



October 2016

Message from the Executive Director

Greetings from El Concilio!

September has been an amazing month for Concilio; I am happy to report the success of our three Annual Puerto Rican Festival events that took place. Our Cultural Events remain the pulse of the Latino community with continued opportunities to engage residents from all over the city.

Our Annual Seniors Luncheon kicked off the month and gave us a chance to celebrate and recognize the elders in our community with a free midday meal, dancing and live entertainment. The Annual Puerto Rican Gala was the chance for us to formally honor members of the community that make real impact through their tireless efforts - and to get a little dressed up! Our month ended with great flair, the Annual Puerto Rican Day Parade was a wonderful community event for us to highlight Puerto Rican culture and to celebrate with elected officials, sponsors, community groups, local schools and dance teams. We experienced great weather, amazing media coverage and an overall positive vibe from all who participated.



Adonis Banegas

I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the volunteers, sponsors, staff members and everyone else who contributed to these events. With the turnout at each event, we were able to express *el poder de nuestra voz*.

Concilio serves over 10,000 residents in the Philadelphia area through our Family Social Services and Community Based Services departments. Programs include LIHEAP Assistance, Victim Witness Services, Summer Youth Employment, After School Program for Youth, Parenting Skills Training, Adoption Services, Foster Care, Post Permanency Services, Housing Counseling and Immunization Outreach. As we head into the fall, expect an increase in awareness campaigns to promote the many great services Concilio offers.

Enjoy the fall weather!

Adonis Banegas
Executive Director
www.elconcilio.net

Upcoming Events

Pre-purchase Workshop

Tuesday, October 18th
5:30-7:30pm
141 E Hunting Park Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19124
Please RSVP at 215-627-3100.

Concilio's Flu Clinic

For adults ages 19-64 and uninsured
Wednesday, October 26th
4:00-6:00pm
141 E Hunting Park Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19124

Parenting Classes

Concilio offers an ongoing educational series about parenting skills for today's families. For more information, please contact us at 215-627-3100.

Cultural Events

Concilio would like to thank all staff, volunteers, and sponsors who supported a successful event series of 2016 Puerto Rican Festival Events!

Senior Luncheon kicked off on September 2nd. We had a great turnout with over 200 seniors in attendance and even Seth Williams showed up for a dance!



At our Annual Puerto Rican Gala on September 17th, we were delighted to honor members of our community with several awards, including: **DHS Commissioner Cynthia Figueroa**, Citizen of the Year; **Norris Square Civic Association's Executive Director Patricia DeCarlo**, Lifetime Achievement; **PA Handball Association's Wally Amaro**, Community Service Award; and **Lina Jaquez**, Latino Youth Award. A special thank you, as well, to our emcee for the night's proceedings: Telemundo's Ramón Zayas.



To see more photos from this evening, check out our album on [Facebook!](#)

This year marked our 54th Annual Puerto Rican Day Parade! Thank you to all of the elected officials, sponsors, community groups, local schools and dance teams who walked with us! We were happy to have Mayor Jim Kenney; city and state officials including District Attorney Seth Williams, Councilwoman Maria Quinones Sanchez, Councilman David Oh, City Commissioner Al Schmidt and State Representative Angel Cruz; and celebrities including Philadelphia boxer Brandon Pizarro and Ms. Keystone State Abigail Chacon, as they walked down the Benjamin Franklin Parkway with us. Attendees were also delighted to see surprise attendee and Hollywood actor John Leguizamo! A special thank you to Danny "Swift" Garcia who served as Parade Grand Marshal along with his two sisters!



To check out more photos from the Parade, check out the [Inquirer's slideshow of highlights!](#)

Save the Dates for 2016

Annual Puerto Rican Festival Closing Ceremony - more information TBD!

Annual Puerto Rican Festival Closing Ceremony

NOVEMBER 11

Come join us at our closing ceremony
where we'll award the winners of our
2016 Puerto Rican Parade!

Program News

Family Social Services

Chooch's Chicos

Last month, Concilio's foster care families had the opportunity to enjoy the night out with the Philadelphia Phillies! Best part of the night was meeting "Chooch" Concilio's favorite Latino player!



