



SHARING HISPANIC CULTURES
& TRADITIONS THRU THE ARTS

Press Release

AZTECA DE GREATER KANSAS CITY ANNOUNCES 2005 DEL CORAZON AWARD RECIPIENTS

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Kansas City, MO Azteca de Greater Kansas City is proud to announce the recipients of the 2005 del Corazon Awards” who will be honored Saturday, April 23, 2005 at the Awards and Cinco de Mayo Kick-Off Breakfast at the Argosy Casino.

Ms. Diana Aguirre,

Ms. Lorenza Hernandez, Sister Dolores Sheehan

Mr. Ezekiel Amador III,

Mr. Ascension Hernandez,

Mr. Mario Reyes, Student

Guadalupe Center Inc. – Sports Programming – Adults and Youth

MANA de Greater Kansas City – Leadership Opportunities for Women

**QUIEN TENGA UN CORAZON LLENO DE AMOR,
SIEMPRE TENDRA ALGO QUE DAR”**

**“WHO EVER HAS A HEART FULL OF LOVE,
ALWAYS HAS SOMETHING TO GIVE”**

These words are the inspiration behind Azteca de Greater Kansas City’s Del Corazón Award. Since 1992, Azteca has honored members of the community for their selflessness, for giving of themselves from their heart thus making our community a much better place.

The 2005 Del Corazón Awards will honor individual’s who embody excellence, commitment, passion, compassion and leadership in their contribution to the community within the context of the ideals expressed within the Azteca motto: “Unity – Family – Culture. . Contact Ms. Anna Archuleta for tickets 913.268.6691.

Diana Aguirre:

Ms. Aguirre is being honored for her tireless commitment to her Kansas City, KS community. In 1994 Ms. Aguirre founded the Argentine Community Awareness program providing a safe, healthy environment for neighborhood youth to engage in supervised activities which included graffiti abatement, Trick-or-Treat villages for youngsters, neighborhood cleanups and more. Through her Church she has organized activities for youth and seniors. Additionally, Diana has been active in the Kansas City KS school system and ran for a seat on the Kansas City KS Board of Education. Ms. Aguirre's civic activities have included being a Commissioner for the KCK Housing Authority, a member of the Community Corrections board and a member of the Silver City health Center Advisory Committee. Additionally, she sits on the Central Missouri State University Cesar Chavez Scholarship Committee.

Ezekiel Amador

Ezekiel served his country in the US Air Force Reserve. This was also the mechanism for funding his education, earning his undergraduate degree in International Business From Florida International University.

Although Florida was alluring, Ezekiel decided he wanted to come back home and Do something to make a difference in the community that he loved.

Ezekiel believes that it is not up to someone else to do the work. He sees something That needs to be changed, and if no one is doing it, he sets about to do the work. Single, Ezekiel has chosen to be a Big Brother and has loved and mentored a young Man for four or five years. Ezekiel makes sure that his "little" has a variety of life Experiences from camping to theatre. Until other obligations demanded his time he Also served with Youth Friends as a volunteer.

Education issues are important to Ezekiel, and one day he hopes to go back to school To earn a Masters Degree. In the meantime, he serves on the Board at Our Lady of Guadalupe School. He was chosen by past Governor Holden to serve on the Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs where he is Chair of the Education Committee.

In 2002 Ezekiel formed the grass roots organization Missourians for In-State Tuition An education advocacy group who is trying to change the laws of Missouri to allow Immigrant children to attend Missouri Universities and to pay at the in-state tuition rates Rather than out-of-state rates. A bill is currently pending with the State Legislature. Ezekiel's served as a founding member of the National Society of Hispanic MBA's (NSHMBA, 2002-2003)

Community Involvement: Ezekiel is a co-coordinator of the Sacred Heart Homes Assoc. For the last 4 years, Ezekiel has served on the Steering Committee for the Westside CAN Center. He advocates at the City and County level on behalf of neighborhood Issues and concerns. As Chair of the Tony Aguirre Community Center advisory Committee, Ezekiel works to assure that KCMO/Parks and Recreation and the

Staff of the Tony Aguirre Community Center meet the needs of Westside residents and The guests and customers of the Parks & Recreation facilities in the neighborhood.

