

## **Cobb Hispanic/Latino Initiative 1<sup>st</sup> Latino Community Leadership Development Class**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Latino Community Leadership Development class graduation class was held on Saturday, March 31 at The Mansour Center in Cobb County. A group of Latino leaders began meeting on February 3, 2007. Of the 22 that first enrolled, 18 completed the course. The agenda has included discussion of leadership and what that means. We had a guest speaker from Kennesaw State University speak on immigrant history and how it impacts culture dynamics. We had a speaker from HACHED, a non-profit economic development agency that works specifically with the Hispanic population. Included in this email are pictures of our trip to the library. Participants had a full library tour and learned about the services that the library provides as well as story time. Other activities included a computer class and community representatives from various Latino serving organizations sharing information on their services.

Participants have spent extensive time discussing community needs and issues and how they, as community leaders, can be involved to work towards solutions. They are interested in working within their respective communities and want to be of service. Some topics that they have discussed include education (school dropouts), mental health issues (many stressors), knowledge of immigration laws, crime and more. They are working on a plan on how they can begin to address some of these issues. Their vision was presented at graduation.

The Latino Leadership Development course is an activity of the Cobb Latino Leadership Initiative. Funds have been provided to The Center for Family Resources for implementation.

### **For information regarding future classes, contact:**

Elida Perez-Knapp,  
Community Leadership Development Latino Coordinator  
The Center for Family Resources  
[perezknapp@TheCFR.org](mailto:perezknapp@TheCFR.org)