

El Pachuco never had the opportunity to give his father that special Father's Day Card.

See page 3 for complete story.

El Pachuco nunca tuvo la oportunidad de darle a su padre esa tarjeta especial por El Día del Padre.

Ve la historia completa en la página 3.



Faith-Based Groups Seek Immigration Reform

Grupos religiosos, buscan Reforma de Inmigración



Tony Wasilewski, a Polish immigrant, was a featured speaker at the Advocates for Immigration Rights and Reconciliation dinner. Wasilewski has become an immigration policy critic following his family's deportation experience in 2007.

Tony Wasilewski, un inmigrante polaco, fue el orador principal en la cena de Defensores de Derechos de Inmigración y Reconciliación. Wasilewski se ha convertido en un crítico de la política migratoria después de que su familia experimentó una deportación en el 2007.

BY L. YVONNE BRUNER

TRADUCE GEMMA TORNERO

This past Thursday, June 7, representatives from numerous Christian denominations gathered for an ecumenical event at the Community of Christ World Headquarters in Independence, Missouri. The event focused a bright light on what some consider a mindlessly cruel enforcement of U.S. immigration law that often results in the separation of families. Among those represented were: Presbyterian, Catholic, Quaker, Baptists, Community of Christ, Mennonite, Unitarian, and Evangelical. The gathering was sponsored by the Advocates for Immigration Rights and Reconciliation (AIRR.)

AIRR's program featured a presentation by Tony Wasilewski, a Polish immigrant, whose family was split apart when his wife was forcefully deported in 2007. A video dramatized the struggle that Wasilewski, his wife Janina and son Brian, experienced during and following the deportation process.

Janina was admitted to the United States in 1989 and given refugee status for five years. During that term, she met and married Tony (who had legal status and became a naturalized citizen) and they set about achieving their three primary goals of owning a house, having a son, and planting a tree on American soil. Janina and Tony founded a successful cleaning service, bought a house in the Chicago suburbs and began raising their U.S. born son, Brian.

Este pasado jueves; 7 de junio, los representantes de numerosas denominaciones cristianas, se juntaron para un evento ecuménico, en las Oficinas Centrales de la Comunidad de Cristo Mundial, en Independence, Missouri. El evento concenro una luz brillante en lo que unos consideran, una aplicación sin pensamiento así como cruel, de la ley de inmigración estadounidense, que a menudo causa la separación de familias. Entre los representantes estuvieron: Presbiterianos, Católicos, Cuáqueros, Bautistas, Comunidad de Cristo, Menonitas, Unitarios, y Evangélicos. La reunión fue patrocinada por los Abogados y Reconciliación (AIRR por sus siglas en inglés).

El programa del AIRR destacó, una presentación por Tony Wasilewski; un inmigrante polaco, cuya familia fue separada cuando su esposa fue enérgicamente deportada en el 2007. Un vídeo dramatizó la lucha que Wasilewski, su esposa Janina y su hijo Brian, experimentaron durante y después del proceso de deportación.

Janina fue admitida a los Estados Unidos en 1989 y se le dio el estado de refugiada durante cinco años. Durante aquel período, ella conoció a Tony y, se casó con él (quién tenía el estatus jurídico y se convirtió a ciudadano naturalizado), y ellos empiezan a conseguir sus tres objetivos primarios, el de poseer

Father's Day Celebration Comes Early for Military Family

Celebración del Día del Padre, se adelanta para una familia militar



It's moments like this when the family is together that Angel Sepulveda says sustain him while he serves his country. He knows it is tough on his children and though he will be away this Father's Day, their love will make it easier to fulfill his training commitment.

Dice Ángel Sepúlveda, que son los momentos; como este, cuando la familia está reunida, lo que le sostiene, mientras él sirve a su país. Él sabe que es duro para sus niños y aunque esté lejos, este Día del Padre su amor hará más fácil el cumplir con su obligación de entrenamiento.

BY DEBRA DECOSTER

It's the things that most of us take for granted but military families make special memories from. Take Father's Day for instance. Families will hand out the cards and partake of a communal meal, perhaps a movie. Quality time will be shared. But what do you do when service to country takes you away from home?

Angel Sepulveda will miss another Father's Day with his children this year. This will make the fourth Father's Day the 31-year-old father of three will spend away from his family. But just as they have done the other three times, the family has made accommodations. When he served in Iraq in 2005, 2007 and 2009, the children put their Father's Day cards away for safe keeping until he returned from the war.

This year, they celebrated Father's Day a week early. Sepulveda's wife, career Army Captain Wilmarie Gaudino, their three children, 13-year-old Nichole, five-year-old Karah and four-year-old Damien, took him out to dinner before he departed for three weeks of Army Reserve training.

The day began with a family tradition. On Father's

TRADUCE GEMMA TORNERO

Son las cosas que la mayor parte de nosotros damos por hecho, pero de las que las familias militares hacen recuerdos especiales. Tome el Día del Padre por ejemplo. Las familias repartirán tarjetas y tomarán parte, en una comida comunal, quizás vayan a ver una película. El tiempo de calidad será compartido. ¿Pero qué hace usted cuándo el servicio al país se lo lleva lejos de casa?

Angel Sepúlveda se perderá otro Día del Padre con sus niños este año. Éste será el cuarto Día del Padre, que el padre de tres hijos y, quien cuenta con 31 años lo pasará lejos de su familia. Pero como ellos lo han hecho las otras tres veces, la familia ha hecho preparativos. Cuando él sirvió en Iraq, en el 2005, 2007 y 2009, los niños guardaban en su sitio sus tarjetas de Día del Padre para que estuvieran seguras, hasta que él volviera de la guerra.

Este año, ellos celebraron el Día del Padre una semana antes. La esposa de Sepúlveda; la Capitana del Ejército, Wilmarie Gaudino, sus tres niños, Nichole de 13 años, Karah de 5 años y Damien de 4 años, le invitaron a comer antes de que él se marchara durante tres semanas para el entrenamiento de la Reserva del Ejército.

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"SOY UN GRAN ADMIRADOR" / PÁGINA 2

BREAKING NEWS MAN INJURED IN DRIVE-BY SHOOTING

On Tuesday, June 12, just after 2 p.m. a drive-by shooting in the Sacred Heart neighborhood of Kansas City, Missouri, leaves a 20-year-old man in serious condition at a local

hospital. According to residents the victim was shot in an alley near his home. The victim then ran to 26th and Jarboe where a couple of young boys helped the victim wrap towels over his wounds. Neighbors have complained to the police department over the last several months that their community is seeing more and more drive-by shooting. Hispanic News reported last month that some residents are having to leave their community for a safer neighborhood.

ÚLTIMAS NOTICIAS

Un hombre es herido por un tiroteo realizado desde un auto en movimiento

El martes, 12 de junio justo después de las 2 p. m. un tiroteo desde un auto en movimiento en el vecindario del Sagrado Corazón en Kansas City, Missouri dejó gravemente herido a un hombre de 20 años quien se encuentra en un hospital de la localidad. De acuerdo a los residentes, la víctima fue tiroteada en un callejón cerca de su casa. La víctima entonces corrió a la calle 26 y Jarboe donde una pareja de jóvenes muchachos le ayudaron al

cubrir sus heridas con una toalla. Los vecinos se han quejado ante el departamento de policía que durante los últimos meses la comunidad esta viendo cada vez mas tiroteos desde autos en movimiento. Hispanic News reporto el mes pasado que algunos residentes están dejando la comunidad por vecindario más seguro.

Sacred Heart-Guadalupe Parish Takes Message to the Streets

La Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón de Guadalupe, lleva su mensaje a las calles

BY JOE ARCE AND JOSE FAUS

This past Sunday, residents of the Sacred Heart Guadalupe Church parish were awakened to the drums and drills of Los Machatines. The drums were a call to something not seen here for a few years, a procession on the feast of Corpus Cristi.

Father Al Ebach, of Sacred Heart Guadalupe Church, organized about

SPREADING THE WORD / PAGE 6

Father Mike Goode led a peace walk through the Sacred Heart-Guadalupe Parish. The march was an effort to encourage families and residents to take back their community. The neighborhood has been on edge following a spate of gunshots and drive-by shootings.

