

Nonprofit gives thanks for continued success

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We at Puertas Abiertas Community Resource Center are overjoyed with the “2013 Outstanding Nonprofit of the Year” title awarded by the Napa Chamber of Commerce and Mechanics Bank. There are not enough words to express how sincerely grateful and honored we are with this recognition.

On behalf of our board, staff and clients served, I want to thank those who nominated Puertas Abiertas for this award, as well as our donors, funders, supporters, volunteers and partners.

Puertas Abiertas was founded in 2005 with the goal to bridge the gap between service providers and the Latino community by bringing together resources and providing culturally sensitive intake and guided referrals.

In 2007, the Community Resource Center opened its doors on Napa Street with the mission to work hand-in-hand with Latinos to inspire and achieve healthy living, self-sufficiency and opportunities for leadership and community engagement. And in 2012, over 500 families were served by our organization.

Many people might be surprised to learn that our doors are actually open to anyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, language or creed. The goal of our programs is to empower families to make positive changes in their behaviors by accessing health and social services, improving education skills, becoming more engaged in the community, and by achieving self-sufficiency.

In order to reach these goals, we adapt and realign services with partners (public, private and nonprofits) to meet the most pressing needs of underserved local residents.

Some of our programs include Case Mentoring, English as a Second Language (ESL), Middle School Connections, Free Tax Preparation, Civic Engagement, Mobile Mexican Passport/ID Clinic, Zumba, and Plaza Comunitaria — an adult self-paced program for life and work skills.

Over the course of the last eight years of working in Napa County, Puertas Abiertas has built a strong and continually expanding network of partners. We joined efforts with other nonprofits in leading key initiatives, including Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA), Bank On Napa Valley, One Napa Valley/Citizenship Assistance, among others.

We are really fortunate to do this work in a community like ours, and this award inspires our dedicated team to continue working toward a healthier, stronger and more engaged citizenry. For everyone who has believed, encouraged, donated, volunteered and supported our mission, our most sincere “thank you.”

Brito is the executive director of Puertas Abiertas Community Resource Center.