

News Release
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EI BARRIO BENEFIT WARMS UP CLEVELAND'S MARCH WEATHER

CLEVELAND (February 1, 2010) — El Barrio Workforce Development Center is sure to warm up Cleveland's March weather with its second annual Taste Latino benefit at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 25, 2010 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, art and live music in a newly renovated Nighttown while helping Greater Clevelanders in need get back to work. Nighttown's redesign will include a more spacious dining area with improved sightlines, a new ornate stage for musicians, and new locally manufactured tables and chairs.

"This is such a fun event with an important purpose in raising funds to support El Barrio's work of providing free workforce training and support for Clevelanders in need," says Ingrid Angel, Director of El Barrio. "Many of the individuals who come to us have lost their jobs and must get back in the workforce quickly to support their families. When these individuals leave El Barrio, they leave as highly trained and qualified employees who can be placed at some of Cleveland's largest and most reputable companies."

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 in areas, such as customer service and pre-construction. In 2009, El Barrio helped more than 1,300 youth and adults, and the need is growing.

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“There has been so much demand for our services, and it looks like it will continue into the new year,” says Angel. “Our first class in January was the largest we’ve ever had with 75 new students beginning the program. That’s why we need the support of community members to help us continue our work by attending this event.”

Event admission is \$75 and includes authentic Latin cuisine, such as paella and empanadas, Sangria 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, jestremera@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 1,300 adults and youth each year achieve self-sustaining jobs by providing job preparation, case management, retention and pre-vocational training. Third-party certifications are 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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