El padre Mike Goode, encabezó una Caminata de Paz, de parte de la Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón de Guadalupe. La marcha era un esfuerzo para animar a las familias y, residentes, a recuperar a su comunidad. El vecindario ha estado en filo, después de una avalancha de cañonazos y disparos desde autos en movimiento.



TRADUCE GEMMA TORNERO

Este domingo pasado, los residentes de la Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón de Guadalupe, fueron despertados por los tambores y los ejercicios de Los 'Machatines'. Los tambores estaban haciendo una llamada, a algo no visto aquí durante unos años, una procesión en la celebración del Corpus Cristi.

El padre Al Ebach; de la Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón de Guadalupe,

DIFFUNDIENDO LA PALABRA / PÁGINA 6

"I am a big fan of Dr. Seuss"

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Day the children love to jump into bed and wake him up and watch as he reads the handmade cards they have made for him. It is their laughter and giggles that bring a smile to his face. It is a familiar sound that he missed when he served overseas.

Sepulveda has served in the United States Army since he was 18 years old after moving to the United States from Puerto Rico. He met his wife in the Army. After they married and their children were born, they both continued on active duty until last month when Angel made the decision to leave and serve in the Army Reserves so he could stay home with his children.

Following the decision, he took some time off and was home with the children. He did the cooking and kept the house clean. "I can say that was more difficult than being in the military. It was a 24/7 day filled with hard work but I enjoyed every minute of it. My hat goes off to anybody who is a stay at home mom or dad," he said.

Their favorite pastime is to be outdoors. They play catch, throw the Frisbee or play volleyball. "They help me clean and wash the car or pull weeds in the yard. They like anything to do that is outside," said Sepulveda.

His work as a Child Development Assistant at Fort Leavenworth with three to five year olds has carried over to his relationship with his children. He often lets the children help set the table for dinner and sits down at night before bedtime to read them a story.

"I am a big fan of Dr. Seuss so that is what I have been reading to them and we read Curious



Nichole Sepulveda sits with her little brother Damien and sister Karah on the deck of their Northland home. The children have a unique way of sharing Father's Day. They wake up their father Angel Sepulveda and wait for him to open their handmade cards.

Nichole Sepúlveda, se sienta con su pequeño hermano Damien y su hermana Karah, en la cubierta de su casa en Northland. Los niños tienen un modo único de compartir el Día del Padre. Ellos despiertan a su padre; Ángel Sepúlveda y, le esperan para que abra sus tarjetas hechas a mano.

ous George books. Sometimes they hold the books and I read out loud and they turn the page. Working at the day care has me learning new books to read to them. I feel that my job has helped me to grow as a father. It is the greatest job in the world to be a father, watch them grow up and help them as much as you can. Who knows we may have the next female or male president or rock star," he stated proudly.

Those moments are a contrast to the time he spent away. He could never reveal to his family his exact location in Iraq but he would call his daughter and wife to let them know that he had made it to his destination. His other two children, ages four and five years old, were unaware of the danger. The younger children only knew that dad was away.

The hardest mission was the first one in 2005 when he lived for months without internet service. It took a month for letters to arrive in the country. He would have to wait long periods of time to learn about then 6-year-old Nichole's life events.

Nichole had some understanding that her dad was fighting in Iraq for the United States. Watching war reports on the television or through the internet, she feared for her dad's safety. Later tours he was able to check in with his daughter and assure her that he would return safe and sound.

"My oldest held her feelings close to her heart. It hurt her the most with me leaving because she was involved in sports and other activities that she wished I would have been there," recalled Sepulveda.

On tour, Sepulveda found himself in a strange mental place. Though he missed his family dearly, his responsibilities required him to be focused on

the 20 to 30 men under his command, doing the best he could to ensure that they would return safely to their own families.

"It is like a second double life, like Superman-Clark Kent type. When you are in Iraq or far away from your family you have to miss them internally and try to talk to them whenever you can. But when you are at work you have to focus. You have to turn off for a minute your thoughts about your family and think of the soldiers - focus on them because in Iraq we were a family."

During his last tour of duty in 2009, he said that he continued to miss his family and their everyday activities; but it was easier for him to keep abreast of his families activities since the base had internet service and they could Skype.

Nichole told Hispanic News that she always looked forward to seeing her dad on Skype. "When we would get to talk to him, we would tell him about all the stuff we were doing," she said.

"I would Skype whenever I could because then I could see the children and I could talk to them about their school work, sports or if needed, I would tell them to help out their mom and clean up their rooms," he said.

It was also bittersweet. "I missed the children's first day of school or daycare, birthdays, trying out for a team and bringing home things that they made me for Father's Day from school. My wife would send me pictures or a copy of their report cards so that I knew what the kids were doing. But it was hard not being there for them as they did each thing."

Even though email and Skype allowed them to stay in constant contact, Sepulveda was not ready for the change time had brought when he returned home.

"My oldest daughter seems to have become a young lady when I returned. I just couldn't believe how big they all were," he said.

"Soy un gran admirador del Doctor Seuss"

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El día comenzó con una tradición familiar. Durante el Día del Padre los niños aman brincar en la cama y despertarlo, para ver cuando él, lee las tarjetas hechas a mano por ellos. Son sus carcajadas y risas tontas, lo que trae una sonrisa a su cara. Es un sonido familiar que él se pierde cuando esta en servicio en el extranjero.

Sepúlveda ha servido en el ejército de los Estados Unidos, desde que él tenía 18 años, después de moverse de Puerto Rico, a los Estados Unidos. Él conoció a su esposa en el ejército. Después de que ellos se casaron y, sus niños nacieron; ambos siguieron en servicio activo, hasta el mes pasado cuando Ángel tomó la decisión de pedir licencia y, servir en las Reservas del Ejército para entonces él, poder quedarse en casa con sus niños.

Después de la decisión, tomó algún tiempo libre y, estuvo en casa con los niños. Él cocinaba y mantenía la casa limpia. "Puedo decir que era más difícil que estar en el ejército militar. Eran jornadas de 24/7, llenas de trabajo duro, pero disfruté de cada minuto de ello. Mis respetos para quien permanezca en casa, ya sea mamá o papá", asegura.

Su pasatiempo favorito es estar al aire libre. Ellos juegan a tirar la pelota, lanzar el platillo volador o jugar voleibol. "Ellos me ayudan a limpiar y lavar el coche, o quitar las malas hierbas en el jardín. Les gusta hacer lo que sea al aire libre", comentó Sepúlveda.

Su trabajo como Asistente en Desarrollo Infantil, en Fort Leavenworth, con niños de tres a cinco años, lo ha ayudado a la relación con sus niños. Él a menudo deja a los niños que ayuden a poner la mesa para la comida y, se sienta con ellos por la noche antes de la hora de dormir, para leerles una historia.

"Soy un gran admirador del 'Doctor Seuss', de tal manera, que es lo que le he estado leyendo a ellos, y leemos libros de Jorge 'El Curioso' (Curious George). A veces ellos sostienen los libros y leo en voz alta, mien-

tras ellos dan vuelta a la página. El trabajar en la guardería me tiene aprendiendo acerca de nuevos libros para leerles. Siento que mi trabajo me ha ayudado a crecer como padre. Ser un padre es el trabajo más grande en el mundo, mirarlos crecer y ayudarles tanto como usted pueda. Quién sabe, podríamos estar ante el siguiente presidente de sexo femenino o masculino, o una estrella de rock", declaró él orgullosamente.

Esos momentos, son un contraste para el tiempo, que él paso lejos. Él nunca podía revelar a su familia su posición exacta en Iraq, pero llamaba a su hija y esposa, para dejarles saber, que él había llegado a su destino. Sus otros dos niños, de 4 años y 5 años, eran ajenos a tal peligro. Los niños más pequeños, sólo sabían que su papá estaba lejos.

La misión más difícil, fue la primera en el 2005, cuando él vivió durante meses, sin servicio de Internet. Se necesitaba un mes para que las cartas llegaran al país. Él tenía que esperar períodos largos de tiempo, para aprender sobre los acontecimientos en la vida de Nichole, entonces de 6 años.

