



Tu Voz — Tu Comunidad

The Warren County Hispanic Health Newsletter

The Warren County Hispanic Health Task Force was organized in response to an opportunity to do some research and receive funding for some projects through Project Export from the University Of Illinois School Of Medicine in Rockford. The Taskforce surveyed over 100 Hispanic residents on their health and health care in Warren County. The task force used the results of this survey to develop projects designed to meet the needs of the Hispanic population. The taskforce was awarded a grant of \$4,999 to undertake three projects.

One of the three projects pursued by the taskforce was the creation of a Hispanic Health Newsletter for the Warren and Knox county area. Professor Rafaela (Isa) Sippo, Linda Lee Blaines, Professor Judi Kessler, Ignacio Magallanes, Tammy Duerre, Jaime Godina, Christi Munson, and Eric Cunningham, are the members of the committee that started this newsletter titled “Tu Voz, Tu Comunidad.” The first newsletter was released in May of 2007. The second edition was recently released and the committee is hard at work on a third edition.

The newsletter is a mixture of health articles on a variety of topics for adults and children, some information on social, historical and cultural events, as well as community information to add interest for the people of this area. The newsletter is entirely in Spanish but nearby Knox County has developed a parallel publication “Healthy Communities” in English.

The newsletter has been an successful community project and to make it even stronger this semester the taskforce has recruited the help of an intern from Monmouth college. Senior Gianna Sagert joined the taskforce as a journalism/public relations intern in the fall of 2007. Gianna has already been working on several articles both writing and translating materials for the newsletter. Taskforce member, Linda Lee Blaine, states “Gianna has been a wonderful addition to the team with her background in Spanish and communications she has the perfect skill set for this position.”

The second edition of the newsletter is available at locations around Monmouth and will soon be on-line at the University of Illinois Extension website for the Henderson, Mercer, Warren Unit. The newsletter can be found as a PDF or on-line journal at:
<http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/hmw/spanish/index.html>.