



# National Latino Children's Institute

**Creating a Nation of Hope for Latino Children**

*Effecting change on behalf of those who will build the future-our children*



**WASHINGTON, D.C. April 30, 2009**

**A Public Forum & El día de los niños 10th Anniversary Press Event**

in partnership with



**UNIVISION**



**Ford Motor Company Fund**



# Hear my voice



## Creating a Nation of Hope for Latino Children: Dialogue, Solutions and Celebration Why the public forum?

Bienvenidos.

On behalf of the National Latino Children's Institute (NLCI) and our partners the National Education Association, Office of Minority Health, Univision, Ford Motor Company Fund & Community Services, Kraft Foods, Aetna Foundation, Southwest Airlines and the Century Council. I welcome you to our First Public Forum: Creating a Nation of Hope for Latino Children—Effecting change on behalf of those who will build the future—Our Children. As we have been working to put this forum together, I reflected on my life and why I made the choices I did and how I got to this place—the daughter of farmworkers. I realized it was because people believed in me causing me to believe in myself. There was also hope for a better future.

Today, I fear there is the opposite feeling—Latino youth in many communities are feeling such a sense of hopelessness and that no one cares. This is not true in every community but it is the reality in which many youth are living; and it needs to be acknowledged and addressed. We need to work with community, including children and families, at the grassroots level and see how we can support the work that will restore our children's hope and optimism. They have the answers.

During this historic time when our national leaders are seeking new strategies for addressing the continuing inequities in health and education that impede the advancement of Latino children, we are showcasing best practices by grassroots organizations that successfully provide effective strategies. They do so by implementing prevention programs and creating access to opportunities that are making a difference in the lives of thousands of Latino children. NLCI has long supported and recognized the work of community-based organizations and their commitment to improving not only their clients, but also their neighborhoods and towns.

Additionally, NLCI developed avenues that would increase the young Latino's visibility. April 30, 2009 marks the 10th Anniversary of El Día de los Niños—Celebrating Young Americans and is being celebrated in over 150 communities with over half a million participating throughout the nation today and through the weekend. This day has become an important tool for bringing together community leaders and families; working side-by-side to be open to dialogue and establishing relationships as they share ideas about improving life in their own community for and with their children, as we do today through this public forum.

This is a first step as we build an ongoing strategy to further the advocacy work that is beginning today. Together let us create a nation of hope for our Latino children. I hope you enjoy today and take back to your community new strategies and partnerships to assist you in your work. ¡Que vivan los niños!

Sincerely  
Josephine F. Garza

Executive Director  
National Latino Children's Institute

Agenda: Public Forum  
Creating a Nation of Hope for Latino Children: Dialogue, Solutions and Celebration

El Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans  
History: April 30, 1999 - April 30, 2009