Nichole tenía un poco de entendimiento acerca de que su papá luchaba en Iraq por los Estados Unidos. Veía informes de la guerra en la televisión o por Internet, ella temía por la seguridad de su papá. En recorridos posteriores, él fue capaz de mantenerse en contacto con su hija y, asegurarle, que él volvería sano y salvo.

"Mi niña más grande, mantenía sus sentimientos cerca de su corazón. Mi partida le hacía más daño a ella, porque estaba participando en deportes y otras actividades, en las que ella deseaba, que yo hubiera estado allí", recordó Sepúlveda.

En sus recorridos, Sepúlveda, se encontró en un lugar mental extraño. Aunque él echaba mucho de menos a su familia y a sus responsabilidades, requirieron que él estuviera concentrado, en los 20 a 30 hombres bajo su orden, haciendo todo lo posible para asegurar que ellos regre-

saran sin peligro a sus propias familias.

"Es como una segunda doble vida, como el tipo de Superman-Clark Kent. Cuando usted está en Iraq o lejos de su familia, tiene que extrañarlos internamente y, tratar de hablar con ellos siempre que usted pueda. Pero cuando usted está en el trabajo, tiene que concentrarse. Tiene que apagar durante un minuto sus pensamientos sobre su familia y, pensar en los soldados, -concentrarse en ellos porque en Iraq éramos una familia".

Durante su último viaje de servicio en el 2009, él dijo que seguía echando de menos a su familia y sus actividades diarias; pero era más fácil para él, mantenerse al corriente de sus actividades familiares, ya que la base tenía el servicio de Internet y, ellos podían usar Skype.

Nichole dijo a Hispanic News, que ella siempre tenía ganas de ver a su papá en Skype. "Cuando nos podíamos comunicar con él, le decíamos sobre todas las cosas que hacíamos", comentó ella. "Yo usaba Skype siempre que yo podía porque veía a los niños y, podía hablar con ellos sobre su trabajo escolar, deportes o de ser necesario, yo les diría que le echaran una mano a su mamá y, limpiarían sus cuartos", declaró.

También fue agri dulce. "Me perdí del primer día de escuela o guardería de los niños, cumpleaños, jugar para un equipo y, el traer cosas a casa que ellos me hicieron durante el Día del Padre en la escuela. Mi esposa me enviaba fotos o una copia de sus libretas de calificaciones, de modo que yo supiera lo que los niños hacían. Pero era difícil no estar allí para ellos cuando ellos hacían cada cosa".

Aunque el correo electrónico y Skype les permitían mantenerse en contacto constante, no estaba listo, para el tiempo de cambio que se presentó cuando él volvió a casa.

"Cuando volví parecía que mi hija más grande, se había convertido en una señorita. Simplemente no podía creer el tamaño de todos ellos", concluyó.

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Why don't I have a dad?



When I was about six years old, some kids at school asked me, "Where is your father?" I answered,

"He died." "How did he die?" "In a plane crash." One laughed and said, "You're lying. You don't have a dad."

Over and over again, whenever anyone asked me about my father, I would tell that same story. It was what my mother told me when I asked her, *Dónde está mi papá?* (Where is my father?) *Se murió.* (He died.) *¿Amá, cómo se murió?* (Ma, how did he die?) *Se mató en un avión.* (He was killed in a plane crash.) My mom pointed to a photo of a man she kept on her dresser. She told me he was my dad.

A few years later, I again asked my mother how my father died. She said, *Se enfermó.* (He got sick.) So now he died from some illness. I started to see that the story didn't make sense. The kids at school were right. It was a lie. But I respected my mom so much that I stopped asking. The only thing I knew for sure about my father was that it was bad. Bad enough that my mom didn't want to talk about him. So, as a child, I just accepted what my mom told me. He's dead and that's the end of it. But the empty feeling lived inside of me as I wondered, "Why don't I have a dad?"

In my teen years I learned from my older brothers that my father had left the family. Confused, I confronted my mom who then told me that my father was a *mujeriego* (womanizer) and a *borracho* (drunk). She said that she couldn't take it anymore and left him. And the picture on her dresser? That was a photo of her first husband, the father of my older brothers.

So no more questions. My old man left me and I don't have a father and I will never have a father. Just like the

school kids taunted, I am the bastard child. I guess for my mom, telling me that my father had died was the easiest way to explain that he was never going to be a part of my life. Having this truth did not fill the hole in my heart. So many times I compared myself to the other kids who had a mother and a father and thought to myself, "Boy, what happened to me?"

And so it's Father's Day. For me, it's "Ghost Day." As a child, I was haunted by a man who existed but didn't exist. His ghost still haunts me. How can I write something for a man I never even met? What words can I share about the father who chose to leave his two kids and a mother behind to fend for herself?

While I didn't have the father that I needed as a child, with my two sons I chose to be the father that I always wanted. As their father, I sacrificed my time and my efforts to make sure that my two boys became responsible young men. As their father, I never smoked or drank in the house and I never used profanity in front of them. I showed my sons the value of work and encouraged them to pursue their education. When they told me they weren't going to go to college, I told them that wasn't an option. Both of them have since received their bachelor's degrees.

Father's Day is a celebration to those men who have earned the title of father. Show by your words and actions that your child is the most important thing to you. Take joy in being a father by loving and providing for your children at all costs. Take the time to talk to your kids every day, whether by phone or in person. Give respect to their mother, whether you live with her or not. Show by your example that drinking and driving, cursing, and smoking are not acceptable. A true father does not physically, sexually, or verbally abuse his children or his stepchildren. Know that what you choose to do with them and in front of them tells your children all they need to know about what is permissible behavior. If you do it, they can do it, if not as children then when they are all grown up. You know you're on the right track when the card you receive from your child

This column is dedicated to helping youth and families. My mission as the Educated Pachuco is to help people of all ages overcome prejudices and stereotypes. My desire is to encourage youth and families to examine life from a new perspective with the hope of motivating all peoples toward positive life change. If you have a question or concern that you are struggling with, please contact me on Facebook at (www.facebook.com/educatedpachuco). I look forward to getting to know you.

The Educated Pachuco. Advice offered by the Educated Pachuco is intended for informational purposes only. If you have a specific concern that requires professional help, please consult with an appropriately trained and qualified specialist. When you submit responses and any other information, you grant the Educated Pachuco and Kansas City Hispanic News permission to use, reproduce, or modify your submissions in all electronic and print publications here and/or elsewhere. Identifying information will never be included or distributed. Due to the large number of submissions, we regret that we cannot respond personally to each one. The information presented does not represent the opinion of Kansas City Hispanic News or any of its employees.

on Father's Day brings you to tears. If your child simply took the time to sign his or her name on the card, ask yourself why?

Hope for change is possible. There are many things available to you including substance abuse services, counseling, and hypnotherapy. Change for yourself first, then for your children. If you have children but you have not seen them, go and find them, make your connection with them, and provide for them. Your kids still love you. I know this because your kids tell me how much that they wish they had their father.

For those fathers who have made a true difference in the lives of their children, the Educated Pachuco wishes you a Happy Father's Day.



MISSOURI STATE TREASURER CLINT ZWEIFEL

State Treasurer Clint Zweifel will be publishing a notice of persons who are owners of **Unclaimed Property**.

The notice will be published in the **Kansas City Star**

Wednesday, June 27 & Wednesday, July 4 for

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Big XII tourney staying in town amid wild possibilities



When the University of Missouri decided the grass was greener in the SEC, many in Kansas City were angry. One of many reasons for the anger included leaving a conference they shared with archrival Kansas for eons. There was also the loss (at least temporarily) of the Border War football contest at Arrowhead Stadium beginning in 2012.

Another fear was the loss of the Big XII Men's Basketball Tournament at Sprint Center beyond 2014. The thought being, 'why would Iowa State, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas schools want to provide revenue to a state where their conference had no representation?'

