



Empowering individuals to improve their quality of life

Special Points of Interest:

- *Fall Classes*
- *New partnerships*
- *Increased Membership*
- *New opportunities*

WHAT A WONDERFUL YEAR!

When you sit back and think about where we were year ago, and how much we have accomplished this year it is a blessing.

This year has been full of new partnerships, expanded space, volunteers, employees, programs, opportunities and dreams.

I truly feel like the work we do at LASOS is because of all of the efforts of those of you involved one way or another. It takes a village to take on our mission and without you all, it could not happen.

Together we have offered over 30 classes, offered a 4 week summer camp, hosted

a county wide cultural festival, had a fantastic bingo, and open house. Held two food pantry's one in the treacherous rain and the other under a storm of boxes!

None of your efforts have gone unnoticed. And please know I am touched by all of you!

I was able to attend some parent conferences with our families this fall, and a teacher said to me, " You can tell who are the LASOS families, they are engaged in their children's learning and their kids see why education is important."

Ladies and gentleman, there it is, what a wonderful testi-

mony.

What you do as a part of our commitment to the members makes a difference and it is making the change needed for them to have strong foundations for the future.

From the bottom of my heart I thank you for everything and for being faithful that we are on the right path and that together we can do anything.

There is a quote from the infamous Lava Girl, " Everything that is and was began with a dream, so dream a bigger dream! " Because of all of you that can happen. MV



The kids building a Lego tower at camp. Michelle, Fatima, Arlett, Reagan, Paul and Paolo.

SO HOW ABOUT SOME DATA: 2010 IN REVIEW!

Walk in support
(translation, resources etc)
1260 visits 56 members have found health care

ESOL classes 120 all members showed growth of at least .5 language level

Adult literacy
45 members all met minimal expectations

Youth mentoring
36 children 26 peer mentors.
All showed academic gains!

Summer Camp— 60 children 4 week camp 9-3:30
All children learned of their role in the community!

Food Pantry:
Over 250 total families served

Volunteers- 114 new volunteers

Partnerships: 25 new partnerships

Great job!!



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MORE IS BETTER

As with most things, it is easier to accomplish great things when you collaborate and partner with others. This year we learned that partnerships are a key to success. Our partnership with PNC bank, and Bel Air Lions Club allowed us to offer a summer camp focused on leadership and stewardship. Our partnership with Lifetime Dental and Healthlink allowed the children to learn healthy habits. APGFCU has become a partner with our food pantry, rocking financial literacy at

summer camp and in the fall offering Literacy classes to the adults! (Bilingually, YEAH Tina!) Hopkins farm showed the kids what healthy local eating looks like and Klein's Shop Rite taught them how to stretch their money.

We have been fortunate to be taken on as mentees for the leadership of Harford County Boys and Girl Club.

The John Carroll School has opened it's doors to our summer camp and has served as a volunteer base for so many of our

programs. St. Margaret's supplies us with volunteers and resources. Recently Best Buy of Bel Air has generously partnered with us to provide a grant and all of the resources necessary to have a computer lab and technology for the youth mentoring programs.

MaGerks is always willing to help us with our events, and antics!

HCPS continues to be a supporter of our work and refers families to our center.

to bridge the cultural barriers that so often exist.

HCPL has hosted a program for the children that gave them the inside look, and continues to support our programs in various ways. HCC is a source of referral for families who need additional support.

Dr. Potocki has helped our families who need medical attention.

Together we have made a stronger program with even better results!

FROM MY EXPERIENCE BY SARA HAWKINS

"I look forward to going there every week"

LASOS is such a wonderful program to be involved in; I look forward to going there every week. I've been involved with different programs at LASOS, including child care for the parents who are attending English classes and helping students prepare for various educational programs that will be happening at school. I am currently tutoring children in a variety of subjects as I help them complete their homework and

expand their knowledge of different topics. It brings me such joy to see the sense of pride and accomplishment on each child's face as they finish their assignment. I have met some wonderful people through this organization, and I really look forward to working with them in the years ahead.



Maryland Food Bank along with the Dresher foundation supported the community with 2 food pantries this fall at LASOS!

WORD OF MOUTH

Have you ever bought something because it was recommended? Well, that is what I attribute our growth to here at LASOS. We do little advertising to recruit new members because I don't want to grow faster than we can serve. But did you know...

We have increased our number of membership from last year at this time from 60 people to currently 600 people.

Who? What? Where? Why?

Word of mouth has allowed us to serve an amazing number of families and individuals. Their recommendation about the services they have received, the courses they have spoken, the resources they have benefitted from has made us grow, And that is because of the work of all of you! You have made them feel valued and that is worth them coming back and telling others.

