



# Parent Unity Across Communities Padres Unidos Cruzando Comunidades

Newsletter for Parents by Parents  Boletín para Padres creado por Padres

## Let our voices be heard!

### Please Attend!

#### **Next POWER-PAC Quarterly Meeting!**

*Friday, February 27th, 2015*

*Eckhart Park, 1330 W Chicago*

*9:30am–12:00pm (Followed by lunch)*

**Join other parents to discuss POWER-PAC campaigns! Call 312-226-5141 for childcare or transportation.**

### **POWER-PAC is Saving for Children!**

The POWER-PAC Stepping Out of Poverty committee is addressing **Children's Savings Accounts!** On January 6th, we met with **Arnie Rivera, the Deputy Chief of Staff of Education for the Mayor** and he committed to support our Children's Savings Accounts campaign by working with us to eliminate barriers to savings including improving access to banking services, expanding matched savings programs and looking at financial literacy classes for students and adults!

**Join us for our next Stepping Out of Poverty Committee meeting on Thursday, March 19th 10:00am-12:00pm at COFI!**

### **National Meals Summit**

On December 15th, Tara Williams traveled to D.C. to address the National Meals Summit with an audience of 270 people from 48 states. She represented POWER-PAC as she shared her experience as a mother, volunteer, and leader in Chicago's Englewood community where she does peer to peer outreach with COFI/POWER-PAC's Food Ambassador program to spread the word about summer meals. This program is coordinated with the Illinois No Kid Hungry Campaign and has tripled participation in Chicago's Free Summer Meals program over the past few years. **Learn more and join us for our next**

**Recess & Health Committee meeting on Friday, March 27th 10:00am-12:00pm at COFI!**

*"We are all here because we don't want to see any of our children hungry." Tara Williams*



### **Restorative Justice (RJ) for a Safer Chicago**

*"This is not only a place for our young people, but it's also a beginning for more parents to say, 'Hey, I can do that, I can be involved.'"*



On December 16th, POWER-PAC leaders joined the Mayor's Commission for a Safer Chicago for a press conference on restorative justice as a strategy for reducing youth violence and making our schools and communities safer. The Parent-Run Peace Center at Wells High School was highlighted as a model for schools across Chicago. Our impact through Restorative Justice is growing as we move forward with CPD and CPS to open Peace Centers at Melody, Nixon and Reavis Elementary Schools, expand RJ training for parents and facilitate our Self, Family & Team Training at Courtenay Elementary!

**Join us for our next Elementary Justice Committee meeting on Friday, March 27th 12:30-2:30pm at COFI!**

### **Early Learning Parents Trained and Ready!**

This fall and winter, over 200 parents have been to COFI training through an expansion of our work to parents of children in early learning programs throughout the state! This work is in 7 communities, including: Austin, Englewood, Pilsen/ Little Village, Aurora, Elgin, East Saint Louis, and Evanston!

*"The COFI training prepares parents to be excellent leaders in their homes and communities to better support our children's success which in turn creates a better community!"*

-Concepcion Ruiz, Pilsen/ Little Village



**Join us for our next Early Learning Committee meeting on Friday, March 6th 10:00am-12:00pm at COFI!**

*POWER-PAC meets with CPS Chief Family and Community Engagement Officer on February 16th. He agreed to work with parents to address school pushout and to explore expanding summer meal programming at CPS.*

*"You all are serious— you know your stuff, you come with solutions, and you want to work in partnership," Mr. Hampton said of POWER-PAC.*



**For more information about any of these campaigns or events, call COFI at 312-226-5141.**