

Annual Report



Denver 2008

Sharing Languages, Cultures and Friendship

Our Mission:

To build respectful communities and broaden opportunities for immigrants through language education, cultural exchange and friendship.

We provide:

1. Low cost/no-cost individualized English classes, taught by volunteers at students' homes, places of work, or public buildings.
2. Community resource information and workshops.
3. Intercultural social events.

Our Vision:

"To create more respectful and inclusive communities where all members can communicate, participate and contribute."



"The volunteers at DU will work with people who are really different than them, in both language and socioeconomic levels. One of our foundational aphorisms is that 'everybody does better when everybody does better.' We need to find ways to connect people so that our neighborhoods, schools and our communities are stronger."

-Eric Fretz, University of Denver, Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

I am thrilled to join *Intercambio de Comunidades* as we work with the Denver community to bring this unique, successful and well-developed program model to my home town. We recently concluded our first full year of operation as an affiliate of the wildly successful *Intercambio de Comunidades* founded in Boulder eight years ago. When I first heard about *Intercambio de Comunidades* it was from one of their dedicated volunteers who spoke with a heartfelt enthusiasm about the organization. She shared with me her experiences teaching a classroom full of adult English language learners who touched her life. Since working with the organization I have witnessed first hand the power of a community rich in cultural diversity. The motivation of our students is impressive and inspiring. They often express their gratitude for the opportunity to increase their communication skills and life opportunities while gaining insight into the culture and systems of the United States. Having spent time abroad, I appreciate what it means to feel accepted and make friends in a welcoming community where the language and culture is unfamiliar. *Intercambio Denver*, like the immigrants we serve, has received a warm welcome in the Denver community. Each day we receive inquiries from individuals, schools, businesses and volunteers who want to become involved with our program. In order to meet these requests, ongoing financial support is also critical. We thank our supporters and collaborators for welcoming us to Denver and joining us on this exciting journey!

Sarah Shikes, sarahs@intercambioweb.org

Who We Are:

In 2008, *Intercambio de Comunidades Denver* became the first affiliate of the original *Intercambio*, formed in Boulder in 2001. Operating as a separate entity, the Denver organization employs a minimal paid staff. Our team is made up of one full-time Executive Director, a part-time graduate student intern and three part-time work-study students. The Board of Directors, 130 trained and dedicated volunteers and over 250 highly motivated students are what make our programs so successful.

Staff:

Executive Director	Sarah Shikes, MPA
Program Coordinator	Emily Corey, Graduate Intern, University of Denver School of Social Work
Part-time Program Assistants	Erica Castaneda, Meredith McCullough, Michelle Molinar-Dominguez

Advisory Board and Board of Directors:

Carmen Atilano	City of Boulder's Office for Human Rights, Director
Shawn Camden	Intercambio de Comunidades Boulder, Co-Founder & Director of Program Expansion
Ken Diamond	AIMCO, Denver
Nancy Hernandez	Hispanic Scholarship Fund, Program Officer
Jillian Lettes	Spring Institute, former Community ESL Program Coordinator
Roberto Lopesino	Masters in Education candidate, Univ. Colorado at Denver
Gloria Miller, Ph.D	Real Estate Entrepreneur and Intercambio Volunteer Teacher
Todd Sainer	University of Denver Morgridge School of Education, Professor, Child, Family, and School Psychology Program
Jalene Salazar	Intercambio Denver 2007-2008, Interim Director, currently MBA Candidate, Daniels School of Business, University of Denver
	Servicios de La Raza, Inc., La Gente, Case Manager

~Innovations and Successes in 2008~

Classes

- 250 students have enrolled in our school classes or home instruction classes since inception in late 2007
- 130 volunteers have been trained since our inception (100 in 2008 alone) and contributed over 3500 hours in service in 2008
- 178 students (71%) have advanced a minimum of one level or more in 2008
- Group classes are currently being held at 6 sites, with over 7 pending new partnerships