Thursday, April 30, 2009

- 8:00 - 8:30 am **Registration**
- 9:30 - 8:50 am Welcome Remarks—Creating a Nation of Hope for Latino Children  
Josephine F. Garza, Executive Director, National Latino Children's Institute  
Carlos Santiago, National Latino Children's Institute-Board Chair
- 8:50 - 9:00 am Guiding Principles of the National Latino Children's Institute  
Bibi Lobo, Past NLCI Vice President and Co-Founder
- 9:00 - 9:20 am Young Latinos and the Impact of the Economy  
Mark Lopez, Associate Director, Pew Hispanic Center
- 9:20 - 10:40 am **Creating Great Public Schools-Education Roundtable/Q&A**
- Convener M. Rita Jaramillo, Senior Liaison, National Education Association, Minority Community Outreach  
Panelist Congressman Raúl M. Grijalva, AZ-District 7, CHC Education Task Force Chair  
Panelist Lily Eskelson, Vice President, National Education Association  
Panelist Lori Kaplan, Executive Director, Latin American Youth Center (La Promesa Award Recipient)  
Panelist Julia Reynoso, Youth Representative, Latin American Youth Center  
Panelist Ida R. Eblinger Kelley, Director, Hispanic Outreach & Communications  
Office of Communications & Outreach, U.S. Department of Education
- 10:40 - 12:15 pm **Building Healthy Communities-Health Roundtable/Q&A**
- Convener Dr. Deborah Mulligan, MD, FAAP, FACEP; Director, Institute for Child Health Policy & Professor of Pediatrics Nova Southeastern University  
Panelist Angela Wiggins, Senior Manager, Community Involvement, Kraft Foods  
Panelist Miguel Centeno, Vice President of Strategic Business Development--NY, Aetna  
Panelist Madelyn Rodriguez, Centro Mater, Miami, FL  
Panelist Vicky Santos, Director of Operations, Mexican American Opportunity Foundation, Montebello, CA (La Promesa Award Recipient)  
Panelist Dr. Garth Graham, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health, Office of Minority Health-Department of Health and Human Services
- 12:15 - 1:30 pm Closing Luncheon  
Investment in the Community and the American Recovery Reinvestment Act  
Cecilia Muñoz, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs The White House (I)
- Recognition Awards of NLCI Founding Board Members:  
Ivelisse Estrada, Senior Vice President, Corporate & Community Relations, Univision, Inc.  
Gloria Rodriguez, President and CEO, Comunicad, Inc.
- 12:00 pm Press Event - Hart Building, 9th Floor - Presentation of Senate Resolution recognizing April 30, 2009 as El Día de los Niños Celebrating Young Americans -10th Anniversary

How it Works

Adapted from the Mexican holiday on April 30th, El Día de los Niños Celebrating Young Americans is a unifying event that emphasizes the importance of young people in our communities. It is a gift from the Latino community that brings together children of all races and diverse backgrounds to have fun and learn about new cultures while drawing attention to challenges that children may face and creating solutions.

El Día de los Niños has been celebrated nationally since 1999 and April 30th has been designated as a commemorative day by a resolution of the United States Senate since. Over 150 communities in 34 states, included but not limited to Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Texas have planned activities for young people reaching over 500,000 participants.

Each participating community forms a city-wide committee of volunteers who help organize the events. Young people are always involved in the planning, and for many it is their first experience in civic affairs. The young people may participate in dialogue with elected officials and testify at city council meetings in order to request their day. They help write resolutions and contact elected officials to gain their support and involvement.

The planning committee is comprised of children's organizations, governmental agencies, corporate sponsors, honorary chairs, and students. Certain guidelines must be followed by each committee in order to become an official city. The guidelines assure everyone that children will be safe, that the events are inclusive and that no child is left out for lack of money to participate. For this reason, planning committees seek community-wide involvement, youth input, and financial support from corporations and others.

Resource Links

The Full State Report Card on Child Homeless in America  
<http://www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/report.php>

Health and Human Services-American Recovery and Reinvestment Act  
<http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/>

Latin American Youth Center  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/19/us/19immig.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/19/us/19immig.html?_r=1)

National Education Association  
<http://www.nea/mco.org>

Pew Hispanic Center  
The schools of young Latinos:  
<http://pewhispanic.org/reports/report.php?ReportID=105>

Pew Hispanic Center  
Undocumented immigrants:  
<http://pewhispanic.org/reports/report.php?ReportID=107>

Salsa, Sabor y Salud-Creating Healthy Lifestyles for Latino Families  
<http://www.nlci.org/salsa/indexSSS.htm>

U.S. Department of Education-American Recovery and Reinvestment Act  
<http://www.ed.gov/recovery>



## About milagros

For centuries, milagros have been used to ask for wishes, special intervention and good fortune. Made of wood, tin, bone paper and ribbon, milagros were placed in niches or crevices of churches or laid at the feet of a patron saint. Today, milagros are a tradition carried on throughout Latin America and in many other countries. Families might ask for safe passage during a perilous journey or for help during a difficult operation. Parents might ask for good health for their children or to ensure their children do well in school.

The National Latino Children's Institute (NLCI) has been collecting children and youth's wishes, hopes and dreams since 1996. Children are encouraged to write about their dreams for themselves, their family, community or the world. They then decorate the milagro, sometimes pasting a photograph of themselves on the milagro. NLCI has created beautiful displays of milagros in many parts of the country and especially during El Día de los Niños. Other community groups have joined in the effort and this activity has become a staple at many celebrations.