Interim Big XII Commissioner Chuck Neinas tried to quell fears last fall by saying the league would definitively honor their contract with Sprint Center and was open to extending it beyond 2014. Neinas knew all too well the power of KC as a host from a revenue and fan experience standpoint from his years as Commissioner of the Big 8 which was stationed here.

Before heading into the sunset and having Bob Bowsly take over as permanent com-

missioner on June 15, Neinas presented a parting gift. During the Big XII meetings in Kansas City last week he announced a two-year extension for the event. The leaders of each voting member (TCU and WVU aren't officially members yet) cast their vote for KC in a show of support. They even included a poison pill for the SEC in case they would be interested in throwing a bone to new member Mizzou by trying to land their tournament at Sprint Center. The Big XII has rights of first refusal beyond 2016, though the exact length of that is not known.

While this is great news for KC, which generates millions of dollars every year from the tournament, a big question still remains. Who exactly will be participating in the 2015 and 2016 Big XII Conference tournaments? It is already odd to consider another purple clad bunch will be playing in the form of TCU. Even odder could be Bob Huggins returning to Kansas City where he coached one year in the tournament for Kansas State.

Things go from odd to bizarre when thinking of future possibilities. Florida State and the Big XII are unofficially playing footsy due to FSU being a school whose football program is more in line with this conference rather than their current home in the ACC. That would bring Bill Self's old boss at Oklahoma State, Leonard Hamilton, into the fold, which could create two additional rivalries in basketball.

The very real possibility of FSU would likely bring a partner to bring the conference back to its namesake of twelve teams. Academic and football heavyweights Clemson and Miami have been mentioned as institutions who would be willing to possibly duck out of the ACC in favor of the bigger money afforded by Big XII football. These ACC members don't like being slighted by a conference that caters to the whims of Duke and UNC basketball.

If you think seeing a Miami contingent in Kansas City every March is crazy, think about that one other distant possibility. Texas has stayed in constant contact with Notre Dame. Even if the Irish don't want to come to the Big XII for football, they could possibly defect from the Big East in every other sport. That would bring the biggest Catholic college in the country and its fan's flocking to KC in March. This would be an ideal scenario for a league looking to replace all of the MU fans who are now going to either watch or travel to their team's tournaments in Nashville or Atlanta.

One year ago, other leagues were looking like vultures ready to pick apart the Big XII. Now a united league looks forward to the future in Kansas City, whether it is as a group of 10, 12, or even 16 if the super conference scenario becomes a reality. Thanks to the astounding turnaround, many Kansas Citizens' March Madness craving will be satisfied for at least the next handful of years.

¿POR QUÉ NO TENGO UN PADRE?



Cuándo yo tenía aproximadamente seis años, algunos niños en la escuela me preguntaron: "¿Dónde está tu padre?". Contesté, "Él murió". "¿Cómo murió él?". "En un accidente de avión". Uno se rió y dijo: "Tú mientes, Tú no tienes un papá".

Una y otra vez, siempre que alguien me preguntaba sobre mi padre, yo contaba aquella misma historia. Era lo que mi madre me dijo cuándo le pregunté, *-Dónde está mi papá? Se murió. ¿Amá, cómo se murió? Se mató en un avión.* Mi mamá señalaba a una foto de un hombre que ella tenía en su tocador. Ella me dijo que él, era mi papá.

Unos años más tarde, otra vez le pregunté a mi madre como murió mi padre. Ella dijo, *Se enfermó.* Entonces él ya había muerto de alguna enfermedad. Comencé a ver que la historia no tenía sentido. Los niños en la escuela tenían razón. Era una mentira. Pero respeté a mi mamá, tanto que dejé de preguntar. La única cosa que yo sabía con seguridad sobre mi padre, consistía en que era

malo. Lo suficientemente malo hasta el punto que mi mamá no quería hablar de él. De este manera, siendo un niño, sólo acepté lo que mi mamá me dijo. 'Él está muerto' y eso es todo. Pero el sentimiento de vacío vivió dentro de mí mientras me preguntaba, ¿Por qué no tengo un papá?.

En mis años de adolescente, supe por mis hermanos mayores, que mi padre había abandonado a la familia. Confuso, me enfrente a mi mamá, quien entonces me dijo que mi padre era un *mujeriego* y un *borracho*. Ella dijo que no podía tolerarlo más y lo abandonó. ¿Y la foto en tu tocador?. Esa era una foto de su primer marido, el padre de mis hermanos mayores.

Entonces no hubo más preguntas. Mi viejo me abandonó y, no tengo un padre y nunca tendré un padre. Justo como los niños de la escuela se burlaban, soy el niño bastardo. Me imagino que para mi mamá, decirme que mi padre había muerto, era la manera más fácil de explicarme que él nunca iba a ser una parte de mi vida. El saber esta verdad no llenó el agujero en mi corazón. Tantas veces me comparé a los otros niños que tenían una madre, un padre y pensé de mí, "¿Madre mía, qué me paso a mí?".

Así que es el Día del Padre. Para mí, es "el Día del Fantasma". Siendo un niño, estaba obsesionado por un hombre que existió, pero no existió. Su fantasma todavía me frecuenta. ¿Cómo puedo escribir algo para un hombre que ni siquiera

conoció?. ¿Qué palabras puedo compartir sobre el padre que decidió abandonar a sus dos niños y, una madre detrás para defenderse por ella misma?.

Aunque yo no tenía el padre que necesité siendo niño; con mis dos hijos decidí ser el padre que yo siempre quise tener. Como su padre, sacrifiqué mi tiempo y mis esfuerzos, de asegurarme de que mis dos muchachos se convirtieran en jóvenes responsables. Como su padre, nunca fumé o bebí en la casa y nunca blasfeme delante de ellos. Mostré a mis hijos el valor del trabajo y los animé a continuar su educación. Cuando ellos me dijeron que no iban a ir a la universidad, les dije que no era una opción. Ambos han terminado desde entonces sus licenciaturas.

El Día del Padre, es una celebración para aquellos hombres que se han ganado el título de "padre". Demuestre con sus palabras y acciones, que su hijo es la cosa más importante para usted. Sienta la alegría de ser un padre al amar y proveer para sus niños a toda costa. Tomese tiempo para hablar con sus niños cada día, ya sea por teléfono o en persona. Muestre respeto a su madre, ya sea si usted vive con ella o no. Demuestre con su ejemplo que beber, conducir, blasfemar y, fumar no son aceptables. Un padre verdadero no abusa físicamente, sexualmente, o verbalmente de sus hijos o de sus hijastros. Sepa que lo que usted decide hacer con ellos y delante de ellos, enseña a sus hijos todo lo

que ellos tienen que saber sobre lo que es un comportamiento aceptable. Si usted lo hace, ellos pueden hacerlo, si no, como niños, entonces cuando ellos hayan crecido. Usted sabe que está en el camino correcto cuando la tarjeta que usted recibe de su hijo durante el Día del Padre le hace llorar. ¿Si su hijo simplemente se toma el tiempo para firmar con su nombre en la tarjeta, pregúntese por qué?.

La esperanza del cambio es posible. Hay muchas cosas disponibles para usted, incluyendo servicios de ayuda en toxicomanía, orientación, e hipnoterapia. Cambie por usted primero, luego por sus niños. Si usted tiene niños; pero usted no los ha visto, vaya y encuéntrelos, haga una conexión con ellos, y proveales. Sus niños todavía le aman. Sé esto porque sus niños me dicen cuánto ellos desean haber tenido a su padre.

Para aquellos padres que han hecho una diferencia verdadera en las vidas de sus niños; Pachuco Educado le desea un Feliz Día del Padre.

Esta columna, esta dedicada, a la ayuda de la juventud y las familias. Mi misión como "El Pachuco Educado", es ayudar a la gente de todas las edades a vencer prejuicios y estereotipos. Mi deseo es animar a la juventud y a las familias a examinar la vida desde un nuevo punto de vista, con la esperanza de motivar a todos los pueblos hacia el cambio de vida positiva. Si usted tiene una pregunta o preocupación con la que lucha, por favor póngase en contacto conmigo en Facebook en www.facebook.com/educatedpachuco. Espero llegar a conocerle.

"El Pachuco Educado".

