



Helping Girls To Define Themselves As Women

Special Issue

Las Caras Lindas
Helping Girls To Define
Themselves As Women

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VISION & MISSION

Our vision is to liberate the next generation of women from the barriers and challenges that compromise them so that young girls can more fully reveal all of the unique strengths and talents that they have to offer society. Our mission is to help girls define themselves as women.

ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS

Our goals are to foster cultural uniqueness among a diverse group of girls, to develop the individual strengths of each young lady and to celebrate the brilliance that makes us all women.



"BLAME IT ON THE ALCOHOL" ALCOHOL AWARENESS WORKSHOP

The misuse and abuse of alcohol became a relevant topic for LCL while in Washington, D.C. for the 2009 LCL Cultural Immersion Trip. While walking through on the mall LCL participants came across a memorial that highlighted the number of youth who were killed in drinking and driving accidents in 2008. On the wall were the key chains for each of the youth that had been lost.



Teenage Drinking & Driving Memorial Washington D.C. (2009)



BLAME IT ON THE ALCOHOL KEY MYTHS & FACTS

For the Blame It On The Alcohol Workshop, LCL participants engaged the audience through a presentation of the myths and facts on alcohol drinking among youth. Workshop attendees were provided with key facts about teenage drinking and had to match their fact to the myth found on the LCL T-shirts.



LCL members also performed a skit that highlighted the harsh realities faced by young women when under the influence of alcohol. LCL participant Priscilla Rodriguez, authored and read her poem titled "It All Started When I got Drunk." Another LCL participant, Natalie Burmeo then performed the skit. The skit tells the story of a young woman who simply went out to a party and started drinking with her friends. It ends in a sobering scene in which she is told by her doctor that because she was raped while intoxicated that she now has HIV/AIDS.

It All Started When I Got Drunk

Got invited to the party. Drank a lot of Bacardi. Thought it was ok if I stayed a little late. It was at the end of the night Had the urge to fight. That's when I knew it was time to say good night

Got so dizzy, All I could hear was somebody saying "hey you're pretty." Asked if I was ok, I laughed and walked away. Insisted for my name so I turned around and let my anger out. Then I fell out.

I was no where to be found. Woke-up somewhere strange looking so tore up. I was so afraid my body in so much pain. I crawled for the door couldn't see the floor. My head hit the wall so I fell trying to find a way. Then I heard him say "hahaha... hey we got her good yesterday!" I heard him coming so I ran for cover but he also said "and I didnt use rubber." I looked at myself in a disgusting way, but I said in my head "oh he'll pay." I saw the window so there I left. I ran out the house and into my friend Beth. Talking to me with worry in her mouth she told me the police were at my house.

Finally I made my way home... Once I got near my mom yelled in fear. Made my way towards the police to there shock they thought I was deceased. Mom and Dad were mad but I was just so glad. I felt I was okay so then I started to pray.

The police came over and said "they got away." I went to the hospital because my body was in pain. Felt like I was waiting for decades to find out I caught Aids. . .

Priscilla Rodriguez, Author & 2010 LCL Participant



LCL Blame It On The Alcohol Skit: It All Started When I Got Drunk...

ALCOHOL ADVERTISING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Confronting the overwhelming amount of alcohol advertising displayed in minority communities and internalized by African American and Latina youth, LCL unveiled the Blame It On The Alcohol Mural. The mural depicts the production of alcohol, the distribution of alcohol in our communities, the impact on women (as victims of alcoholism, date rape survivors, leaders and caretakers of our families who fall victim to drinking and driving accidents) and the companies that benefit from alcohol use and abuse.



LCL Blame It On The Alcohol Mural



LCL Mural Presentation



Mural Community Fliers

Patricia Perez provided an overview of the development of the mural and LCL participants presented the story behind each mural and some of the key community statistics that informed their design. Fliers were made of each mural for the workshop attendees to share with members of their home community.

MY STORY, YOUR STORY...OUR STORY

Recognizing that everyone had a story about alcohol, LCL helped participants to think about the real impact of alcoholism and abuse on our lives, our families and our communities. Youth speaker, Jessie Fuentes performed a memorable poem called "Why Don't I Cry Blood" and shared her story about the negative influence of alcohol in her family.



Youth Speaker Jessie Fuentes



LCL My Story Scenarios



My Scenario Group Discussion

To help participants think through the many situations that they may find themselves in, LCL created various scenarios for workshop participants to discuss. Each scenario presented a situation that youth are likely to face, including being pressured by one's peers to play drinking games, seeing a friend pass out and not knowing if it is alcohol poisoning or not, putting your drink down at a party and not knowing whether you should pick it back up. Groups were asked to use some of the key alcohol terms and facts to identify

LCL SUPPORTERS

LCL is truly grateful to the following people for their support on the Blame It On The Alcohol Workshop

C. Stephanie Aguilera, Student Volunteer, Notre Dame Univer.

Toni Scott, Student Volunteer Northeast Illinois Univer.

Awilda Gonzalez, Community Volunteer & Master of Ceremonies

Elizabeth F. Martinez, Community Volunteer & Project Coordinator

Jessie Fuentes, Batey Urbano Youth Guest Speaker

the issues, concerns and to highlight the various ways in which youth can navigate through these types of situations which they are certain to face in life.

LCL HAVING FUN WHILE GETTING IT DONE

LCL is grateful to our funder for providing us with this amazing opportunity to make a difference for ourselves, our family and our community.



This grant was made possible by a grant from the Illinois African American Coalition for Prevention (ILAACP) in partnership with DHS: Division of Community Health & Prevention.

To support the 2010 LCL program, please make an on-line donation at PayPal or join our Facebook Fan Page LCL is a program of San Lucas UCC under the direction of Carmen Flores-Rance. For more information about San Lucas UCC contact Rosita Porrata at SanLucas2914@aol.com.

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