

News Release
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WSEM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXPERIENCE LATIN AMERICA AT INAUGURAL EL BARRIO BENEFIT

CLEVELAND (May 12, 2009) — The musical rhythms and flavors of Latin America will enliven Cleveland at Taste Latino, El Barrio Workforce Development Center's inaugural benefit at 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 23, 2009 at Nighttown, 12387 Cedar Road in Cleveland Heights. El Barrio is a program of West Side Ecumenical Ministry (WSEM).

At the event, nearly 200 attendees will enjoy deliciously authentic Latin cuisine and live music while benefiting a worthy cause.

“This event is a fun way to experience the warmth of the Latin America culture without leaving Cleveland,” says Ingrid Angel, Director of El Barrio. “And for those of us of Latin American descent; it reminds us of the food and music of home.”

For more than 20 years, El Barrio Workforce Development Center has helped youth and adults in need obtain self-sustaining jobs through supportive services, free training and/or educational programs. Last year, El Barrio helped more than 1,100 youth and adults, and the need is growing.

“We are seeing a 30 percent increase in individuals from last year coming through our doors saying things like ‘I was laid off last week’ from industries ranging from manufacturing to customer service,” says Angel. “That’s why this event is so important in helping to raise funds to continue offering our services.”

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Event admission is \$75 and includes authentic Latin cuisine, two drink tickets and live music. For more information or to register, go to www.wsem.org and select “Donate Online/Event Registration” from the homepage or call 216-651-2037 or e-mail, iestremera@wsem.org .

About WSEM

Founded in 1966, West Side Ecumenical Ministry (WSEM) is a nonprofit social service organization working to help individuals and families become more self-sustaining through programs that provide emergency food and outreach services, employment training and placement, early childhood education and counseling solutions. For more information, visit www.wsem.org.

About El Barrio/WSEM Workforce Development Center

El Barrio/WSEM Workforce Development Center of Excellence assists more than 1,100 adults and youth each year achieve self-sustaining jobs by providing job preparation, case management, retention and pre-vocational training. Pre-vocational training is offered in programs, such as customer service and pre-construction. El Barrio offers Job Readiness training and English as a Second Language (ESL) courses. All programs are free and open to the public.

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