



DFW LGBTQ LATINO/A ALLIANCE  
**VALIENTE**

**In this issue:**

**Gay Church brings hope to children south of the border, page 2**

**10 Questions with Henry Ramirez, page 3**

Valiente  
PO Box 35332  
Dallas, TX 75235  
www.valiente.org  
contact@valiente.org  
214.521.5342 ext. 1726

# Boletín

A Publication for Members and Friends of Valiente • May 2007

## Valiente and LULAC 4871 team up for AIDS Arms Lifewalk

Valiente and LULAC 4871 - The Dallas Rainbow Council will join forces this summer to raise funds for the 17th annual LifeWalk, sponsored by AIDS Arms.

The walk takes place Sunday, Oct. 14, at Lee Park (Lemmon Ave. and Turtle Creek Blvd.) from Noon to 1 p.m.

AIDS Arms is an organization that assists individuals in accessing the health care, resources and support necessary to successfully manage the challenges of living with HIV/AIDS.

Each year, the organization holds a 5K walk to raise funds for itself and partner agencies. Valiente has participated in the past two years. This will be LULAC 4871's first year.

"LULAC Council 4871 looks forward to participating with Valiente to raise funds for a worthy cause," said Oscar Gutierrez, president of LULAC Council 4871. "I think it is important that both groups get involved with this fundraiser because HIV/AIDS disproportionately affects Latinos at a greater rate."

Although Latinos represent 14 percent of the U.S. population, Hispanics account for 18 percent of AIDS cases, according to AIDS Arms.

"With HIV/AIDS infection rates continuing to increase in the Latino population, Valiente is proud to join forces with LULAC Council 4871 and other area LULAC councils at this year's annual LifeWalk," said Fernie Sanchez, president of Valiente. "It is important that Latino organizations do what they can to raise awareness and to support AIDS service organizations that provide care and support to those in our community."

Valiente and LULAC 4871 have set a \$2,000 goal. You can donate online at <http://www.firstgiving.com/valiente2007>.

It is estimated that 17,500 people in North Texas live with HIV/AIDS. If someone is living below 150 percent of the poverty level, their medications are free. If someone has no insurance and is above the poverty level and has to pay out-of-pocket, HIV medications can easily



*(Left to right): Valiente President Fernie Sanchez and LULAC 4871 President Oscar Gutierrez will team up to raise funds for AIDS Arms Lifewalk, taking place Sunday, Oct. 14.*

run \$1,000 to \$3,000 a month.

AIDS Arms currently serves about 3,000 adults and 800 impacted children per year. Every month, the agency gets 30 to 40 new clients and does the majority of intakes in the area, according to staff. Money raised by LifeWalk will help maintain core services at AIDS Arms, such as HIV primary medical care (such as the Peabody Health Center, which is the only HIV primary care facility in South Dallas), medical case management, outreach and prevention, and medication assistance.

**Did you know?**

- Approximately 75 people in the Dallas Metroplex are diagnosed each month.
- AIDS is the third leading cause of death for Latinos between the ages of 25 and 44.
- Dallas has the second highest HIV infection rate of any city in Texas.
- Overall, 25 percent of people living with AIDS and 20 percent of people living with HIV in Texas are Latino.
- In the 15 to 19 age bracket, Latinos in Texas account for 35 percent of AIDS cases and 18 percent of HIV infections.
- From 1999 to 2002 the number of HIV cases among Hispanic women rose 63 percent. ♡

## Largest Gay Church brings hope to children south of the border

Dallas may be known for its sports teams, Fortune 500 companies and the future home of the George W. Bush Presidential Library, but Big D also boasts the world's largest liberal Christian church with a primary outreach to the LGBT community.

The Cathedral of Hope, located at 5910 Cedar Springs Rd. in Dallas, is affiliated with the United Church of Christ denomination and has 52,000 worldwide constituents, 3,500 members and 1,500 weekly attendees.

Each year, the Cathedral of Hope gives more than \$1 million in direct aid and service each year to the local community.

The church also has international service projects in Mexico (Reynosa and Guadalajara) and Honduras since 2003.

In June, six to 10 members of the Cathedral will embark on a mission to help finish a project they have started in the outskirts of Reynosa, Mexico.

Lay Ministers Don Culver and Sheila Coughlin, who coordinate the mission trips, hope their work will inspire members of Valiente to participate in future projects:

**Boletín: What inspires you to do this work? Don Culver:** "I think we all want to live useful lives and find a useful place within our church. Not everyone is called to works which require travel. However, when we sense an interest in something, a nudging that causes us to think, 'I could be useful here,' it may be the very 'calling' we've been hoping to understand. Although there are many ministries to serve within the Cathedral of Hope, I sensed that nudging about this project. Having witnessed the level of need in La



*The school at La Calichera (in the outskirts of Reynosa, Mexico) provides classes for 80 to 100 children each day. The new building will allow them to accept 5th and 6th graders during the next school year. Without this facility, many of these children would simply not go to*

*school. Already they live each day without electricity or running water. Their homes are built of scraps from discarded pallets. The "maestros" who instruct in the school are secondary students who receive financial assistance for their own educations. Because of the Cathedral of Hope's election to provide a very basic facility, these children and families have an option which could change their futures and enrich their lives.*

Calichera, I'm thankful to be involved."  
**Sheila Coughlin:** "Two years ago I worked on a home improvement project through the church. I discovered that I could paint so last year when the church was looking for folks to paint a school room in Mexico I decided to go along. It was a weekend that changed my life. Everyone was so kind and appreciated what we had done. It was wonderful to feel as if I had really made a small difference in the lives of children."

