



**December 2016**

## **Message from the Executive Director**

Greetings from El Concilio!

In my very short time thus far as Executive Director with Concilio, one thing that has been evident is the passion that the staff, our board, partners, sponsors and the residents of the community have for our rich culture and for improving the quality of life of the people we serve. 2016 brought about many changes with Concilio, which can be challenging, but which also provides an opportunity to evaluate and at times re-evaluate the agency as a whole from the direct services we offer to how we celebrate our cultural heritage through our many events. In an effort to improve our Puerto Rican Parade, I will be participating in the [Puerto Rican Parades and Festivals Summit](#) taking place in New York City the first weekend in December in which organizers of parades/festivals from across the country will come together to discuss best practices and share resources. My intent is to utilize the information attained and add what other locations have done that make their parades successful and merge it with what has made our parade successful in years past to make it a proud and vibrant event. I will also have the pleasure of serving as a panelist in one of the breakout sessions entitled "Street Festivals, Cultural Activism and Community Based Organizations" in which I will be able to share our experiences with hosting the annual parade in Philadelphia.



Adonis Banegas

As the weather gets colder and we enter the holiday season, we are tirelessly preparing for 2017 as we look to enhance our services in the areas in which our expertise lie and continue to serve as "La Voz" of the Latino Community through our advocacy and cultural enrichment activities. It promises to be an exciting year! Concilio will continue to highlight our unique value in and around the community we serve by increasing agency wide activities that lead to engagement opportunities for all. Concilio's first of many activities for 2017 is quickly approaching and it is a time-honored tradition that hundreds of children thoroughly enjoy: The Three Kings Day celebration held on Thursday January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Concilio's Community Hall. For more information regarding how you can participate as a donor, volunteer or recipient [click here](#).

I would like to thank everyone for their support and I am eager to see how much we can accomplish together in the New Year.

Happy Holidays!

Adonis Banegas, MSHE  
Executive Director  
[www.elconcilio.net](http://www.elconcilio.net)

---

## Upcoming Events

### Foster Care Orientation Session for community members interested in Fostering

Thursday, December 8th  
10:00am-12:00pm (In Spanish/En Espanol)  
5:30-7:30pm (in English)  
141 E Hunting Park Ave  
Philadelphia PA, 19124

### Pre-Purchase Workshop

Tuesday, December 13th  
5:30-8:00pm  
141 E Hunting Park Ave  
Philadelphia, PA 19124  
RSVP at 215-627-3100.

### Financial Literacy, Pre-purchase, and Foreclosure Prevention Seminar

Saturday December 10th 2016  
9:00am-1:00pm  
141 E Hunting Park Ave  
Philadelphia PA 19124  
RSVP at 215-627-3100.

### Parenting Classes

Monday, December 12th  
10:00-12:00 (In Spanish/En Espanol)  
2:00-4:00 (in English)  
141 E Hunting Park Ave  
Philadelphia, PA 19124  
RSVP at 215-627-3100.

---

## Cultural Events



On November 10th, Concilio hosted the Annual Puerto Rican Closing Awards Ceremony. The night proved to be a vibrant celebration of unity, cultural pride and plenty of dancing! Congrats to all the 2016 winners! Check out the winning performance from Esperanza Academy Dance Ensemble [here](#).

### 1st Place, Overall & High School

Esperanza Academy Dance Ensemble

### 1st Place, Middle School

Julia De Burgos Middle School

### 1st Place, Dance Troupe

Diverse Dancers

### 1st Place, Dance Troupe

Palante Dance Company

### 1st Place, Non Profit

Congreso

### 1st Place, Community

Motivos

### 1st Place, Commercial/Corporate

La Fortaleza Rehab and Fitness Center

**2nd Place, High School**  
Community Academy of Philadelphia

**2nd Place, Middle School**  
Aspira Schools of PA

**2nd Place, Dance Troupe**  
Grupo Tremendos Dancers

**3rd Place, Highschool**  
Frankford High School Army Junior ROTC

**Get Involved With Our Concilio Cultural Events!**

Concilio invites dedicated community members to become a part of our **Hispanic Fiesta Committee** as we begin our planning for 2017. Concilio's Hispanic Fiesta at Penn's Landing is Philadelphia's premier Latino event designed to unite and raise awareness of the Latino culture and community. This two-day regional celebration features music, dance, entertainment, ethnic foods and artisan crafts representative of nearly all Latin American countries. Committee members would be responsible for providing insight and innovative advice relative to our goals in terms of strategy and implementation. Ideal candidates exhibit high energy, creativeness, and the ability to gauge local communities. Our first meeting is scheduled for 12/15/16 at 5 pm. Please confirm your attendance to Melanie Nieves, Marketing and Events Specialist, by Dec. 9th to participate at [melanie.nieves@elconcilio.net](mailto:melanie.nieves@elconcilio.net) or call 215.627.3100 x204 for more information.