El consejo ofrecido por el Pachuco Educado tiene propósitos informativos únicamente. Si usted tiene una preocupación específica que requiere la ayuda profesional, por favor consulte con un especialista calificado y entrenado apropiadamente. Cuando usted presente propuestas y/o cualquier otra información, a Hispanic News y a El Pachuco Educado usted estará otorgando permiso para usar, reproducir, o modificar sus presentaciones en todas las publicaciones electrónicas e impresas aquí y/o en otros lugares. La información de identificación nunca será incluida o distribuida. Debido al gran número de propuestas, lamentamos que no podamos responder personalmente a cada una. La información presentada no representa la opinión de Hispanic News o de cualquiera de sus empleados.

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Nurse Practitioner

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County/KCK Health Department is seeking a Nurse Practitioner. Responsibilities include performing physical assessments, prescribe medications and order/interpret diagnostic tests within scope of clinic setting. For more information regarding qualifications and application instructions, please visit our website at www.wycokck.org or contact Human Resources at (913)573-5660. Must be a resident of Wyandotte County or be willing to relocate within 12 months of the date of hire. Salary: \$31.60/hr. Deadline: 06/27/12 EOE



JOB OPPORTUNITY City of Merriam Public Works

IMMEDIATE OPENING:
Maintenance Worker I (seasonal position)

For position requirements and application information, please view full detailed ad on our website at www.merriam.org or call 913-322-5500
Application Deadlines: Open until filled
EOE/ADA/Drug Screen



OPPORTUNITY City of Merriam Parks & Recreation Dept. PARKS & REC DIRECTOR POSITION

Qualified applicants should submit a cover letter, resume and application to Merriam City Hall in person, by mail, by fax 913-322-5505 or via e-mail karenk@merriam.org.

CLOSING DATE: JULY 2, 2012

A complete job description, position profile, City of Merriam, Kansas Community Profile, and Merriam Parks Inventory are available through Human Resources. Please contact 913-322-5502 for this information.

Please view full detailed ad on our Web site at www.merriam.org
EOE/ADA/Drug Screen



MGE is seeking a **Facilities Maintenance Technician** to work in our Facilities Department located at 3420 Broadway, Kansas City, MO office. Interested applicants should apply online at www.missourigasenergy.com. MGE is an **Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer**



MGE is seeking an entry level **Engineer I** to work in our engineering department at 7500 E. 35th Terrace, Kansas City, MO location. Interested applicants should apply online at www.missourigasenergy.com. MGE is an **Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer**



Kansas State University Division of Communications and Marketing is seeking applicants for the position of **Web Programmer**. Applicant review begins June 18, 2012.

More information:
<http://www.k-state.edu/vpcm/jobs/> K-State is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Background check required.

MBE/WBE Solicitations

Killian Construction Co. is soliciting bids from MBE/WBE subcontractors for the Walnut Street Housing project at Missouri State University in Springfield MO. Bids are due Tuesday, June 19, 2012 at 12:00 noon, CDT. For questions regarding the project or for obtaining plans, please call Cheryl Griffeth at 417.520.3252. Bids may be emailed to cgriffeth@killco.com or faxed to 417.883.0239. Killian Construction is an **EOE/AAP** employer.

INVITATION FOR BID #57

MARC is seeking bids for two (2) communications equipped 24' trailers (Project #7606101). A pre-bid conference will be held 6/19/12 at 10AM CST at MARC, 600 Broadway Suite 200, Kansas City MO. Bids due by 7/10/12 1PM CST. Bidding document available at www.marc.org or www.demandstar.com or contact Rita Parker at rita.parker@kcrpc.com.

GIS Specialist

MARC, the metropolitan planning organization and association of city and county governments serving the bi-state Kansas City region, currently has an opening for a GIS Specialist. The position's responsibilities include: geographic data collection, basic editing techniques, analysis methods, proper data management, metadata creation and management, cartography, and applied GIS skills. BA/BS required with 1-3 yrs. of exp. For a complete job description, more information about the programs, and to apply please visit our website at www.marc.org/jobs. MARC is an Equal Opportunity Employer /M/F/V/D



SWOPE HEALTH SERVICESSM

Member Swope Community Enterprises

Swope Health Services is seeking experienced **Dental Assistants** to join our Dental team. Professional candidate is responsible for the performance of chairside duties, assisting Dental Clinicians, including seating and preparing patients for treatment. Must have High school graduate or G.E.D. Completion of a dental assistant training program from an accredited dental school. Good communication skills, telephone etiquette and possess the ability to work with people. We offer a competitive salary!

If interested in joining a terrific team, please visit www.swopehealth.org and apply on-line!
EOE M/F/D/V



SWOPE HEALTH SERVICESSM

Member Swope Community Enterprises

Swope Health Services is seeking experienced **Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN)** to join our healthcare team. Professional candidate may take health history, perform health counseling, administer medications and treatments, provide nursing care and assist physicians/providers. Must be a graduate of an accredited school of practical nursing. Licensed to practice in the State of Missouri and/or Kansas. Basic Cardiovascular Life Support (BCLS), certified. Good communication skills, telephone etiquette and possess the ability to work with people. We offer a competitive salary!

If interested in joining a terrific team, please visit www.swopehealth.org and apply on-line!
EOE M/F/D/V



SWOPE HEALTH SERVICESSM

Member Swope Community Enterprises

Swope Health Services is seeking experienced **Medical Assistant/Patient Service Representatives** to join our healthcare team. Professional candidate is responsible for receiving and preparing adults and children for medical examination and treatment. This includes taking vital signs, assisting the provider with the examination and treatment and ensuring cleanliness of the examination area. Responsible for performing general clerical duties which include entering limited data into the computer. Must have High school graduate or G.E.D. Completion of a medical assistant training program or two years or more experience as a medical assistant or nurse's aide. Good communication skills, telephone etiquette and possess the ability to work with people. We offer a competitive salary!

If interested in joining a terrific team, please visit www.swopehealth.org and apply on-line!
EOE M/F/D/V



Llame para anunciarse en nuestra sección de clasificados:

(816)

472.5246

The **Hickman Mills C-1 School District** is accepting sealed bids for the following projects: **Hickman Mills C-1 Schools Athletic Supplies** until 10:00 AM local time, Wednesday, June 27, 2012 at the Administration Center, 9000 Old Santa Fe Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64138. Bids will be publicly opened at this time. A copy of the Invitation for Bid may be obtained by calling 816-316-7049 or by accessing the Hickman Mills C-1 School District website: www.hickmanmills.org

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING
THE TENTH AMENDMENT TO THE
SOUTHTOWN CORRIDOR/31ST & BALTIMORE
TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLAN**

Pursuant to RSMo 99.825, and in accordance with RSMo 99.830, notice is hereby given by way of certified mail to inform you about a public hearing that will be held by the Tax Increment Financing Commission of Kansas City, Missouri (the "Commission"), commencing at 10:45 a.m., Wednesday, July 11, 2012, at the Commission Offices, located at 1100 Walnut, Fourth Floor, Kansas City, Missouri, regarding the Tenth Amendment (the "Tenth Amendment") to the Southtown Corridor/31st & Baltimore Tax Increment Financing Plan (the "Plan").

The proposed Tenth Amendment to the Plan provides for certain modifications to the (1) Estimated Redevelopment Project Costs, (2) Sources and Uses, and (3) Development Schedule related to Project I. The intent of the Plan remains unchanged other than those changes specifically mentioned herein.

The redevelopment area is generally bounded by 59th Street on the north, 75th Street on the south, Holmes Road on the west, and Chestnut on the east (the "South Prospect/Troost Area") and generally bound Memorial Drive to the north, Wyandotte Street and Baltimore Street to the west, Main Street to the east, 31st Street to the south (the "31st & Baltimore Area") all in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri

The Tenth Amendment, as proposed, may be reviewed by any interested party on or after July 3, 2012 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the Commission Offices.

Pursuant to RSMo Section 99.830.2(3), all interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard at the public hearing. Upon conclusion of the public hearing, all testimony and discussion will be concluded. The TIF Commission Chairman will then call for a vote on the Tenth Amendment within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the public hearing.