**Continued on Page 4,  
See "Mission to Mexico"**

## News Briefs



*(Left to right): On May 5, Rey Franco hosted a Cinco De Mayo mixer for Valiente. Dallas District 2 Councilwoman Pauline Medrano and Dallas District 3 Candidate Joseph Hernandez attended the function, which attracted 100 people.*

### **Valiente members meet May 17:**

The May mixer of Valiente takes place Thursday, May 17, at 6:30 p.m., at Havana's, located at 4006 Cedar Springs Rd., Dallas, TX 75219. This month's special guest is Jeff Strater, political action chair of the local Human Rights Campaign.

### **Two new members join Valiente:**

Since May 1, Valiente has picked up two new members: Suzanne Hickman and Clinton Swingle. Juan Ayala and Jesse Garcia renewed their memberships in May. To join or renew your membership, contact Membership Chair Cesar Reyna at [reyna\\_cesar@yahoo.com](mailto:reyna_cesar@yahoo.com) or go online at [www.valiente.org/en](http://www.valiente.org/en). Click on "Membership."

### **Valiente searches for artists for Hispanic Heritage Month art show:**

Valiente will once again sponsor Hispanic Heritage Month this fall, featuring cultural events for the community. The Social and Cultural Committee is inviting artists to participate in an Art Show being planned between September 15 and October 15. Valiente is looking for photography, paintings, drawings and sculptures by artists in the LGBT Latino community and its allies. There will also be a poetry slam scheduled. For more information, contact Jesse Garcia at [jgarci71@aol.com](mailto:jgarci71@aol.com).

### **LULAC 4871 meets May 22:**

LULAC Council 4871 - The Dallas Rainbow Council meets Tuesday, May 22, at 6:30 p.m. at the LULAC Housing Commission, located at 6500 Greenville Ave., Suite 515, Dallas, TX 75206. For more information, visit [www.lulac4871.org](http://www.lulac4871.org). V

## Mundo Latino

### Dallas Gay Latino heads into runoff for city council race in June:

Joseph Hernandez clinched a runoff spot in Dallas City Council District 3 race held on May 12. He received 32.05 percent of the ballots cast that evening (1,837 votes), after opponent Dave Neumann, who garnered 36.15 percent (2,072 votes). Since neither candidate scored more than 50 percent, the top two vote getters head to a match up on Saturday, June 16. They are running to represent a district that has a big LGBT and Latino population. In that same election, openly-Gay mayoral candidate Ed Oakley secured a runoff spot for Dallas mayor. Oakley, who currently serves as District 3's councilman, received 20.65 percent of the vote (14,746 votes). He will face opponent Tom Leppert, who received 27.11 percent (19,360 votes).

### GLAAD strikes back at homophobic disc jockey based in Dallas:

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation thanked Univision Radio for suspending for one month "The Luis Jiménez Show" for its host's defamatory on-air use of anti-gay slurs on May 1. "GLAAD applauds Univision Radio for doing the right thing and taking responsible action against Jiménez's vulgar and bigoted comments," said Neil Giuliano, president of GLAAD. On his May 1 radio program, Jiménez, who is based in Dallas, performed "Las Patas" (The Dykes), a song in which homophobic slurs ridiculed Lesbians. Later during that same program, the show introduced an offensive stereotypical Gay character called "Chef Pepín." Jiménez then ridiculed and verbally abused Chef Pepín for being Gay, saying, "Cállate pato" (Shut up, faggot).

### U.S. Congress reintroduces Uniting American Families Act:

On May 8, the Uniting American Families Act was reintroduced by Democrats Rep. Jerrold Nadler of New York and Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont. This act allows citizens and legal residents in same-sex relationships to sponsor their partners for immigration purposes. Approximately 75 percent of the one million green cards or immigrant visas are currently issued to family members of U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Same-sex couples are not recognized as "families" under U.S. immigration laws, and are unable to sponsor their partners. ▽

# 10 Questions

with  
Henry Ramirez

Dallas native Henry Ramirez works to make life better for the LGBT community through education and awareness projects sponsored by the Resource Center of Dallas in Oak Lawn. He has been associated with the center for more than a decade.

### Boletín: What motivates you to work with the Resource Center? Henry:

"Working with the GLBT community, building partnerships with allies and making a difference when and where I can."

### Boletín: What is your official title and how long have you worked there? Henry:

"I am the Center Programs Coordinator. I have been volunteering and working part time at the center off and on since 1994. I accepted this full time position in May 2005. On May 9, I celebrated my second year anniversary."