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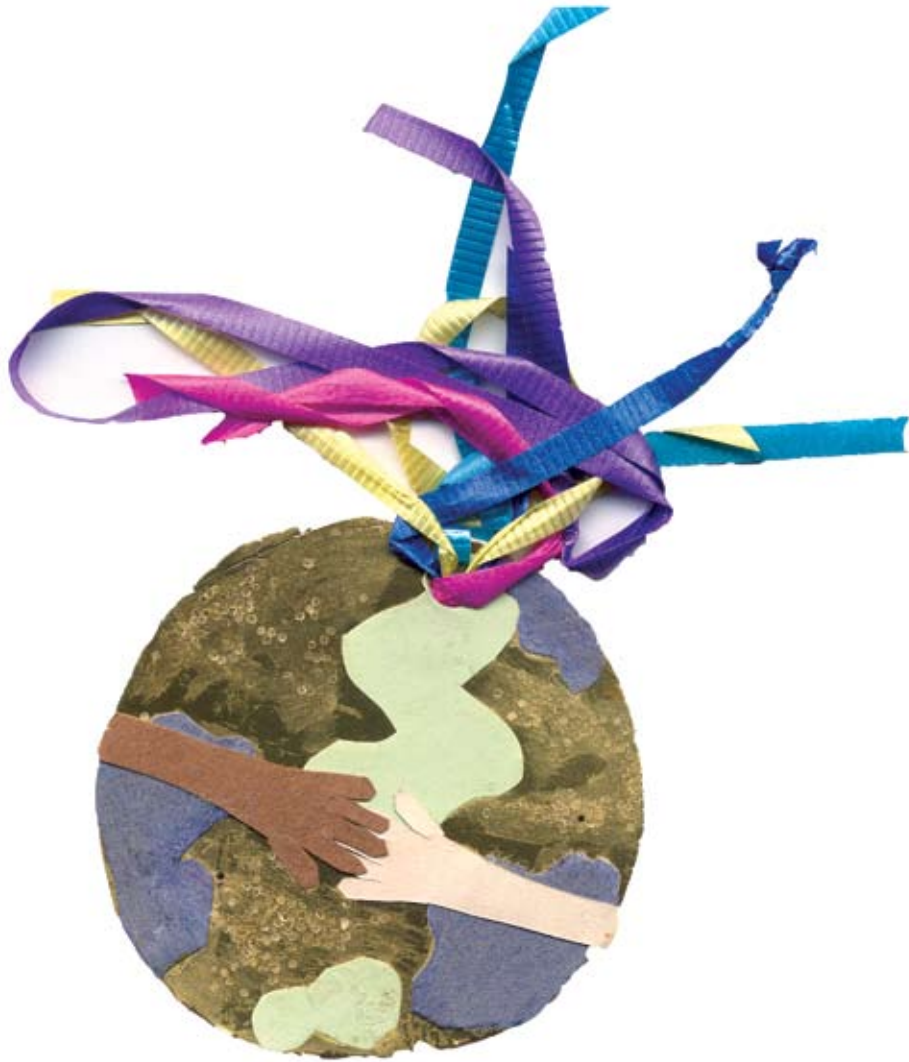
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*NLCI was founded in 1997 as a national non-profit organization; and is the only national Latino organization whose primary focus is Hispanic children birth-18. NLCI's mission is to focus the nation's attention on issues and challenges facing young Latinos and to assist communities in finding solutions. NLCI carries out its mission by working with community organizations and national partners. Our history and expertise in working with the Latino community, as well as the staff's commitment and strong relationships with organizations across the country, makes NLCI ideally suited to create and implement strategies that eliminate barriers to building healthy communities for young Latinos.*



## **National Latino Children's Institute**

**1115 So. Saint Mary's St.  
San Antonio, TX 78210  
210.228.9997  
[www.nlci.org](http://www.nlci.org)**