

In your community

November
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Health has no borders

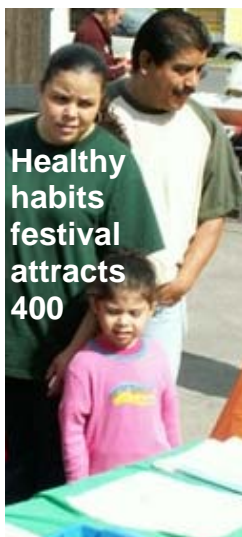
BI-NATIONAL HEALTH WEEK SERVES HISPANIC COMMUNITY

Kansas City's 2nd Annual Bi-National Health Week was held simultaneously with Mexico's National Health Week Oct. 8-15. Although benefiting Latinos regardless of their national origin, the event targets low-income Mexican communities that lack access to health care. The purpose of Bi-National Health Week is to promote health education and increase public awareness of health services available at the

local community level for Hispanics, regardless of health care coverage or immigration status.

"The philosophy that makes the Bi-National effort so powerful is the belief that everyone, regardless of race, culture or economic status, deserves the opportunity to have enough of the right education to be a full participant in their own health and the overall health of the community," says Dennis Minzes, University of Missouri Extension community development specialist. In Missouri, the outreach program is a cooperative initiative of the Institute of Mexicans Abroad, Extension's Alianzas program and the University of Missouri-Kansas City Institute of Human Development.

Activities included a health fair at El Centro, Inc.; a Westside festival on healthy habits and nutrition in conjunction with the Chronic Disease Coalition; "Dining with Diabetes" series taught by Extension and daily distribution of health information at the Mexican Consulate.



Healthy habits festival attracts 400



42 healthcare professionals helping 640 participants



1501 NW Jefferson, Blue Springs, MO 64015

816.252.5051

2700 E. 18th St., Suite 240, Kansas City, MO 64127

816.482.5850

For more information, please contact
Jackson County Program Director Cindy Zluticky
816.252.5051, zlutickyc@missouri.edu

E-MAIL: JACKSONBLSP@MISSOURI.EDU

VISIT OUR WEB SITE:
EXTENSION.MISSOURI.EDU

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BI-NATIONAL HEALTH WEEK AT A GLANCE



- ▶ More than 640 Bi-National Health Week participants received health information from 42 healthcare professionals.
- ▶ Nearly 50 Bi-National Health Week participants received health screenings, which ranged from HIV/AIDS testing to dental and glucose screenings.
- ▶ More than 60 multi-cultural health organizations held a healthy habits festival at the Guadalupe Center with more than 400 people attending. *Taste of the Westside* emphasis was on lifestyle and nutrition for seniors, parents and children.
- ▶ A week-long series of health education, displays and screenings was held in conjunction with the Mexican Consulate. Topics included HIV-Orasure testing and counseling, substance abuse education and counseling, domestic violence counseling, neurological screenings, cardio-vascular screenings, Shriner Hospital referrals, immunizations, childhood health, parenting and nutrition. More than 500 people accessed events throughout the week as they established their legal presence with the Consulate and INS.
- ▶ 500 packets of bilingual health information were distributed to Bi-National Health Week participants and additional Latino community members.
- ▶ A Latino Health Career Fair was held at Penn Valley Community College and El Centro. Extension partnered with the Coalition of Hispanic Organizations and the community college to introduce health career preparation to more than 500 middle school youth from the metro area.
- ▶ More than 25 organizations collaborated in a working network of service providers and community members that continues to grow.

ALIANZAS TAPPED FOR NATIONAL DIVERSITY AWARD

University of Missouri Extension's Alianzas program has received the 2005 National Diversity Champion Award from the National Extension Diversity Task Force. The award acknowledges accomplishments in achieving organizational change to support diversity, pluralism and innovation in programs that influence Extension and its audiences. Alianzas, a joint venture of Extension and the UMKC Institute for Human Development, is now in its fifth year of programming. The ultimate goal of Alianzas is to enhance the ability of communities to collaborate with the growing immigrant Latino population. These partnerships focus on a shared learning and community-based approach. In addition to the community partnerships that have formed due to Alianzas, major initiatives include coordination of Bi-National Health Week; the Cambio de Colores (Changes of Colors) Conference; Special Health Care Needs Workshop Series; and the Secondary Education for Adults Program, which assists the state's Mexican residents in completing their secondary education through distance learning.

an equal opportunity/ADA institution



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