New Director Says Family Center Helps Immigrants Find their Way

Originally from Uruguay, Inés González and her family migrated to the United States to escape political violence. “We left grandparents, uncles and cousins, scared of their fate.” Those were hard times for her family isolated in a new country, Inés recalls. “We could have used an agency like Neighbors Link.”

Now Director of the Neighbors Link Family Center, Inés is pleased that families can come for help as they try to make a new life for themselves in a new country. “I think about what this country would have had on my family when we moved to this country. I want that for our client families.”

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Launched in November, Parent-Child Together classes meet each weekday in the new Family Center at Neighbors Link. Targeted primarily to parents and their children, birth to four years old, the classes incorporate circle time, music, free play, art, puzzles and special themes such as colors and seasons. For children entering the program, “Ours is likely their first structured classroom experience,” said Inés. Exposure to such an environment is key to developing important pre-kindergarten skills such as independence, sharing, and making successful transitions between activities. “Kids learn more from their moms and dads at this age,” said Inés. So each two-hour class teaches parents techniques they can use at home with their children, Inés added.

Inés Gonzalez, director of the Neighbors Link Family Center, enjoys lessons with the child together classes. She is pleased that families can come for help as they try to make a new life for themselves in a new country. “I think about what this country would have had on my family when we moved to this country. I want that for our client families.”

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**2013 Volunteer Award WInners Recognized for their Commitment**

For the first time in a long time, there is hope and momentum for immigration reform. At this pivotal moment, Neighbor Link families rallied to Washington, D.C. on April 10, to join tens of thousands of participants across the country in a rally with a message that this “Time is Now” for fair and just immigration reform.

Recognizing that the approximatelly 11 million undocumented immigrants working in industries across the nation—from farm picking and farming to hospitality and construction—critical to our economy and our society, the rally called for a comprehensive legalization program that provides a true path to citizenship, acknowledging the vital contribution of immigrants to our workforce and our rich cultural legacy.

Both organizers urged listeners to reaffirm their commitment to legalization that provides a solution to the current system which is tearing families apart, leaving children without parents and shameless, hollowing Participating families with a career interest in neuropsychology, Delaware

**Neighbors Link Families Rally for Immigration Reform**

**OUR VOLUNTEERS EMPOWER DIVERSITY IN THEIR LIVES. THROUGH THEIR WORK, OUR MISSION IS REALIZED.**

CARLA BRACCO | Neighbors Link Executive Director

*Neighbors Link is seeking an energetic, enthusiastic and creative person to work closely with Neighbor Link families, educators and the community to develop and strengthen the Family Center, a program that provides a community space for families to engage in learning, fun and cultural activities.*

**FAMILY CENTER - PARENT/CHILD PROGRAM FACULTATOR**

**What successful candidate will do:**

*Work with Neighbor Link families, educators and the community to develop and strengthen the Family Center, a program that provides a community space for families to engage in learning, fun and cultural activities.*

**Essential Skills and Attributes:**

*Coaching, mentoring and leadership, fund development, and community organizing.*

**Responsibilities:**

*To thrive in this role, you should have:**

*Minimum of a Bachelor's in Education, Early Childhood Education, or related field. Bilingual, very good German, secretarial/office management and people skills. A passion for helping young children and their families.*

**Job Opportunities**

**SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**

*Teaching training is an important part of Neighbor Link’s mission. Training your instructors to others great and builds our community. If you have a skill you would like to share, contact Carrie Madey at gmadey@neighborslink.org (914) 633-3640.***