Civic Engagement:

In 2004 Ezekiel was tapped by the Mayor of Kansas City, MO to sit on the KCMO/Board of Zoning Adjustment. This is a prestigious and important Board that Impacts economic development and neighborhoods throughout Kansas City, MO. As a member of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and was recently Elected to the Board of Directors and is co-chair of the Legislative Committee and Chair of the PAC) which develops, researches and lobbies for legislation important to Hispanic businesses.

Ezekiel is a certified Missouri Voter registrar and consistently asks people if they're Registered voters and can register them. He has been active in La Raza Political Club and has worked on several political campaigns. In fact one day soon, Ezekiel hopes to enter politics. In addition to being the Chair of the Missourians for In-State Tuition advocacy group

He is co-chairs, along with Lynda Callon, the Missourians for Safer Roads advocacy Group that is working to change Missouri's driver's license laws to permit all Immigrants, regardless of status to receive a driver's license.

Ascension Hernandez

Ascension Hernandez fits all three Del Corazon criteria, Unity, Family Y Culture. He is a trusted troubleshooter for Latinos, a grass roots leader, and a dependable supporter of/for the Hispanic community.

Ascension has been proactive in the fight for civil rights. He defends, stands up for and protects Hispanics from injustices. He walks picket lines, confronts wrongs, and mediates disputes

Mr. Hernandez honors our Hispanic veterans, making sure they get thanked, recognized and supported. He has coordinated dinners in their honor, chaired Veteran's Day events and collected names so we have a list of those who have served.

Turning grief into something positive, Mr. Hernandez honored his mother's life by initiating the first Latino Health Fair, which is in it's fourth year, making sure is alternated between the two states. He also got the US Dept of Health and Human Services involved, ensuring the Fair will continue. His particular interest is Diabetes since it is so prevalent in the Hispanic community.

Hernandez uses his private organization, the Latino Institute to organize Educational Forums, make people aware of current issues, and to gather support for action against injustices. Much of this he does with his own resources, with the support of his wife, Rosemary.

A long time member and supporter of LULAC, the League of Latin American Citizens, he was instrumental in getting the LULAC Education Center in this area, first in Topeka, and then in Kansas City. Over the years he has served as a National Midwest Vice President, a Kansas State Director and has organized new Councils for LULAC.

For the last three years he has shared his Cesar Chavez memorial collection with the public at the Cesar Chavez Celebrations planned by the Kansas City Hispanic News

Mario Reyes

Mario Reyes took the initiative to create an Hispanic student organization, the Student Organization for Hispanic Unity at Penn Valley Community College. He created the organization to ensure that he and other Hispanic students had a voice in school.

He has taken the initiative to organizing student events such as film showings, presented a Cinco de Mayo event, coordinated

In 2004, Mr. Reyes became involved in the Latino Civil Rights Summit sponsored by the Coalition of Hispanic Organizations

Mario takes great pleasure in urging friends to go to college. Initially, Mr. Reyes did not intend to go to college. When an expected raise did not happen he realized that education was critical to the kind of life he wanted. He enrolled in Penn Valley College and began working in the Admissions Office.

Mr. Reyes was recognized by the Missouri Community Colleges Association who bestowed upon him a Student Leadership Award.

Mr. Reyes will be attending classes at the University of Missouri where he plans to study sociology.

Sister Delores Sheehan

Sister Delores Sheehan was instrumental in bringing the "Promotora de Salud, Health Promoter" programs to Kansas City two years ago. Lorenza Hernandez, a community Health worker at Texas Tech University, developed the programming. The program focuses on disease preventions, education and health through a holistic approach. The program empowers families through communication, education, nurturing the parents to nurture their family. Building healthy families builds healthy communities.

Mattie Rhodes Center runs the program in the Northeast area of Kansas City.

Agency Awardees:

MANA de Greater Kansas City

Guadalupe Centers, Inc. – Sports Programming – Adults & Youth