**OUR MISSION:** To strengthen our community by actively enhancing the healthy integration of recent Latino immigrants. **OUR STRATEGY:** To Educate, Empower, Employ

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**Clients Working to Better Themselves and Improve Job Skills**

With reduced job prospects due to the ailing economy, clients awaiting work at the Neighbors Link hiring site are making the most of their available time. Educational offerings here include a full schedule of English language and job skills classes.

Donated by Kenneth Regan and his daughter Samantha, Neighbors Link’s newly installed Rosetta Stone teaching software allows up to five students at once to learn English independently and at their own pace.

“It’s phenomenal to watch five computers being used like that,” said Program and Volunteer Manager Shirley Buontempo, who is looking for volunteers to assist the learners Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Neither Spanish nor computer fluency is required.

**Array of Programs Supports Families and Enriches Community Pride**

As parents find themselves working longer and odder hours to make ends meet, Neighbors Link fills the gap with childcare and social opportunities for families.

Twice monthly “Family Nights” educate and empower Latino parents and children, strengthening marriages and teaching parenting skills.

Our Learning Links and Summer Links programs provide a blend of homework help and enrichment activities in a structured childcare environment.

These and other Neighbors Link support programs help keep immigrant families cohesive and strengthen connections within the community.

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Photos by Tova Snyder

27 Columbus Avenue, Mount Kisco, NY 10549 • Tel 914-666-3410 • Fax 914-666-3430 • www.neighborslink.org
Community Events Celebrate Our Shared Cultures

Sharing a conversation or a meal with new friends can mean so much to a recent immigrant.

This November many will gather at Neighbors Link to enjoy a traditional American Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings.

For individuals and families new to this country, social events like the recent Neighbors Link Carnival build welcome friendships and community support.

Westchester Community College English classes and small group tutoring sessions attract eager learners virtually every day of the week.

New Eco-Cleaning Class teaches green housekeeping.

Recent ESL graduates

Pinata-making and Latin dancing brought out smiles at the Grafflin School Family Night.
Programs and Classes at Neighbors Link

With a clear mission to help Educate, Empower, and Employ new immigrants, the following economic development and adult education programs are offered at Neighbors Link.

These programs are in addition to case management for issues impacting personal and family development, including medical and mental health, housing and homelessness, domestic violence, alcohol and drug dependency and other issues critical to the stabilization and development of healthy individuals and families. WestCOP Mount Kisco Head Start preschool is housed at Neighbors Link and is directed by Linda Bremner. Our Learning Links after-school program in partnership with Mount Kisco Elementary School is coordinated by Grace Postiglano and Rebecca Jamo.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ADULT EDUCATION:**

**Job English**
Morning classes for day laborers, Monday through Saturday 9am–12noon. Taught by Westchester Community College and Neighbors Link volunteers. By learning “Job English” students increase employment opportunities and often graduate to other ESL classes at Neighbors Link.

**ESL Classes**
Monday through Friday evenings. Taught by Westchester Community College and Neighbors Link volunteers. ESL students are typically employed and possess 3-6 years prior schooling, with varying levels of English proficiency. Note: Children’s Program offered during ESL classes.

**Worker Center**
Day workers assemble at 7am for jobs, using a lottery system for fairness created by the day workers themselves. Homeowners and Contractors may also choose workers without using the lottery system, based on need for special skills and/or English abilities, etc. Over 6,000 jobs negotiated annually. Note: Workers may attend morning English classes while waiting to be hired.

**Job Bank**
A referral service typically conducted by telephone, connecting homeowners and business owners to housekeepers, restaurant employees, masons, carpenters, painters, etc.

**Management Apprenticeships**
A participatory training program which teaches business management procedures applicable to local establishments such as restaurants, warehouse distributors, landscape nurseries, etc. Training includes cash receipts and disbursements, inventory management, and bank deposit preparation.

**Learning Links Children’s After-School Program**
This after-school enrichment program provides homework and tutorial help to low-income children in grades K-S. Located at Mount Kisco Elementary School.

**Computer Classes**
Tuesday and Thursday 7-9pm. Evening classes in small group sessions, offering personalized instruction in basic computer skills. Note: Children’s Program offered during classes.

**Latin Sol Workshop**
Tuesday and Thursday 7-9pm. Sewing and Craft Workshop offered for students wanting practical experience under professional supervision. Training is also provided to help students track inventory and analyze home business costs. Note: Children’s Program offered during Workshop.

**Family Night**
Friday night educational program for strengthening marriages and teaching parenting skills. Family Night features pot-luck meals and educational seminars on healthy marriage dynamics, child development, household budgeting, school support, job networking and community building. Focus is marriage and family life. Note: Children’s Program offered on Family Nights.

**Neighbors Link Café**
Open 15 hours daily, 365 days a year, the supervised Café provides alcohol free socialization and community building with table games and refreshments sold below market prices, the Café produces significant income to help offset the annual operating expenses of Neighbors Link. Additionally, Neighbors Link offers a free Legal Clinic for constituents needing help with unpaid wages and general immigration issues as well as a Health Care Clinic offering health screenings.

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**Neighbors Link Student Volunteers Honored**

For dedication and accomplishments beyond their years, Caryn Laska and Noah Sheinbaum, pictured above and below with their families, received the annual Outstanding Volunteer Award and the Neighbors Link Agnes Hassell Award.

**“Tour De Trees” Teaches Arbor Appreciation**

Summer Links students learned about the importance of trees and had the chance to try out climbing harnesses thanks to the “Tour des Trees” cyclists.
LATIN LINKS
CELEBRATING CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009
Screening of "LA AMERICANA"

Thursday, Oct. 8, 2009
Speaker CAMILO JOSÉ VERGARA
ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH   7:00 pm
FELLOWSHIP HALL
Bedford NY 10506

Friday, Oct. 23, 2009
A Wine Tasting and
LATIN RHYTHM CONCERT

Invitation to follow or go to:
www.neighborslink.org
to purchase tickets online after August 10.

NEIGHBORS LINK: LEARNING TOGETHER, LIVING BETTER.
To make a donation, go to www.neighborslink.org