## Save the Dates

# Three Kings Day Celebration

Please join us for our annual event! We will read a story about the holiday and each child will get a present.

**Thursday, Jan. 5th  
5:30-8:00pm**

Concilio Banquet Hall  
141 E Hunting Park Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19124

To attend, please RSVP to  
215-627-3100.



**Three Kings Holiday Celebration:**

Thursday, January 5th, 2017  
5:30-8:00pm  
141 East Hunting Park Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19124

To donate toys for Three Kings Day, you can visit Concilio and place them in the drop-off box located in our lobby. To add a drop-off box to your own location, please contact Melanie Nieves, Marketing and Events Specialist, at [melanie.nieves@elconcilio.net](mailto:melanie.nieves@elconcilio.net) or call 215.627.3100 x204.

Concilio will also be hosting new and exciting events in 2017. Stay tuned for further information on our Wedding Expo in February, our Job Fair in March and our Health Fair this spring!

*\*Please note dates may be subject to change due to availability and confirmation of proposed venues for events. For more information, please call 215-627-3100.*

---

## Program News

### ***Family Social Services***



*Edith Morales (left), Lisa Summers (center), and Mallory Santiago (right) all received awards for their foster care efforts.*

On November 17th, Concilio hosted its annual Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner. 35 families came out to enjoy an evening of celebration and fun with Concilio youth and families! The following families were awarded for their extraordinary care of children!

- Mallory Santiago: Provided the Most Respite Care Placements in 2016
- Lisa Summers: Provided the highest number of overall placements for Concilio in 2016
- Edith Morales: Attended the greatest number of trainings in 2016

Concilio congratulates all of the winners and is grateful for all they do to support children in need of our of homes placement!



Congratulations to Ms. Story Brown who is now providing a forever home for True and Trent Brown! The 2 children were adopted in November 2016.



Congratulations also to Vanessa Wilson who adopted Makai Wilson this month!

### ***Community Based Services***

#### **East Division Victim Witness Services**

**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 is now accepting clients who have utility shut off notices, including notices from PECO, PWD, and PGW. Please call us at 215-627-3100 to schedule an appointment to avoid shut off.

#### **OST Youth Program**



In November, Hopkinson Youth learned all about the human brain through the activity "No Pain, No Brain." Students learned about all of the different parts of the brain as well as ways to keep our brains healthy and strong!

---

# 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@efconcilio.net](mailto:Amanda.Lopez@efconcilio.net)) Monday-Friday, 8:30am-5:00pm to schedule a showing.



## La Voz

On November 21st, Concilio stood in solidarity with all those affected by the Orlando Pulse Night Club shooting. The Philadelphia Theatre Company presented "After Orlando," which shed light on the growing, and devastating history of gun violence. The evening brought together a powerful production of staged readings and inspirational messages to inspire a call to action.



*Notes of peace left by the attendees of After Orlando*

## Staff Corner

### December Birthdays!

- Jessica Bishop - December 21st

### Congrats!



*Yesenia De Meira, Oral Bestman, and Emily Pagan*

- Congratulations to **Oral Bestman** who was promoted to the position of Operations Manager! In her new role Oral will be responsible for facilities management, front desk operations, vendor partnerships, and overall functioning of all operational aspects of the agency.
- Congratulations to **Emily Pagan** who was promoted to the position of Executive Assistant! In her new role Emily will work hand in hand with Concilio's Executive Team to provide core administrative supports across the agency.
- Congratulations to **Yesenia De Meira** who was promoted to the position of Immunizations Coordinator. In her role she will supervise three outreach workers and oversee program compliance.

### Welcome to the Concilio Familia!

- Melisha Martinez, Family Social Services' Resource Parent Coach
- Stephanie Agudelo, Family Social Services' Permanency Specialist
- Melanie Nieves, Concilio's Marketing and Events Specialist
- Stephanie Betancourt, OST Youth Facilitator
- Iziah Reyes, OST Youth Facilitator
- Gregory Woolford, OST Youth Facilitator
- Keyanna West, OST Youth Facilitator
- Geraldo Montilla, OST Youth Facilitator

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

- [Part-time Bi-lingual Parent Educator](#)
  - [Part-time Permanency Specialist](#)
  - [Part-time Youth Facilitator](#)
  - [Full-time Bilingual Court Advocate](#)
  - [Full-time Immunizations Outreach Worker](#)
-

# 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

141 E Hunting Park Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19124  
215-627-3100 | [www.elconcilio.net](http://www.elconcilio.net)

