

¡Gritalo...soy latino! 2005

This year, “¡Gritalo...soy latino!” (Yell it out, I am latino!) consisted of two events with approximately 900 participants total. This event is part of a positive youth development endeavor which promotes assets among Latino youth. “¡Gritalo...soy latino!” began with an all day soccer tournament on April 9, 2005. The day consisted of 16 high school soccer teams from 14 different schools, including two daring girls’ teams from Oregon City and Reynolds High School. All high school teams played to win one of the two precious handmade, iron soccer trophies made and donated by Fernando Calderon of Los Hechos church in Canby, presented during the event on April 16, 2005, to Reynolds high school, all boys team and Reynolds high school, all girls team.



The high schools participating in this grand tournament were; Madison, Reynolds, Barlow, Listos, Oregon City, David Douglas, Benson, Milwaukie, Franklin, Grant, and Clackamas. It was a full day of soccer fun for the 250-300 players and spectators who attended.

The second day of “¡Gritalo...soy latino!” took place on April 16, 2005, at the Floyd Light Middle school field, right next to the Portland Community Center. The event started with the final soccer games to see which boys’ team and girls’ team would win the soccer trophies. Furthermore, two impressive, local adult teams, hustled to win a ¡Gritalo...soy latino!” trophy.



Inside the East Portland Community Center, exhibitors provided information from different local colleges and community outreach programs. In the same area talented youth displayed their beautiful drawings and paintings for the art contest. It was especially difficult to choose winners, as they were all beautiful and creative works of art. First place in the art contest was awarded to Cesar López, a 10th grader from Rex Putnam High School, second place went to Gregorio Mejia, a 10th grader from Canby High School and third place was given to Miguel Javier, a 9th grader from Sam Barlow High School.

As the day went on, we enjoyed over 50 middle school, high school and college students shining on stage with their fabulous songs, theatre, hip hop, break dance showcase and moving folkloric performances from the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Mexico.

The day was filled with the chance to play fun games, win prizes, and listen to our international speaker – Luis Galdamez – who spoke out to the teens about following their goals and why it is important to wait for sex until marriage. All teens went home with their own personal ATM card (Abstinence til’ Marriage) to carry around in their wallets to remind them of the promise they made to themselves and the date in which the card expires...their WEDDING DAY.

The evening ended with the much awaited dance session for teenagers to show off their dancing skills and to participate in the grand prize raffle of a donated stereo-boom box from Walmart.

A special “thank you” to all of our volunteers, supporters, sponsors, friends and family for their hard work to make the event happen. Estela Sanchez