Community Based Services

East Division Victim Witness Services

Concilio, in collaboration with Congreso de Latinos Unidos is operating a "East Division Victim/Witness Hotline". The hotline is in operation Monday-Friday 8:30-5:00. Community members are welcomed to call to talk to a victim advocate, get connected to victim services, schedule appointments with a Concilio or Congreso advocate or to get information on victim rights. The hotline number is 267-986-1813.

Concilio's Victim Witness Services Program is open for referrals! Please contact our main number for more information about appointments, services, and support: 215-627-3100.

Housing Services

Concilio's Housing Counseling Services is now completing application for residents who have shut off notices from PGW, PWD, and PECO. If you have a shut off notice and need support to avoid shut off, or to turn utilities back on please call us at 215-627-3100.

OST Summer Youth Program

Concilio's newly hired team of Youth Facilitators are busy planning for afterschool programs, which started September 19th. Concilio will continue our partnership with Antonia Pantoja Charter School and Community Academy of Philadelphia. We are excited to welcome our new partnership with Francis J. Hopkinson Elementary where we will begin services on site for elementary and middle school students!

For Rent: Concilio's Hall

With 3,700 square feet of open space, come visit our Community Hall to book your next event!

In addition, we can offer: a prep kitchen space, break out rooms, and plenty of parking!



Please contact Amanda Lopez (Amanda.Lopez@elconcilio.net) Monday-Friday, 8:30am-5:00pm to schedule a showing.



Thank you, Comcast!

On September 26th, Concilio was proud to join with nine other local Philadelphia non-profits to receive digital literacy grants from Comcast, as part of its Internet Essentials program. The funds are going towards our computer labs!

La Voz

On September 27th Concilio joined Comcast, City Leaders, Community Members, local organizations and Olympic Legend Jackie Joyner-Kersey in celebrating 6 years of Comcast's Internet Essentials in Philadelphia. Internet Essentials works to ensure affordable access to the internet for 85,000 families in the Philadelphia area. Internet Essentials provides high speed internet for 10.00/a month for eligible individuals and families. This year Concilio is thrilled to partner with Comcast for a grant for \$29,000 to support digital literacy education for our afterschool students!

Staff Corner

October Birthdays!

- Amanda Lopez - 10/15

Congrats!

- Congratulations to **Jessica Bishop**, Manager of Family Social Services on her recent engagement!
- Congratulations to **Ms. Irina Valentin** for her recent promotion from Data Specialist to Quality Assurance and Data Coordinator!
- Shout out to **Melanie Nieves**, events coordinator consultant who did an amazing job supporting all Concilio events during the month of September! Thank you for all your hard work and dedication!!

Concilio has the following positions open! Come work with us!

- [Part-time Bi-lingual Parent Educator](#)
 - [Bi-lingual Victim Advocate](#)
 - [Part-time Permanency Specialist](#)
 - [Marketing and Events Specialist](#)
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About Concilio

Concilio's Mission

Our mission is to cultivate the strength and resilience of children and families, improve the quality of life in our community, and maintain our community's heritage, history, and culture.

Concilio's Purpose

- To provide social, educational, cultural, prevention and intervention services and programs to underserved young people and families in the Philadelphia region;
- To serve as a convener/voice for the diverse Latino community around issues impacting children, youth and families;
- To serve as a catalyst for maintaining and celebrating the cultural heritages and histories of our diverse Latino communities.

Concilio's Advocacy Role

Concilio's role as an advocate for the Latino community is to be *presente*, listening to, understanding and giving voice to the needs, wishes and dreams of our diverse community. Concilio also partners with other communities to address shared interests or concerns.

Concilio is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) in Pennsylvania and a Charitable Organization (No: 15208) a registered non-profit corporation. It was founded in 1962 and is a recognized leader in the Social Services field. Concilio's operations are always aligned with Mission, Vision, and Values, and has no political or religious affiliations.

United Way Contribution # 355107

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