



July 2009 Newsletter



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We would like to welcome new board members: Laura Maciel, Imelda Ramirez, Ron Gallegos, Jerry Garcia to the Board. They bring a wealth of information and expertise to the table and are passionate about economic development. Please visit our website to learn more about them.

COMMUNITY: LEAD awarded a \$500.00 scholarship to Salvador Martinez of Blackfoot. The community provided two other scholarships from their fund raising efforts to Juliana Martinez, and Mariela Lora. LEAD partnered with the CENSUS 2010 for community outreach campaign, "Está en Tus Manos."

FINANCIAL LITERACY: LEAD Director, Jayson Meline, conducted a total of 9 financial literacy workshops that focused on building and maintaining credit through a contract with ACCION USA. Over 300 people attended these workshops in Jerome, Burley, Rupert, Twin Falls, Blackfoot, American Falls, and Hailey. We would like to thank our community partners for making this a great initiative: Suzy Rios, Beatrice Guzman, Catholic Charities, Community Council of Idaho, Alex and Lupe Castaneda, RAICES, St. Bernard's Parish, St. Nicolas Parish, St. Jerome Parish, St. Edwards Parish, St. Theresa Parish. Jayson was a guest speaker at a community forum in Burley sponsored by ICAN on immigration Issues and small business compliance.

SMALL BUSINESS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: In July, 50 hours of technical assistance was dedicated to small businesses. This has resulted in one business obtaining a significant business contract in Nevada and California; A business in Twin Falls expanding capacity by qualifying for capital investment of \$30,000.00; an entrepreneur in Burley obtained business credit to open a day care center with a solid foundation to build a successful business and has thanked us for providing the capacity to make wise business decisions; a small business in Aberdeen received assistance to implement a Quick Books program to monitor sales and expenditures. This will result in significant savings to the business in accounting fees.

DIRECTOR ACTIVITIES: Director received a scholarship to attend the Northwest Community Development Institute sponsored by the Idaho Department of Commerce that will enhance his community development activities. While in Boise he was a guest speaker on KWEI which is a Spanish language radio station that broadcasts from Ontario Oregon to Twin Falls and Jerome. He answered questions from callers on various issues regarding small business.

While visiting Albuquerque, Jayson visited the Albuquerque Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, The SBA office in Albuquerque, the Albuquerque Regional Economic Development Center, and Su Casa, a Hispanic based community development center for input and ideas on programs.

Upcoming Events: Financial Literacy workshops in south central Idaho on the Psychology of Money, Personal Finance, and Tax Preparation for Small Businesses. These classes will be sponsored by the Raices program. Spanish Quick Books class in Aberdeen and American Falls for LEAD members coming this fall.

Director: Jayson Meline Development: Sonia Martinez, Partners for Prosperity

Board: Priscilla Rodriguez, Chair; Imelda Ramirez, Vice Chair; Laura Maciel, Treasurer; Jerry Garcia, Secretary; Ron Gallegos, Hank Gonzalez, Joel Gramirez, and Patricia Rodriguez, Board members.