### Boletín: Describe a typical day for you. Henry:

"Contacting sponsors for GayBingo and the GLBT Living Series, facilitating classes (diversity education) at local colleges and universities, working on GLBT job placement, and getting people in touch with resources."

### Boletín: How many clients at the Resource Center have you worked with? Henry:

"The Resource Center of Dallas provides services and programs in two areas: health and medical (those impacted by HIV/AIDS). I work on the GLBT side. The number of people the GLBT side has served over the past year (including GLBT 101, Diversity Training, GayBINGO and the GLBT Living Series and other programs) is approximately 48,294."

### Boletín: You coordinate a better living series at the center. What do your courses offer? Henry:

"All classes are facilitated by professionals in their field, examples are: interviewing skills, resume writing, GLBT job expo (only one of its kind in North Texas), legal forum (employment, criminal and family law), nutrition classes, cooking classes, self-defense training (provided by Dallas Police Department and Club NIN), CPR certification, stress relief and much more."



### Boletín: If you were not in the nonprofit world, where would see yourself working in? Henry:

"I have worked in banking and have done other corporate work. If I went back into corporate, it would have to be a company that supported the GLBT community."

### Boletín: Where are you originally from? Henry:

"Born and raised in Big D (Oak Cliff). I have family in California (big Dallas Cowboy fans) and in Chicago."

### Boletín: Who are your heroes? Henry:

"My mom and dad. They taught me to love and accept everyone. They are very supportive of all I do. I started my volunteerism at the age of 14, when my mom got me up at 5:30 in the morning to help build houses for the less fortunate as part of a corporate outreach program."

### Boletín: What is GayBINGO? Henry:

"GayBINGO Dallas is one of the most successful programs sponsored by the Resource Center of Dallas and its supporters. Proceeds from each night support the programs of the Resource Center."

### Boletín: When is the next GayBingo? Henry:

"GayBINGO is every third Saturday of the month. The next event is 'Prom Night GayBINGO' on May 19 at the Lakewood Theater. Many of the volunteers and players have already purchased their prom dresses and tuxedos. In July, we're doing a special guest celebrity host for our sixth year anniversary. The theme is 'Pajama Party GayBINGO' and Charlie David, 'Toby' from 'Dante's Cove' on cable here! TV, will be hosting the event. We are really excited." ▽

# Mission to Mexico: LGBT Church gives back

Continued from Page 2

**Boletín: Who pays for the trips? Don:** “Cathedral of Hope Benevolences fund pays for the project materials. Travel expenses and meals are covered by the volunteers.”

**Boletín: How big is your team? Don:** “The entire body of the Cathedral of Hope is our team. We usually travel with six to 10 players.”

**Boletín: What type of skills do you need? Don:** “Willingness is the only skill required. The chores are very basic. If you can hold a paint brush or hammer, someone will teach you to use it.

**Boletín: “Do volunteers have to be fluent in Spanish?” Don:** “No. But, we always hope for Spanish-speaking members to join us.”

**Boletín: To date, how many buildings have you erected in Mexico? Sheila:** “We have built three classrooms in Mexico.” **Don:** “The building constructed in May is the fourth.”

**Boletín: When is your next trip? Don:** “We will travel to Reynosa from June 7-10 to paint and finish out the new building.”

**Boletín: If one wants to participate, what do they need?: Don:** “No passport is required to drive across the border. This policy is likely to change soon. Presently you need to have a driver’s license or birth certificate.”

**Boletín: How long is the trip?: Don:** “Reynosa is exactly 500 miles south of Dallas. That’s four days for those who drive; three hours for those who fly.”

**Boletín: Is there any down time to see the country?: Don:** “We take lodging on

the U.S. side of the border and go directly to La Calichera for work. With only two to three days to accomplish our tasks, there is no sightseeing involved. However, some who drive take a reprieve in San Antonio or Austin as they travel.”

**Boletín: What are the benefits of doing this work?: Sheila:** “The fact that you can see that your hard work has made a difference.” **Don:** “The huge blessing we witness and experience. The residents of La Calichera have treated all that they have received with care and thanksgiving. If you’ve sung the chorus ‘Change my heart, oh God’ and didn’t feel inspired, let us take you to La Calichera.”

**Boletín: If someone would like to donate money toward your project, where can they send their check to?: Don:** “Make donations to Cathedral of Hope and indicate Reynosa Mission on the memo.”



Valiente

P.O. Box 35332 • Dallas, TX 75235  
www.valiente.org

**Boletín** is a monthly publication of Valiente. Views and opinions are those of the members. To contact the editor, e-mail Jesse Garcia at Jgarcia71@aol.com. No portion of this newsletter may be reproduced without permission.

President • Fernando Sanchez  
Vice President • Jerry Martinez  
Treasurer • Rey Franco  
Secretary • Ben Leal

\*\*\*\*Remember:

Valiente Mixer

Thursday, May 17, 6:30 p.m.

Havana's on 4006 Cedar Springs Rd.

Featured guest: Jeff Strater of Human Rights Campaign