

APPENDIX J

Tepeyac Association After School Program

Where does it come from.

Asociación Tepeyac is a non profit organization whose goal is to educate Mexican immigrants in New York City and to organize them in defense of these rights. Our organization provides services to Mexican families who are new immigrants, one of the newest, largest, and fastest-growing populations in New York City. It is also one of the poorest, disenfranchised minority groups that face difficulties in social, legal, medical, and educational spheres, among others. They are also among the hardest-working populations in the city.

Although our program stems from our Mexican membership population, we also serve many Latino immigrant children with similar needs. It is designed so that members of our organization provide assistance and leadership in the Program to help the children and youth in their same neighborhoods to foster their educational skills and cultural identity.

What are we looking for:

The Mission of the project is to provide the resources for the human, social and academic development of children, youth and parents. We are convinced that helping children and young people in their education and evolving parents in the process we can use the After School programs as a bridge to each neighborhood, organizing the community and promoting social change.

How we do it.

One of our goals when we started the program was to meet the educational needs of children to ensure that they were on grade-level in each subject. Many of the children are immigrants themselves and often have parents who are not fluent in English and consequently find it difficult to help their children with their studies. The Program also included a cultural component where children are taught Mexican folkloric dance, arts and crafts, and painting.

The Program has now expanded to address issues important to their parents including immigration, advocacy, human rights, leadership, domestic violence, ESL and computer literacy classes, parenting, health, labor and immigration workshops.

After school program "Finding Our Roots" offers support in the following areas:

* Academic area: Tutoring in English and Spanish, helping the children do their homework and clear all their doubts in reading, writing and math.

* Cultural artistic area: In this program the Mexican boys and girls get to know the roots of their parents' country and fortify their cultural identity through the study of Mexican history, the folkloric ballet and manual arts.

* Sports area: In order to achieve the holistic development of the students, the program has integrated courses provided by the Asociacion Tepeyac soccer school to help the development of the children's physical skills.

We have two schools:

At this time our site in Queens is working in the first phase of our programs. This phase takes place with the volunteer work from people of the community in that area. We

started the program because the community itself realize that they have some educational needs and they get organized to work in this project.

We have successfully started another program at 2496 Marion Av. Bronx with a grant that we received from Dreyfus Foundation we were able to support that site, this would be the phase two of our programs because we are receiving funds from a foundation.

When?

The program takes place from Monday to Friday from 3:00pm to 6:00pm

This program is made possible through the volunteer work of Mexican parents and young people of the New York community, and the economic support of the Asociacion Tepeyac organizations, The Jean and Louis Dreyfus Foundation, and Health Plus.

Source: Tepeyac Association Web Site (2001): <http://www.tepeyac.org>