Community Intercultural Activities

- Open House - November 2008 at our new office in Northwest Denver with over 50 attendees
- Potluck Dinners – held three times during 2008 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and Rocky Mountain Lake Park for students and volunteers
- “La Pachanga” - 1st annual fundraising event, June 2008 at the D-Note in Arvada, over 175 attendees
- The second annual “La Pachanga” is in it’s planning stages and will be held at Dick’s Sporting Goods Park June 6th 2009, 1,000 expected to attend

Workshops

- Facilitated 5 resource workshops on a variety of topics including: Rules of the Road, Know Your Rights, Mental Health, Nutrition and Financial Skills.
- Developed curriculum for an intensive 6 session Financial Skills course. Collaborated with banks and realtors to offer two workshops in fall 2008. More workshops and the 6 session course will take place in 2009.

~Student Outcomes~

- ★ 76% reported being able to communicate better with co-workers, supervisors and clients on the job
- ★ 41% said they are able to communicate more effectively with health professionals such as doctors, without the assistance of an interpreter
- ★ 84% report they feel more confident being out and visiting places in the community
- ★ 59% said they are becoming more involved in the education of their children

“Intercambio has changed my life. I have so many more opportunities now that I have improved my English and I’ve made so many friends!”

-Bertha, Intercambio Student

~Organizational Sustainability~

Major Achievements of 2008:

- Hired first **full-time Executive Director**
- Application and acceptance to be **first Affiliate of Intercambio de Comunidades Boulder** as they expand and create a National Headquarters
- Incorporation as a **501(C)(3)** non-profit organization
- Denver **Class Sites and collaborations** since inception:
 - Pecos Community Center
 - North High School
 - Our Lady of Guadalupe Church
 - Rights for all People
 - Castro Elementary School
 - University of Denver
 - Asbury Elementary School
 - Clinica Tepeyac
- Currently **operating at 6 group class sites** with a minimum of seven additional pending partnerships for class sites anticipated for early 2009
- **University of Denver (DU) Partnership** to offer a Service Learning experience on campus for student volunteers matched with employees to teach English, and bridge gaps within the diverse DU community.
- Completion of a **Strategic Plan**, future goals include:
 - Secure regular class locations in all four quadrants of Denver
 - Involve Intercambio students as board members, staff and volunteers
 - Replicate Intercambio Boulder’s successful growth rate
 - Obtain a staff of a full-time Executive Director, Academic Coordinator and Program Coordinator
- Creation of a **Development Plan** for 2009 with 100% Board Member participation and buy-in. Annual Operating Budget for 2009 is projected to be \$118,000. Fundraising revenue goals are as follows:
 - Individual Donors (\$11,000)
 - Corporate Sponsorships (\$5,000)
 - Ticket Sales for Special Events (\$20,000)
 - Foundations (\$70,000)
 - Fee for Service and Other (\$12,000)

“It was a very enjoyable and rewarding experience knowing that I empowered someone to better communicate and also be better prepared for their U.S. Citizenship exam!”

-Miguel Rivera, Volunteer Teacher

~Generous Donors 2008~

Foundation Support

- Rose Community Foundation
- Anschutz Family Foundation
- Greenfield Foundation
- University of Denver- Public Good Fund

Individual and Other Support

Anonymous, Carmen Atilano, Shawn Camden, Lori Casillas, Jillian and Allen Chappell, Denver Office of Children and Education, Diana Sainer, Sally Dawson, Ken Diamond, Robert Gordon, Roger Helfrich, Nancy Hernandez, Ron and Gale Kahn, Jayne Kenyon, Roy and Dottie Knoedler, Jillian Lettes, Andy March, Gloria Miller, Kimberly and John Rebchook, Scott and Megan Reichenberg, Steve and Corry Rosenberg, Elliot and Marcia Sainer, Todd and Shannon Sainer, Jalene Salazar, Jon Sattler, Pat and Bob Shikes, Amy Warner

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