



## Bienestar Receives Awards from Oregon Opportunity Network

An audience of 500 gathered in Portland for the Oregon Opportunity Network's Annual Awards Gala applauded Bienestar as recipient of the first Thrive and Shine Award for the state. The Thrive and Shine Award is presented to honor an outstanding resident services program that effectively addresses the needs of low-income families or individuals through stabilizing housing, supporting innovative solutions to family or neighborhood problems, developing programs for children and youth, reaching un- or under-served populations, or implementing creative solutions to other community needs. There were five other organizations nominated for the award this year, including CPAH, Innovative Housing, Northwest Housing Alternatives, PCRI and REACH, so the competition was fierce. We are grateful to Ann Blaker, Bienestar's Board Vice president for nominating Bienestar. Executive Director Karen Shawcross and Program Services Director Grace Garcia accepted the award.



Oregon Opportunity Network is a membership-based statewide association of affordable housing and community development organizations that provide housing and economic opportunities for working families, people with disabilities, seniors and others struggling to meet their needs in communities throughout Oregon. More information is available at [www.oregonon.org](http://www.oregonon.org).

Also honored at the ceremony was Bienestar's Office Manager/Program Coordinator Jorge Tello, receiving recognition as a Star Player for 2011.

Jorge's award reads in part: "Jorge has become a professional juggler – he juggles two jobs at Bienestar, two bosses, and excels at both. Whatever it is, Jorge is pitching in: helping with summer lunches, barbecuing 1200 hot dogs for resident meetings, troubleshooting staff IT issues, picking up donated toys, setting up new computer labs, ironing decals on aprons to sell, getting us hip with social media.....Kudos to Jorge."