In accordance with RSMo Section 99.830.3, each taxing district located wholly or partially within the Redevelopment Area is invited to submit comments or objections to the Commission concerning the subject matter of the public hearing prior to the date of the public hearing.

Tax Increment Financing Commission of Kansas City, Missouri
1100 Walnut, Suite 1700
Kansas City, Missouri 64106



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING
THE SIXTH AMENDMENT TO
WINCHESTER TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLAN**

Pursuant to RSMo 99.825, and in accordance with RSMo 99.830, notice is hereby given by way of certified mail to inform you about a public hearing that will be held by the Tax Increment Financing Commission of Kansas City, Missouri (the "Commission"), commencing at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 11, 2012, at the Commission Offices, located 1100 Walnut, Fourth Floor, Kansas City, Missouri, regarding the Sixth Amendment (the "Sixth Amendment") to the Winchester Tax Increment Financing Plan (the "Plan").

The proposed Sixth Amendment to the Plan provides for certain modifications (1) to the Legal Descriptions of the Redevelopment Area and certain Redevelopment Project Areas described by the Plan; (2) to the Site Plan attached to and incorporated within the Plan; (3) to the Objectives and the description of improvements set forth in the Plan; (4) to the Construction and Employment Information attached to and incorporated within the Plan; (5) to the Budget of Estimated Redevelopment Project Costs attached to and incorporated within the Plan; (6) to the Sources and Uses contemplated by the Plan, including estimated annual increases in assessed value, estimated Payments in Lieu of Taxes, and estimated Economic Activity Taxes; (7) to the Redevelopment Schedule attached to and incorporated within the Plan; (8) to the Cost Benefit Analysis attached to and incorporated within the Plan, (9) to the But For Analysis attached to and incorporated within the Plan; (10) to Evidence of Financing referenced by the Plan; and (11) to the Existing Conditions Study incorporated within the Plan. The intent of the Plan remains unchanged other than those changes specifically mentioned herein.

The Redevelopment Area is generally bounded by 63rd Street Trafficway on the north, Interstate 435 and Manchester Avenue on the east, 64th and 67th Street on the south, and the Kansas City Southern Railroad tracks on the west in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri

The Sixth Amendment, as proposed, may be reviewed by any interested party on or after July 3, 2012 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the Commission Offices.

Pursuant to RSMo Section 99.830.2(3), all interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard at the public hearing. Upon conclusion of the public hearing, all testimony and discussion will be concluded. The TIF Commission Chairman will then call for a vote on the Sixth Amendment within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the public hearing.

In accordance with RSMo Section 99.830.3, each taxing district located wholly or partially within the Redevelopment Area is invited to submit comments or objections to the Commission concerning the subject matter of the public hearing prior to the date of the public hearing.

Heather Brown
Tax Increment Financing Commission of Kansas City, Missouri
1100 Walnut, Suite 1700
Kansas City, Missouri 64106



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE PROPOSED
CARONDELET DRIVE
TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLAN**

Pursuant to RSMo 99.825, and in accordance with RSMo 99.830, notice is hereby given by way of certified mail to inform you about a public hearing that will be held by the Tax Increment Financing Commission of Kansas City, Missouri (the "Commission") commencing at 11:00am Wednesday, July 11, 2012 located at Town Pavilion, 1100 Walnut, Fourth Floor Conference Center, Kansas City, Missouri regarding the proposed Carondelet Drive Tax Increment Financing Plan (the "Plan") as described by the Plan.

The proposed Plan will include the construction of approximately 200,000 square feet of office along with parking for the office building, as well as all necessary appurtenances and utilities.

Redevelopment Area is generally bound by Carondelet Drive on the North, Country Lane on the South, Glen Arbor Road on the East, and Madison Avenue on the West all in Jackson County, Kansas City, Missouri.

The document, as proposed, may be reviewed by any interested party on or after July 3, 2012 between the hours of 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM at the TIF Commission Offices, 1100 Walnut, Suite 1700, Kansas City, Missouri.

According to Section 99.830.2(3), all interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard at the public hearing.

According to Section 99.830.3, each taxing district located wholly or partially within the Redevelopment Area may submit comments or objections to the Commission concerning the subject matter of the public hearing prior to the date of the public hearing.

Tax Increment Financing Commission of Kansas City, Missouri
1100 Walnut, Suite 1700
Kansas City, Missouri 64106



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING
THE FIFTH AMENDMENT OF THE CIVIC MALL
TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLAN**

Pursuant to RSMo 99.825, and in accordance with RSMo 99.830, notice is hereby given by way of certified mail to inform you about a public hearing that will be held by the Tax Increment Financing Commission of Kansas City, Missouri (the "Commission"), commencing at 9:45 a.m., Wednesday, July 11, 2012 at the Commission Offices, located 1100 Walnut, Fifth Floor, Kansas City, Missouri, regarding the Fifth Amendment of the Civic Mall Tax Increment Financing Plan (the "Plan") as described by the Plan.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider recommending to City Council the termination of Redevelopment Project Area 66 of the Civic Mall Tax Increment Financing Plan (the "Plan") and dissolving the special allocation fund established pursuant to Redevelopment Project Areas 66 of the Plan (the "Special Allocation Fund").

The Redevelopment Plan Area is generally bound by, I-70/I-35 on the north, I-70 on the east, 13th Street on the south, and McGee Street on the west, all in Jackson County, Kansas City, Missouri. Project 66 is more specifically located in the block bound by E. 9th Street on the north, Charlotte Street on the east, E. 10th Street on the south, and Holmes Street on the west.

The document, as proposed, may be reviewed by any interested party on or after July 3, 2012 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the Commission Offices.

According to Section 99.830.2(3) all interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard at the public hearing.

According to Section 99.830.3, each taxing district located wholly are partially within the Redevelopment Area may submit comments or objections to the Commission concerning the subject matter of the public hearing prior to the date of the public hearing.

Tax Increment Financing Commission of Kansas City, Missouri
1100 Walnut, Suite 1700
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Immigration policy takes severe toll on family

CONT./PAGE 1

After the fall of Communism and subsequent changes in government leadership in Poland in the early 90's, Janina was informed that she would no longer be granted refugee status and must leave the U.S. After several unsuccessful appeals, Janina was deported to Poland in 2007, taking Brian with her.

This separation took a severe toll on the family structure. Without Janina's help, the business failed and Tony lost their house to foreclosure. Nonetheless, he continued to lobby for Janine's return, and for broader immigration reform. After filing several appeals under the "Extreme Hardship" provision, tirelessly lobbying Illinois' Senators and Congressional Representatives, making numerous public appearances, and with support from Illinois Congressman Luis Gutierrez, the Polish Initiative of Chicago and other advocacy organizations, Tony was able to win his appeal and Janina returned to the U.S.

Wasilewski told Hispanic News that he continues to work for immigration reform and does everything he can for other families that find themselves in the same position as he and Janina.

"We were model Americans," Wasilewski said. "We created our own small business, bought a house, paid our taxes, and stayed out of trouble with the law. We love this country and were contributing to it. Yet our family was torn apart."

Wasilewski says that he believes immigration laws should consider the immigrants' contributions to U.S. society when making decisions about whether or not to extend legal status.

Angela Ferguson, immigration

attorney and member of AIRR, said, "There are hundreds of thousands of immigrants today who are going through the same hardships and separations as Tony and Janina. Unfortunately, very few of them are able to win their appeals under the Extreme Hardship provision. It takes a lot of money, a lot of time, and the kind of political support that Tony was able to secure. Not everyone is able to do that."

Ferguson told Hispanic news that the AIRR hopes to inform and educate the faith-based community about the failures of U.S. immigration policy and to engage them in seeking reform. The organization focuses on religious organizations but is also seeking support from the broader community. "There's a lot of misinformation out there," Ferguson said. "Through our outreach activities, we hope to make the community more aware and gain their commitment to meaningful immigration reform."

