



SPANISH COMMUNITY OF WALLINGFORD

“STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY”

2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Message from our Executive Director

First of all, I want to introduce you to our first Annual Report. We are excited to share with you our recent accomplishments and growth and recognize the people whose support and commitment are largely responsible for them. As you read, please keep in mind: *You did this. Your support changed these lives.*

Because this is ultimately a report about changing lives, in the below paragraph, you will find a list of the educational programs that we have initiated.

We have expanded our services particularly in the area of education. It has become obvious to us that we can best prepare our community by offering educational programs for every age group. Whether it is our *iAdelante! America Youth Leadership program*, our Mariachi Academy of Connecticut, STEM Academy (provided by CT STEM Academy), Bebés Activos (provided by WE CARE), Super Niñas (provided by Girls, Inc.), music lessons (Provided by Choate's Tech Music Club) or English classes (Provided by Wallingford Adult Education and Literacy Volunteers), individuals participating in them have made huge gains in education, confidence, language skills, and so many other areas critical to success.

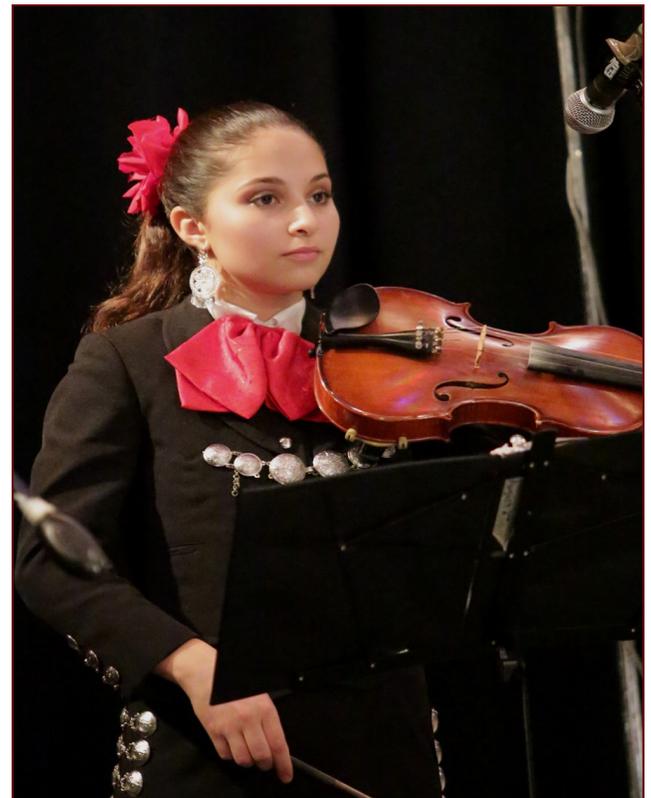
In the past, SCOW's emphasis was primarily focused on assisting adults. Presently, however, our organization actively serves individuals of all ages. I would also like to note that we serve 500% more people than we did just three years ago. Additionally, we now host three federal social service programs that are providing support for the entire Wallingford community; including Energy Assistance, SNAP and WIC.

Lastly, but of great importance to our long-term sustainability, we have reduced our dependency on government funding from 95% five years ago, to less than 50% today.

I could go on... and on... and on about our organization. But there is too much to tell. I would rather invite you to read the stories about the Rodriguez family and Anthony Ruiz that we present as representative of so many members of the SCOW community. Keep in mind that *your involvement in the Spanish Community of Wallingford directly affected their lives in a profound way. Please be as proud of them – and yourself – as we are of them. The partnership between you and SCOW is written in these next three pages. For that support we offer you our profound thanks.*

With gratitude,

Maria Campos Harlow



Achieving the American Dream by Adriana Rodriguez

I am honored to be talking to you right now for so many reasons. First of all, I am so proud of my family. Second, I think it is very important that, when reading our story, you see how much your support has changed our lives.

Our story begins in 1988, when my father Juan Jose arrived in Wallingford to work at Connecticut Steel (now Nucor Steel Connecticut.) A few months later, my mother Gloria joined him here, in town. I must say, it was a gutsy move. Neither of them spoke English; my mother was a 20-year old newlywed; and she didn't even know how to drive! To this day, I am in awe of the courage it took for them to move away from everyone and everything they knew to start a new life in America.

A few months later, someone at work mentioned SCOW to my father. My mother came to check it out. Oh my; what a gift this was! SCOW helped them find a doctor for my mom during her first pregnancy. SCOW also assisted them by making appointments with the doctor's office, interpreting for them during the visits and transporting my mom to the office throughout her entire pregnancy.

SCOW became a lifeline for us and so many others struggling to find their way in a new land. When I was five, SCOW's director urged my mother to enroll in Wallingford Adult Education. She did, and not only did she learn English, but she also got her G.E.D!



My mother is a very active, energetic person, and took advantage of many of the programs that SCOW offers. She improved her English, took American citizenship, computer literacy and folkloric dance classes.

