevention approach includes parent/client skills, conflict resolution, anger management training, recreational activities and peer socialization.

Transitional Living Program (TLP): Provides stable, safe living accommodations for male youth aged 17 to 21 in a supervised independent residential facility for up to 18 months. The purpose of the program is to promote transition to self-sufficient living and to prevent long-term dependency on social services.

In addition to the programmatic activities, the SSFCT is engaged in the development of community-oriented interventions. Accordingly during the month of March, the SSFCT staff organized the first annual "Peace in Our Streets" month. The goal of this project is to promote non-violent behaviors in our communities. The event included: staff soccer game, a rope course training, a poster/graffiti contest, and a poetry/essay contest. The event ended with a talent show and a family dinner.

During the month of April, the SSFCT organized activities for Child Abuse Awareness Month. SSFCT staff participated in the National Annual Alcohol Screening Day. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness among youth and their families about alcohol use, its risks and consequences.

For more information, or to make a referral, contact Carlos Vera, SSFCT Director at (202) 319-2225.

THANK YOU / MUCHAS GRACIAS FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

(As of May 1,2000)

Since our last newsletter the LAYC has received incredible support from individuals, foundations, corporations, faith based communities and other non-profit organizations. The LAYC is proud to publish the list of our many friends and supporters. This list just keeps growing thanks to each and everyone of you!

MEMORIUM

Sarita Brown in memory of her father, W. Ken Brown.
Susan R. Spagnuolo in memory of Ernest Yombo's mother, Rachael Zoubou Yombo.

IN HONOR OF

Eli Goldfarb in celebration of his Bar Mitzvah.
Leslie Kogod, Lauren Kogod and David Smiley and Stuart Kogod, in honor of their mother, Arlene Kogod's birthday.
Fannie Mae Foundation in honor of Vicky Vanderpol's voluntary service to the LAYC.
Tracy C. Solomon, Cynthia L. Diehm and Jeffrey and Niki Desanto in celebration of Steve and Nadia Yoder's wedding.

FOUNDATIONS

Anonymous Foundation Donor
Butler Family Fund
Carter and Melissa Charitable Trust
Clark Winchcole Foundation
Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation
Fannie Mae Foundation
Fitzpatrick Charitable Foundation
Freddie Mac Foundation
International Monetary Fund - Civic Program
Lois and Richard England Family Foundation
Marpat Foundation
Naomi and Nehemiah Cohen Foundation
Norman and Diane Bernstein Foundation
Prince Charitable Trust
Taste of Salt Fund of the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region

HOLIDAY SEASON

Over 500 children, youth and families attended the Latin American Youth Center holiday season activities. It was our greatest ever thanks to the enormous generosity of the following people and organizations:

Chuck and Dave's Bookstore, McDonald's, People's House and Vision DC

PRIVATE SECTOR & NON-PROFIT BUSINESS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Campbell & Company
Crestar Bank
Hayes & Associates - The Americas' New Millennium
Industrial Bank of Washington
Kaiser Permanente
Nintendo
Occasions Catering
Tryst Coffee House and Lounge
The American Youth Policy Forum
The Humanities Council of the District of Columbia
Youth Radio, Inc

LAYC CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2000

Clark Winchcole Foundation
D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development
Fannie Mae Foundation
The Hecht Company
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
William G. McGowan Charitable Fund, Inc.

FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Community of Christ
St. Paul's Community Outreach Programs
Fabrangen Tzedakah Collective

INDIVIDUALS

Stephen Abraham, Maria Teresa Candamil, Cynthia Diehm, David Donley, Anonymous Donors, Rick and Diane England, Peggy Fleming, Nancy Folger, Howard Gillette, John and Sandy Haberlin, Bryan Hantman and all of his friends and artists of Mt. Pleasant, Brian Harney and Katherine Sheehan, Barbara and Frank Honnegger, Chris Hornig and Nancy Garruba, Charles Kamasaki, Arlene Kogod, Stephen Kraft, Samuel Halperin and Family, William and Cynthia Lightfoot, Mark Michael and Maggie Prieto, Judy Mucasey and Family, James and Minna Nathanson, Roxanne Nelson and Angie Kohler and Members of the Cultural Awareness, Committee of the Joint Interoperability Jest Command, Vivian Ottman, Kathy Owens, David Padilla, Jim Pickman, Dr. Jorge and Luz Maria Prieto, Vanessa Ruiz, Robert Samuelson, Marilyn Sneiderman and Stephen K. Lerner, Lynn Steele, Lynn Taliento, Alexandra Rangel, Betty Ustun, Mayor Anthony Williams Citizen Service Program, Evelyn and Robert Wrin, Senator Harris Wofford and Citizens for Senator Wofford, Carol Wolchok

THANKS TO EVERYONE, ESPECIALLY ALL LAYC BOARD MEMBERS, WHO BOUGHT AND SOLD LAYC CALENDARS AND TO EVERYONE WHO PURCHASED CALENDARS AND CARDS DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON!

LATIN AMERICAN YOUTH CENTER
1419 COLUMBIA ROAD, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009
TEL 202.319.2225
FAX 202.462.4596

SAVE THE DATES!

Saturday September 9, 2000

☐ White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. Washington, D.C. Parents, Advocates and Educators Conference - Sponsored by The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans, ASPIRA, MALDEF, D.C. Public Schools Office of Bilingual Education, the Latin American Youth Center, NECA, Multicultural Community Service and other community partners.

Friday September 22, 2000

☐ LAYC's *"Put a Little Salsa in Your Life"* Dance and Silent Auction.

LATIN AMERICAN YOUTH CENTER

STRONG YOUTH • STRONG FAMILIES • STRONG FUTURES

May 1, 2000

Dear LAYC Friends and Supporters:

We hope you enjoy reading about our work over the past few months. Everyday, the Latin American Youth Center recommits itself to realizing its mission: to support youth and families in their determination to live, work and study with dignity, hope and joy! The rewards are great and continue to mount as children, youth and families move forward in their own pursuits of self-sufficiency.

We too are moving forward. With spring and summer right around the corner, the Latin American Youth Center is planning many exciting activities, in addition to our ongoing programs. Our next few months will be filled with camping trips, and visits to college campuses, youth leadership activities, summer employment opportunities, special activities for girls, a new parents training course and many other fun and educational initiatives.

1419 Columbia Road NW
Washington DC 20009
Telephone: 202.319.2225
Facsimile: 202.462.5696
www.layc-dc.org

United Way & CFC #8489

The Center's new capital campaign-the renovation of two residential programs for teens and the transformation of two community nuisance properties into residential and program space-is both exciting and demanding.

Of course, we can always use your help: a little goes a long way and a lot goes even farther. Imagine, with weekly giving over a year's time:

$1 becomes $52 and provides one year of basic school supplies for one youth k-12.
$5 increases to $260 and purchases tokens for 1 month to enable 10 people to travel to and from work during their first month of employment.
$7 becomes $350 providing 8 months of refreshments during therapeutic group sessions.
$10 turns into $520 and secures half a month of Internet connection for 200 users.
$25 matures to $1,300 enabling 15 youth to participate in a two-day outward bound rope's course.

Whatever contribution you make will be truly appreciated. Tell a friend and multiply the impact; I assure you. It will be put to very good use. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of children, youth and families. Come by and visit us when you are in the neighborhood, or visit us on the web at www.layc-dc.org

With warm regards,

Lori M. Kaplan
Executive Director

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