Dale E. Luffman, ecumenical and interfaith officer for the Community of Christ, explained his church's involvement, "We're concerned as a denomination for justice and peace in the world, and immigration represents a justice issue that we're concerned about. It's not that people want to go out and do something harmful to immigrants, but there are factors that are part of the system that put some immigrants in terrible jeopardy. ... So we find ourselves wanting to be supportive of organizations and movements that are sensitive to and supportive of the worth of individuals. We want to see things be fair and equitable so that people can find reasonable pathways to citizenship and pathways to em-

ployment without feeling anxiety and fear."

Reverend Rick Behrens, Pastor of the Grandview Park Baptist Church in Kansas City, Kansas, is a member of AIRR's board of directors, and an active supporter of immigration reform.

"AIRR has a mission statement that says we're about education, inspiration and organizing, particularly with the faith community, around the difficult topic of immigration," Behrens said. "We're trying to engage the faith community in a deeper discussion of immigration, what it means for our country and how good it is for our communities. We need to find compassionate avenues toward immigration reform and find ways that immigrants can become fully engaged as part of our national civic culture."

Westside community activist, Ascencion Hernandez, attended the AIRR event, and agrees with the need for every concerned citizen to take action to change immigration policy. "I think we should support the organizations that recognize what needs to be done for immigrants," Hernandez said. "Ordinary citizens need to tie in and not be afraid to make a connection with these organizations to try to help make positive changes."

John Glaser, Minister with the Community of Christ, said that his denomination works with AIRR and other immigration advocacy groups to help achieve meaningful immigration reform. "Christianity is about welcoming people," Glaser said. "It's about welcoming anyone who is hurting, anyone with a broken heart; that is our goal. If we take our Christianity seriously we have to do it."

Spreading the word of faith and safety

CONT./PAGE 1

two hundred parishioners and supporters in a walk from the Church through the neighborhood in the city's Westside. Ebach told Hispanic News that the procession had a purpose.

"We thought we would resurrect that tradition and go through our neighborhood and bring some balance of peace and hope. Some of the people here live in fear because of some of the shootings and the violence that people have experienced in the neighborhood," he explained.

In recent months, the neighborhood has been a source of concern for community groups and area residents as random shootings and drive-bys have left many weary and afraid. Mattie Rhodes, a social service agency in the area, has organized block watches in response to the neighbors' concerns.

"The message is that Jesus and the Eucharist, the body and blood of Jesus, are more powerful than anything we experience, whether it is violence or death. ... We are ... inviting people to step out in their porches and pray as we go by bringing that message of hope that the Eucharist is. ... So it is not just walking up and saying 'Amen' and receiving the body and blood of Jesus, but actually walking with each other in the neighborhood to experience each other."

Ebach added that the church is a major institution in the community and its outreach is a key component of the church's role there.

"This is an extension of what we are trying to do as a church, a church that is such an important symbol of that neighborhood. The idea is that those people can be little churches as they walk the street and make sure the people are taken care of. When we were at our gathering there was a person that had moved in that nobody even knew that he lived there. We got to meet him and invite him to church - to community. That is the part that is missing. We don't take care of each other very well."

Ebach added that it is important to establish the level of trust that existed in communities years ago. "I think we need to get our neighborhood back to where peo-



Residents sat on their front porch as Walk for Peace marchers passed by their homes. Many homeowners admitted they need to do a better job of getting to know their neighbors and working closer with the police department.

Los residentes, se sentaron en su pórtico frontal, mientras las personas marchaban frente a su casa, en una Caminata por la Paz. Muchos propietarios confesaron, que ellos tienen que hacer un mejor trabajo para llegar a conocer a sus vecinos y, trabajar más cerca con el Departamento de Policía.

ple really feel that they can be trusted. ... Even going and borrowing that cup of sugar we used to do. We should do that symbolically. ... Also [as for] the young people, we need to help them feel like they are needed and wanted ... and that they don't need to revert to violence or to activities that are unsafe and hurt people."

David Botello joined the procession. "I think this is great. The church needs to get out in the community more and do some more recruiting. Crime is always a problem in these neighborhoods and it is great that the church gets out here. ... It lets us know that we are not alone and that the church cares as well as other people."

Botello agreed with Ebach that many people do not take the time to get to know their neighbors to the detriment of the community.

"We don't know each other. The best way to fight crime is to know your neighbors. You look out for each other and that is how you fight crime. We are our brother's keeper that way. ... It is getting bad everywhere that is why we need the church and everybody coming together to fight crime we cannot just depend on the police. We need to depend on each other as well as our religious institutions."

Botello applauds the initiative of the church and sees it as an indication of the growing strength of the institution.

"The church is making a great comeback these days. This is one of the indications that not only in this community but probably across the world and especially across the United States, Catholics are coming back to the church. We are not nominal Catholics. We are becoming more active."

Melissa Nuñez welcomed the event and the motivation behind it. "It is a good feeling to know that people are doing this for our neighborhood. It shows concern and that is good. This will encourage us to come and be involved with the church and neighborhood meetings and stuff."

That involvement is what Ebach is hoping to see. He is wistful when he thinks of people sitting on their porches looking out for each other and the Church. He understands that there is always a problem of perception and trust that extends beyond neighborhood.

"[People] know who is out doing the shooting. They want people to come forward. ... They are also afraid of the police. They think when they call the police they are just being a nuisance. I keep telling them that 'if there is a situation that is suspicious, call the police no matter what they say to you.' That is the piece we need to get back to as law enforcement, as neighbors, as family, we need to feel that we are part of that neighborhood."

Política en inmigración daña a familia

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una casa, tener un hijo, y plantar un árbol en tierra norteamericana. Janina y Tony fundaron un servicio de la limpieza exitosamente, compraron una casa en los barrios residenciales de Chicago y, comenzaron a ver crecer a su hijo nacido en los Estados Unidos, Brian.

Después de la caída del Comunismo y cambios subsecuentes en el mando del gobierno en Polonia a principios de los años 90, Janina fue informada que ya no le sería concedido el estado de refugiada y debía salir de los Estados Unidos. Después de varias peticiones fracasadas, Janina fue deportada a Polonia en el 2007, llevándose a Brian con ella.

Esta separación fue una pérdida total en la estructura familiar. Sin la ayuda de Janina, el negocio falló y Tony perdió su casa en una ejecución hipotecaria. Sin embargo, él siguió cabildando para el regreso de Janine y, para una reforma de inmigración más amplia. Después de archivar varias peticiones bajo la disposición de "Privación Extrema", incansablemente cabildando a los Senadores de Illinois y Representantes del Congreso, haciendo numerosas apariciones en público, y con el apoyo del Congresista de Illinois, Luis Gutiérrez; la Iniciativa Polaca de Chicago y otras organizaciones de defensa, Tony fue capaz de ganar su petición y Janina volvió a los Estados Unidos. Wasilewski dijo a Hispanic News, que él sigue trabajando para la reforma de inmigración y hace todo lo que puede apoyando, a otras familias que se encuentran en la misma posición como él y Janina

"Éramos norteamericanos modelos", dijo Wasilewski. "Creamos nuestro propio pequeño negocio, compramos una casa, pagamos nuestros impuestos, y no teníamos problemas con la ley. Amamos este país y estábamos contribuyéndole. Y así nuestra familia fue separada."

Wasilewski dice que cree que las leyes de inmigración deberían considerar las contribuciones de los inmigrantes a la sociedad estadounidense, cuando toman decisiones sobre si ampliar o no el estatuto jurídico.

Angela Ferguson, abogada de inmigración e integrante de AIRR, dijo, "Hoy, hay cientos de miles de inmigrantes que pasan por las mismas privaciones y separaciones como Tony y Janina; lamentable-



A broad group of faith-based communities gathered recently at the Advocates for Immigration Rights and Reconciliation dinner. The group is trying to highlight the anti-family impact of current immigration policy.

Un extenso grupo de comunidades religiosas se reunieron recientemente durante la cena de Defensores de Derechos de Inmigración y Reconciliación. El grupo está tratando de subrayar el impacto anti-familiar de la actual política migratoria.

mente, muy pocos de ellos son capaces de ganar sus peticiones bajo la disposición de Privación Extrema. Se necesita mucho dinero, mucho tiempo, y la clase del apoyo político que Tony fue capaz de asegurar. No todos son capaces de hacer eso".