Members are traveling from Havre de Grace to be a part of the ESOL classes and youth mentoring, others come from Edgewood to take math class and from Essex to prepare for the citizenship test.

That speaks louder than any other work we do. They speak highly of us and they come.

There is no greater compliment. Thank you!

THEY SAY...

How has LASOS benefitted your family?

"-my children get help with homework I can't give" G.D

"I want my kids to have a better future, they get the chance here" O.M.

"I can use what I learn here in my job" L.H

"We have a place we belong to, we feel support here" E. H.

FEATURED MEMBER : DANIELA SKAGGS

Thirteen year old Daniela Skaggs was recently adopted from Colombia and moved to Harford County just 5 months ago. Her new parents, eager to help her acclimate, sought LASOS to help her through the difficult first months.

Daniela has become an integral part of our Wednesday nights and has blossomed into a vibrant teenager before our eyes. She works hard on her school work, and her English skills, She continues to work on social and leadership skills. In the few months she has been here she has already begun to take on leadership and ownership roles. For the Holidays she brought in a game she created to share with the other children that was a

game the pilgrim children would have played with. It is with pride I introduce Daniela to you.



SO WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

While developing our 2011 strategic plan, our rapid growth has become evident.

With our increase in membership there is also an increase in needs of service.

In 2011

We will continue to offer:

- ESOL classes-
- Math and Reading classes.
- Financial Literacy classes

- Juntos class group
- Summer camp

All new this year:

- New- Civics classes
- New-Conversation hour
- New- Technology classes
- New- Foundations program

Although growth is fun and

exciting it brings on new challenges. The biggest challenge continues to be volunteers and tutors.

If you can help us out with 2 hours a week or every other week we would be so appreciative. Your time and dedication will ensure our traditions of being people focused, and offering effective programs.

So please see Melynda if you can help out!

"With an increase in membership is an increase in needs of service"

LOCAL!

What does it mean to say local?

The definition according to Webster's dictionary is "pertaining to, characteristic of, or restricted to a particular place or particular places."

What an awesome feeling to be a "local", belonging to a place. That is what we are helping people feel and more importantly that is what the "locals" are doing for our

members. We are helping new residents to Harford County acclimate and integrate into their community.

Our local Friends of LASOS are: Bishop and Adkins, NutraMax, Hickory Chance Farms, Klein's Shoprite, APGFCU, Hopkins farms, Bel Air Barber Shop, Tiddlywinks, Courtland Hardware, Jim's Bottleworks, Bel Air Lion's Club, Bel Air Bakery, Moore's Candy, la Tolteca, Boyd and

Fulford Pharmacy, Fiesta grill, MaGerks, Dark Horse, WEBIXI, Team Media, Silver Spring Mining Company, Buontempos, NVS salon, and many more.

So when you are out making your purchases please help us thank our local businesses by supporting them first.

They are seeing the needs in the community and these "locals" are making the difference in their community!

BRAVO!





LINKING ALL SO
OTHERS SUCCEED

31 W Courtland St
Bel Air, MD 21014
410-836-0333
Www.lasos.org

Office Hours:

Tuesday 10-1
Wednesday 5-7:30
Thursday 10-1
Friday 10-1
Saturday 9-1



Mark your calendar!

**Feb 27th—3-5 Wine, Fondue and You!
Wine tasting at MaGerks Pub**



**Apr 7th– 11-3 Celebration of Cultures
7-11 Latin dance at the Armory**

**May 14 – 5k Running of the Bulls
1 mile fun run**



empowering people to improve their quality of life

WE NEED YOUR HELP! BECOME A FRIEND OF LASOS

Did you know that for every program we offer it costs on average \$ 370 a person? Did you know that the services we offer truly change the lives of underserved individuals? Are you aware that we build leadership, social and civic skills? Did you realize that we provide opportunities to people that otherwise would go unnoticed?

We need your help in order to continue to provide all the services needed by our members.

Your tax deductible donation can make a difference in the lives of others.

We encourage you to select the program that will benefit from your generous donation.

Join us on facebook to keep up on our latest news!



- \$25 dollars
- \$ 50 dollars
- \$100 dollars
- \$250 dollars
- \$500 dollars
- other

Please contribute my donation to the following program:

- General Fund
- Youth Programs
- Adult Literacy
- Technology Courses

Civics Literacy

At LASOS you are family and we count on your support whether it be monetary, time, resources or prayers.

We know that without you we would not be able to fulfill our vision. But with you, we can reach even further!

Thank you for a wonderful year!

We wish you and your families a wondrous 2011.

If you or your company would be interested in sponsoring any of the above events please contact Melynda at velez@lasos.org or 410-836-0333

