

39TH AJFCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MAY 15-17, 2011

The Westin Hotel, Calgary, Alberta

THE GOODMAN AWARD SUBMISSION FORM

I. General Information

- a. Program Title: Mis Tres Caras/My Three Faces/Shaloshah Panim
- b. Agency Name: Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara
- c. Date Program Began: May 14th, 2009

II. Summary

- a. Initial Problem(s) to be Addressed by the Program: In Santa Barbara County, 35% of the population is Hispanic (2000 census). The Hispanic youth in our community have overwhelmingly experienced family disruption and discrimination that parallels the experiences of Holocaust survivors. This has led to gang stabbings and violent, disruptive activities involving at-risk, gang affiliated, and underserved youth in our community.
- b. Brief Overall Program Description: "Mis Tres Caras/My Three Faces/Shaloshah Panim," (reflecting "three faces" of past, present and future), is a program of extended encounter between Holocaust survivors and youths in which survivors share their experiences in the face of adversity. Participants respond to these stories by sharing impressions and create (together with survivors and other volunteers) expressions of their personal narrative through multi-media projects such as; art, film, photography, performance, and other arts.

Mis Tres Caras evolved from the observation that youths who participated in *Portraits of Survival* educational programs (visiting the *Portraits* permanent photographic exhibition and hearing firsthand accounts of one or two survivors) were significantly and positively affected. Youths from immigrant families resonated deeply with the survivors' experiences of discrimination, immigration, acculturation and the yearning to "fit in" while feeling different. The participants become engaged not only with the narratives of how survivors overcame adversity but also, with the role of rescuers who took great risks in the face of evil to save lives. *Mis Tres Caras* enables youth to benefit from; 1) exploring critical issues around moral decision making and community responsibility 2) having their own stories heard through dialogue, 3) forming deep and binding relationships with survivors and other volunteers who serve as partners and mentors in the creative process, and 4) the pride of having projects showcased to the public which validates that their story matters.

III. Components

- a. Jewish Component: Working with Holocaust survivors and using their experiences to help at-risk youth relate to their own life challenges. Teaching

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the personal effects of anti-Semitism in WWII, in order to parallel it with the discrimination that still takes place in the world today.

- b. Outreach Component: Outreach is mainly addressed in this program by reaching out to the disadvantaged youth in our community and showing them that there is hope, and they can in fact overcome the challenges they have been faced with.
- c. Community-Building Component: The *Mis Tres Caras* program would not be able to work without community collaborations. In Santa Barbara, the Jewish Federation is able to provide the Holocaust survivors through the Portraits of Survival exhibit, while the teens in the program come from collaborations with outside groups. These include afterschool programs, school classes/programs, mentoring programs, and gang prevention groups. We also team up with another non-profit called *Art from Scrap* to help in providing a creative space to meet, as well as the art supplies for the youth's projects. By bringing these positive programs together, *Mis Tres Caras* models community-building for the youth.

Aside from collaborations, *Mis Tres Caras* addresses issues of personal responsibility, perspective, values, bias, providing positive experiences to enable at-risk youth to modify negative behaviors, and, in turn, participants serve as mentors to others to make an impact on decreasing gang violence in our community.

IV. Outcomes

- a. Outcomes of the Program to Date: Those who have participated in this project have expressed that *Mis Tres Caras* has impacted their world view, eliciting new attitudes and behaviors. As a result of participation, participants told us that they have been inspired to quit drugs, leave gangs, return to school, graduate high school and reconcile with estranged family members.
- b. Evaluation Method: Evaluation is based on personal anecdotes, quotes, and narratives of previous participants. The Federation is currently working on creating an effective pre-/post-test to gain more concrete results.

V. Sustainability

- a. Total Program Cost: \$93,000
- b. Major Income Sources: Individual Contributions, Foundation Grants, Federation Allocation
- c. Agency's Plans for the Continuation of the Program: The plan is to continue, and expand *Mis Tres Caras* into an ongoing mentorship program.

VI. Contact Information

- a. Contact Person's Name: Corin Koren
- b. Contact Person's Title: Program Coordinator
- c. Contact Person's Telephone Number: 805-957-1115 ext. 123
- d. Contact Person's Email Address: corin@sbjf.org