



E-Newsletter

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Join Our Mailing List!

¡Muchas Gracias!

Please help Sinergia extend its mission to serve persons with disabilities and their families. This year has been a difficult one and we need your contributions more than ever. Join us in our work. To send a tax deductible donation call 212-643-2840 or visit our [website](#).

Holiday Cheer



As we've done for over 20 years, Sinergia is hosting its **Annual Children's Christmas Party** sponsored by the NYC Department of Sanitation M-7

December/2009

2009 has been a very challenging year for most non-profits because of the severe economic downturn and the corresponding cuts in funding. Although Sinergia has had to serve a significantly greater number of individuals and families with fewer resources, its commitment to provide multiple services for unserved and underserved children and adults with disabilities and their families remains unwavering. A special thank you goes to Sinergia's Board of Directors and our dedicated staff for the hard work and progress we've made this year. We especially thank our public and private funders for their faithful support of our work.

We look to 2010 with hope and excitement as we plan many wonderful happenings at Sinergia. Foremost among them, we will move into our new space in January 2010, and plans are in the works for a ribbon cutting ceremony to welcome everyone to our new location in El Barrio. A full year of educational and housing workshops will be announced in our next e-newsletter, as well as community activities and finally a gala benefit in the fall. I hope you will join us in these upcoming events and follow us on our blog, website, Facebook and eNews. We thank you for forming part of the Sinergia family. We look forward to your participation, donations and generosity so that we can continue our valuable mission.

Happy Holidays to all, and Felices Fiestas!

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends:

My family and I have been so touched by the many expressions of kindness and sympathy from so many of you upon the passing of my precious daughter, Christine. We were overwhelmed and comforted by the many friends and colleagues who attended the memorial service to remember and celebrate Christine's life. I also wish to thank those of you who sent donations to Sinergia in memory of Christine. In past years she had served as a housing advocate and Director of Housing at Sinergia. I know that she would be so pleased that these donations will be used to help homeless families of children with disabilities that live in our shelter and to whom she was deeply committed. Thank you for all

Santa will bring good cheer and gifts for the children. Please join us!

When:

Monday, Dec.21 3-6pm

Where:

Julliard School
at
Lincoln Center

Address:

155 W. 65th Street

RSVP

Janice Cruz-Marin
212-643-2840

Upcoming workshops

Sinergia is offering two workshops on Dec. 9th: an [Autism Breakfast](#) from 10am-12pm, and a [seminar on housing options and services for people with disabilities](#) from 11am-1pm.

In addition to that we also have four focus groups on transition and systems change curriculum development scheduled on Dec. 10th & 11th, and the 15th & 16th.

See our [December Calendar](#) for full details.

Event Recap

During the month of November Sinergia

the love and comfort you have given me during these difficult days.

Cariños,
Myrta Cuadra-Lash



Rosa's Law

The family of Rosa Marcellino, an 8 year-old child diagnosed with an intellectual disability, provided the impetus for the introduction of a new senate bill on November 17, 2009. Rosa's parents, along with her 10-, 12- and 13-year old siblings, grew less and less tolerant of the language they heard even their friends use when speaking of Rosa. The family started the movement locally by insisting that the words "mentally retarded" be removed from Rosa's school documents. The issue was then brought to the attention of a local Maryland politician who in turn brought it to the attention of U. S. Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD).

"Rosa's Bill" calls for the terms "mental retardation" and "mentally retarded" to be replaced with "intellectual disability" and "individual with an intellectual disability" in federal education, health and labor law.

Sinergia supports legislation such as this and looks forward to the day when all people are looked at as individuals first and foremost. To read the full article [visit "La Equinita" blog](#).

Photo: Del. Bob Costa, R-Deale, poses with Rosa Marcellino, 7 of Edgewater on the photo to the left, at a hearing for "Rosa's Law" in the Maryland General Assembly in January 2009.

offered or participated in the many wonderful programs, which we blogged about and posted pictures on our Facebook page:

[Nov. 10 - Evaluation Workshop on understanding psychological testing](#)

[Nov. 13 - ADHD workshop on behavior management for parents](#)

[Nov. 17 - Autism workshop on early detection](#)

[Nov. 19 - Family & Professional Resource Fair](#)

[Nov. 22 - Race to Deliver](#)

H1N1 Update

As part of a continued effort to prepare for the peak of influenza season, New York City has launched the NYC FluLine.

Through this service, callers who feel sick with flu-like illness (fever with cough or sore throat) can use the 311 information line and will be connected to registered nurses, who will provide information and advice on whether to seek care. For concerned patients who don't have or can't reach a regular health care provider

Spotlight: NYC's Dropout Crisis

The Metropolitan Center of Urban Education located at New York University held a conference in November to discuss the findings of a report by the Black and Latino Advocacy Coalition on the alarming dropout rates among Black and Latino males. In New York City, which is the largest public school system in the nation, only about 44 percent of both Black and Latino males from the 2005 cohort or group graduated after six years of high school. That means almost 60 percent dropped out!

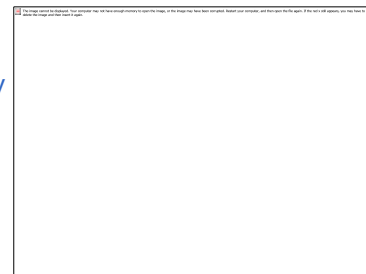


The report examined who dropped out and when, as well as the student achievement levels in middle and high school. It also found that Black and Latino male dropouts tend to be overage and the majority of them have repeated one or more grade levels. A particularly revealing finding was that patterns of high school performance appear to be largely established in the 9th grade, a critical point of intervention for students. That would suggest that there is a strong need to identify students likely to drop out during the first year of high school and target effective interventions so that their skills improve before they reach high school.

To read the complete report, [click here](#).

Progress report

Construction continues at a rapid pace at our new location in East Harlem, and we hope to be fully moved in by January 2010. We're planning to have a ribbon cutting ceremony to welcome everyone to the new space - a wonderful afternoon of food, entertainment and special guests, so stay tuned for more details!



Please take a note of the new address: 2082 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10035. Our telephone numbers will remain the same.

NYC FluLine is an alternative to standing in line at a hospital emergency department. For more information and flyers in 9 languages visit www.nyc.gov and search for "flu".

Let's Get Social!

Visit our blog, Sinergia's "[La Esquinita](#)", or [Li'l Corner](#) and let's start the dialogue!

Also connect with us at [Sinergia's Facebook Page](#). Become a fan and keep up to date with the latest happenings.



To view the latest pictures on the construction, we've set up a photo gallery on our Facebook page. [Check out our progress here.](#)

About Us

Sinergia, Spanish for synergy, is a 501(c)(3) community based, multi-service organization. Since 1977 we have provided advocacy services and linked families of children with disabilities to services that matched their needs. Our mission is to enhance the well being of individuals and families through the human services delivery system(s), with particular concentration on those "special populations" that have traditionally experienced difficulty in accessing human services. Those "special populations" include, without limitation, persons with disabilities, disadvantaged, Latino, African American, Native American and or migrant. Sinergia has a reputation for decades of working with "underserved families, many with limited English proficiency, African American, homeless and families experiencing poverty.

You can find more information at www.sinergiany.org.

Please visit us soon!