

ESTHER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ESTHER receives Local CCHD grant for leadership training

Appleton, WI, July 26, 2009: ESTHER, an interfaith, non-profit organization that addresses social justice issues in the Fox Valley, recently received a \$6300 grant from the Green Bay Diocese Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). The goal of this one-year project is to provide leadership training and development within the Spanish-speaking membership, to build on skills and resources working toward immigration reform.

"Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is happy to partner with ESTHER in order to help strengthen the Latino community in the Fox Valley", stated Steve Herro, social concerns director for the Diocese of Green Bay. "CCHD exists to empower low income people to strengthen their social, political, and economic potential. ESTHER's plan to provide for increased leadership training and community organizing opportunities for the area's immigrant population will empower these people to be even more viable leaders to in the community," Herro said.

ESTHER organizer Stephanie Gyldenvand and Gamaliel staff will provide local full-day training sessions in advocacy, civic engagement and community organizing. In addition, the goal is to send five members to week-long leadership training offered by Gamaliel, the national umbrella organization (www.gamaliel.org).

"The two-day training was very good for me, because I got to get acquainted with some Americans who are also learning to become better leaders. We are learning how to work together," stated Basilisa of Appleton.

These trained leaders will begin developing partnerships with community agencies, local congregations, businesses, elected officials and statewide organizations. The goal is not just to develop leaders to work at meeting today's needs, but also to build a strong, lasting community of faith to work long term on social justice issues.

More information can be found at www.esther-foxvalley.org/.

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