Ferguson dijo a Hispanic News, que el AIRR espera informar y educar a la comunidad religiosa sobre los fracasos de la política de inmigración estadounidense y llamarlos en la busca de la reforma. La organización se concentra en grupos religiosos, pero también busca el apoyo de una comunidad más amplia. "Ahí hay mucha información mala", comentó Ferguson. "A través de nuestras actividades de alcance, esperamos hacer a la comunidad más consciente y, ganar su compromiso ante una reforma de inmigración significativa".

Dale E. Luffman, ecuménico y oficial interreligioso para la Comunidad de Cristo, explicó la participación de su iglesia, "Como una denominación por justicia y paz en el mundo, estamos preocupados y la inmigración representa una cuestión de justicia. No es que la gente quiera salir y hacer algo dañino a inmigrantes, pero hay factores que son parte del sistema que ponen a algunos inmigrantes en un peligro terrible. Entonces nos encontramos queriendo ser solidarios ante las organizaciones y movimientos que son sensibles y compasivos del valor de los individuos. Queremos ver que las cosas sean justas y equitativas, de modo que la gente, pueda encontrar caminos razonables para obtener la ciudadanía y al empleo sin sentir ansiedad y miedo".

El reverendo Rick Behrens; Pastor de la Iglesia Bautista del Parque Grandview en Kansas City, Kansas, es un miembro de la junta directiva del AIRR y un partidario activo de

la reforma de inmigración.

"AIRR tiene una declaración de misión, donde dice que nosotros trabajamos sobre la educación, inspiración y organización, en particular con la comunidad religiosa en relación del difícil tema de la inmigración", dijo Behrens. "Estamos tratando de comprometer a la comunidad religiosa en una discusión más profunda de la inmigración, lo que esto significa para nuestro país y, lo bueno que es para nuestras comunidades. Tenemos que encontrar vías compasivas hacia la reforma de inmigración y, encontrar maneras de que los inmigrantes puedan estar totalmente comprometidos como parte de nuestra cultura cívica nacional".

El activista comunitario del Westside, Ascención Hernández, asistió al evento AIRR y está de acuerdo con la necesidad de que cada ciudadano afectado, tome acciones para cambiar la política de inmigración. "Creo que deberíamos apoyar a las organizaciones que reconocen lo que se necesita hacer por los inmigrantes", dijo Hernández. "Los ciudadanos ordinarios, tienen que estar unidos y no tener miedo de hacer una conexión con estas organizaciones, para tratar de ayudar a hacer cambios positivos".

John Glaser; Ministro con la Comunidad de Cristo, dijo que su denominación, trabaja con AIRR y otros grupos de defensa de inmigración para ayudar a conseguir una significativa reforma de inmigración. "El cristianismo es sobre dar la bienvenida a la gente", explica Glaser. "Es sobre dar la bienvenida a cualquiera que este sufriendo, a cualquiera con un corazón roto; es nuestro objetivo. Si tomamos nuestro cristianismo en serio, tenemos que hacerlo".

Difundiendo la palabra de la fe y seguridad

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organizó a aproximadamente doscientos feligreses y partidarios en una caminata desde la iglesia por el vecindario del Westside de la ciudad. Ebach, dijo a Hispanic News, que la procesión tenía un objetivo.

"Nosotros pensamos en resucitar aquella tradición, pasar por nuestro vecindario y traer algún balance de paz y esperanza. Algunas de las gentes de aquí, viven en el miedo, debido a algunos de los disparos y la violencia que la gente ha experimentado en el vecindario", explicó él.

En meses recientes, el vecindario ha sido una fuente de preocupación para grupos comunitarios y, residentes del área, ya que los disparos arbitrarios y las agresiones desde los autos en marcha, han dejado a muchos ya cansados y con miedo. Mattie Rhodes, una agencia de servicios sociales en el área, ha organizado vigilancia por cuadrantes, en respuesta a las preocupaciones de los vecinos.

"El mensaje es, que Jesús y la eucaristía; el cuerpo y la sangre de Jesús, son más poderosos que todo lo que experimentamos, si es la violencia o la muerte. Estamos invitando a la gente a salir a sus pórticos y, rezar mientras pasamos por sus casas para traer aquel mensaje de esperanza que la eucaristía representa. Entonces esto no sólo se trata de decir 'Amén' y recibir el cuerpo y la sangre de Jesús, sino realmente caminar junto con el otro, en el vecindario para experimentar el uno al otro".

Ebach añadió que la parroquia es una institución de importancia, en la comunidad y su nivel de alcance, es un componente clave del papel de la iglesia.

"Esto es una extensión de lo que tratamos de hacer como parroquia, una parroquia que es un

símbolo tan importante en este vecindario. La idea consiste en que esas personas, puedan ser pequeñas iglesias, cuando ellos andan en la calle y se aseguren de que la gente esta siendo protegida. Cuando estábamos en nuestra reunión, había una persona que se había cambiado al vecindario y que nadie sabía que vivía allí. Lo conocimos y lo invitamos a la iglesia - a la comunidad. Es la parte que nos falta. No nos cuidamos el uno al otro muy bien".

Ebach añadió que es importante establecer el nivel de confianza que existió en las comunidades hace unos años. "Creo que tenemos que recuperar nuestro vecindario, al punto donde la gente realmente sienta que pueden confiar en ellos. Incluso el ir y pedir un préstamo, aquella taza de azúcar que solíamos pedir. Deberíamos hacer esto simbólicamente. También en cuanto a los jóvenes, tenemos que ayudarles a sentir que ellos son necesarios y queridos y, que ellos no tienen que regresar la violencia o estar en actividades que son inseguras y dañan a la gente".

David Botello, se unió a la procesión. "Creo que esto es grandioso. La iglesia tiene que salir más a la comunidad y hacer un poco más de reclutamiento. El crimen siempre es un problema en estos vecindarios y es estúpido que la iglesia salga aquí. Esto nos deja saber, de que no estamos solos y, que la iglesia se preocupa así como otra gente".

Botello estuvo de acuerdo con Ebach, en que muchas personas no se toman tiempo para llegar a conocer a sus vecinos en perjuicio de la comunidad.

"No nos conocemos el uno al otro. La mejor manera de luchar contra el delito, es conocer a sus vecinos. Usted se busca el uno al otro y así es como usted lucha contra el delito. Así estamos en-

cargados de nuestro hermano. Se esta poniendo mal en todas partes, por eso, necesitamos de la iglesia y a cada uno que asiste a ella, para juntos luchar contra el delito, no podemos depender sólo de la policía. Tenemos que depender el uno del otro, así como de nuestras instituciones religiosas".

Botello aplaude la iniciativa de la iglesia y lo ve como un indicio de la creciente fuerza de la institución. "La iglesia hace una gran reparación estos días. Esto es una de las indicaciones, que no sólo se da en esta comunidad, sino probablemente alrededor del mundo y, sobre todo, a través de los Estados Unidos, los católicos vuelven a la iglesia. No somos católicos nominales. Nos estamos haciendo más activos".

Melissa Nuñez dio la bienvenida al evento y al motivo detrás de él. "Es un buen sentimiento, el saber que la gente hace esto para nuestro vecindario. Esto muestra la preocupación y eso está bien. Esto nos animará a venir y estar involucrados con la iglesia, las reuniones vecinales y demás".

Esa participación es lo que Ebach espera ver. Él siente melancolía cuando piensa en la gente que se sienta en sus pórticos y, que se buscan el uno al otro y la iglesia. Él entiende que siempre hay un problema de percepción y confianza que se extiende más allá del vecindario.

"La gente sabe quien hace los disparos. Ellos quieren que la gente de la cara. También tienen miedo de la policía. Ellos piensan cuando llaman a la policía, son sólo un fastidio. Sigo diciéndoles que 'si hay una situación que les es sospechosa, llamen a la policía sin importar lo que le digan'. Es la pieza a la cual tenemos que regresar en la aplicación de la ley, como vecinos, como familia, tenemos que sentir que somos parte de ese vecindario".



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