When I was five years old and my brother Juan Jr. was four, my father was working long hours at the steel plant. Thanks to SCOW's help, my mother began working at Choate. A few years later, she took a job at All Molded Plastics; where she still works, today.

When I was in 8th grade at Dag, I began volunteering at SCOW, helping with the Summer Program and the DARE bike rodeo, tutoring 1st and 2nd graders in reading and helping them with homework. Juan Jr. and I also were part of a huge folkloric dance program at SCOW, performing all over New England. What a great experience!

The United Way awarded me Vo-

“SCOW became a lifeline for us and so many others struggling to find our way in a new home.”

lunteer of the Year in 2003 and 2004. In 2005, I began working at SCOW part-time, two hours a day, helping with administrative tasks and then with the *Adelante* America program. I also convinced my brother Juan Jr. to join us. I am so proud of how he grew as a person due to *Adelante*. Recently, he obtained his Master's degree in Social Work.

Nowadays, I am the program director for *Adelante* America while pursuing a career in education. SCOW has become an important part of all our lives, including my youngest brother Damian, who was born in 1999. He currently participates in SCOW's Mariachi Academy and is yet another Rodriguez who continues to grow and succeed due to SCOW. I know he has set his sights on college.

I will end this by saying “*Mil Gracias*” to all of you who support SCOW. The Rodriguez family, all five of us, are the proud results of your



“SCOW has made an outstanding and ongoing contribution to the cause of promoting and celebrating not only the vibrantly rich Spanish cultures but of all diversity within our Town.

“The many programs and activities that SCOW initiates builds positive relationships, innovative forums for education, and supports a variety of community needs that ultimately enhance the quality of life for all citizens of Wallingford. The entire community is enriched by its presence and deserves our universal support.”

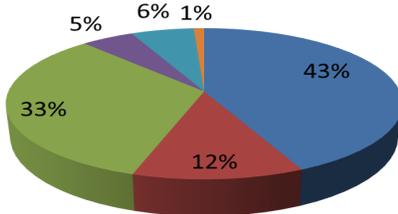
Mark and Christine Gingras, G&G Beverages Distributors Co.

Financial Information: FY2014-2015

Spanish Community of Wallingford is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Thus, donations to SCOW are tax deductible. Our fiscal year runs July 1st to June 30th.

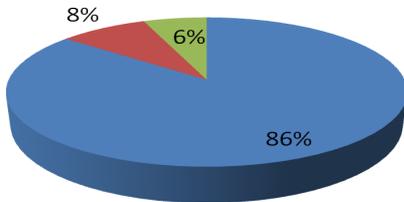
REVENUE FY 2014 -2015

- CT/WLFD Grant
- Grant Program
- Fundraising
- Donations
- Program Income
- Prof Services



EXPENSES FY 2014 -2015

- Program Costs
- Administrative Costs
- Fundraising



REVENUE (US\$)	FY 2014-2015
CT/WLFD Grants *	128,123
Total Income	296,691
Fundraising **	96,888
Donations	14,744
Programs Income	18,829
Professional Services	3,553
Total Income ***	296,691

EXPENSES (US\$)	FY 2014-2015
Program Costs	236,009
Administrative Cost	23,038
Fundraising	16,456
Total Expenses ***	275,503
Net Increase in Assets at FY End	21,188

Our Mission:

to respond to the needs of the Latino Community by assisting them to succeed in U.S. society, and to enable them to maintain and share their rich varied cultures

* Town of Wallingford (WLFD) contribution includes donated facility and utilities.

** Nucor Steel CT held their 2nd Annual Golf Charity Tournament for the benefit of SCOW.

*** SCOW is fiscal sponsor for WE CARE with \$22,048 in revenue and \$13,680.46 in expenses that are not included in the total amounts reported above.

Lessons learned in *iAdelante! America* by Anthony Ruiz



Anthony Ruiz, 17

I think the *Adelante* program has made me a better person by helping me to step out of my comfort zone and explore all the options that every teen has the right to dream about and achieve. It also has im-

proved my leadership skills. Last year, I was elected as the first president of the group. Before joining the program, I was very shy and had trouble talking in front of others. This experience has helped me gain confidence to express my thoughts.

Thanks to *Adelante* we have had the opportunity to interact with other Latinos who have jobs that we have

only dreamed about. Our guest speakers give us useful advice, for example, why it is so important to start saving money at a young age.

This past summer I got a job and saved 75% of every check that I earned and deposited it into a savings account! I don't think that I would have saved any money if I hadn't listened to the guest speaker's advice.

By seeing their success and then attending the Quest Conventions at Southern Connecticut State University, I was inspired to keep up the hard work both academically and physically because now I have learned there are many opportunities out there, you just have to focus and pursue your dreams. Now, my plan after graduating high school is to go to college to become a doctor.



The *Adelante* program has provided us with these great opportunities and while the program continues to expand, we need your support. I encourage everyone to continue giving to SCOW because we would not find such a great support system anywhere else.



SPANISH COMMUNITY OF WALLINGFORD

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Visit our website
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Rolf Kuhn,
Volunteer Development Director

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