



Dear Friends of Acorn,

January 2008

Happy New Year!

I continue to be so thankful for the opportunity to work with amazing volunteers and serve a community of people that is so appreciative of what we do. On December 20th, we culminated our fall classes with our annual multicultural Christmas party. Acorn center was filled with people and great food - tamales, pupusas, salads, and cheesecake. The age of our guests ranged from the 4 year old child of one of our students to the 70+ grandmother of one of our OSU student assistants. Our New Year's resolution is to have more parties, more often in 2008.

I want to let you know about the classes we are offering this winter. Please pray for students to take advantage of these opportunities.

ENGLISH AND COMPUTERS: We are continuing with 3 levels of English classes, as well as instruction in computers, for Spanish speakers. We have a daytime class on Tuesdays from 12-1:30pm, and then evening classes on both Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-8:30pm.

HEALTHY COOKING: Last year we had 2 popular healthy cooking classes run by OSU extension, taught in Spanish. Our next class will be every Monday in February, from 11am – 1pm.

SPANISH: For the past 6 months we have been doing a Spanish class geared for those serving the immigrant population. Due to strong interest, we are expanding our once a week class to three days. On Wednesdays from 3-4:30pm we offer a structured class for beginning and intermediate students, and then on Mondays and Fridays from 2-3:30pm there will be small Spanish conversation groups.

At last night's classes we had 16 people, so we're getting off to a good start this year. There were a few new people, and even a couple of guys I hadn't seen for a year. It was encouraging that they would want to come back and try again.

We continue to spend time helping people with issues such as housing and jobs, immigration and medical problems. It is a joy to make new friends and serve our Latino neighbors here on Division Street and in Corvallis.

Thanks to those of you who have faithfully given of your time and resources in 2007. As my friends at Emanuel say, Dios les paga. God will repay you.

Ellen