

News Release
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EL BARRIO HOSTS CARIBBEAN CARNIVAL THEMED MARCH FUNDRAISER

CLEVELAND (January 6, 2011) — A cultural explosion of Caribbean music and food will infuse Cleveland when El Barrio Workforce Development Center hosts its third annual Taste Latino Carnaval. The benefit kicks off at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 3, 2011 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 a Caribbean Carnival atmosphere complete with deliciously authentic Latin cuisine, art and live music while helping Greater Clevelanders in need get back to work.

“Even though the recession is over, the effects of the recession can still be felt in Cleveland’s labor market in which many of our friends and neighbors are unemployed,” says Ingrid Angel, Director of El Barrio. “The workforce training we provide at El Barrio is the first step for these individuals to secure employment and become productive members of society again, but we need the community’s support of this event to continue to provide our services.”

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. One of such programs is El Barrio’s customer service preparation recognized as a best practice model by Wal-Mart, The Home Depot and the National Council of La Raza - the nation’s largest Hispanic civil

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rights and advocacy organization. In the past year, El Barrio has helped more than 1,300 youth and adults, and the need is growing.

“We’ve had individuals with varying levels of experience and some even with master’s degrees come to us for help that we have not seen before,” adds Angel.

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 in the customer service field. 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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