

Article about Hillsboro grant

March 4, 2009

“Bienestar is doing great work in our community”, said new Hillsboro Mayor Jerry Willey as he presented Executive Director Karen Shawcross a check at the city council meeting last night for \$2,500.

The funds were awarded by the Hillsboro City Council as part of their Community Grants Program. The Bienestar funds will be used to support the expansion of our Promotores Program to serve Sunset Gardens and Sierra West Apartments in Hillsboro.

Four new Promotores were recruited and trained this fall to serve the residents of Sunset Gardens and Sierra West following the lease-up of these properties in October, 2008. The award funds will be used to offset the cost of monthly stipends.

Promotores are our “community connectors” – residents of our properties who are identified as potential leaders. They then receive special training, both group and individual, in outreach, counseling, resources and referrals. Each Promotor(a) then makes 40 home visits annually to the families in the apartment communities where they live, helping to identify issues/concerns, and then connecting the families with Bienestar and other community resources. In the spring, in teams of two, they make special group presentations to residents about topics of interest like diabetes prevention, helping your child in school, stress management, etc. Work experience opportunities are also made available to Promotores. They are the future Latino leaders of the community.

The Bienestar Promotores program has been supported by a generous grant from United Way of Columbia-Willamette for 3 years, as well as funding from the Northwest Health Foundation. We are very grateful to these donors and for the City of Hillsboro for their investment in the development of future community leaders, and in a peer-to-peer program that offers badly needed resources and help for our resident families.