Somos la Llave del Futuro, Inc.
Building leadership in immigrant communities
www.somoslallave.org

Somos la Llave is selected to receive a 2011 Public Health Partnership Award

Millerton, NY. April 2011. *Somos la Llave del Futuro, Inc. (SLF)* was selected to receive a ***2011 Public Health Partnership Award*** *from the Dutchess County Board of Health.*

This award is given every year to recognize an individual or agency that performs an essential public health service to the community. The nomination was submitted by Kara Boivin from the Dutchess County Community Action Partnership.

For the past 3 years SLF, has worked with a network of Hispanic community health workers (promoters) and residents of NE Dutchess and Sullivan counties, successfully reaching the population with projects in collaboration with United Way, Planned Parenthood, Astor Services and Hudson River HealthCare, among others.

Through our program Somos Salud ("We are Health") we have been training community health promoters (CHP's) of the northeast Dutchess and Sullivan Counties. They educate and direct their Hispanic neighbors to healthcare services available in the community. By using a network of trusted neighborhood leaders, communication with this difficult-to-reach population is enhanced. "Somos Salud's health promoters are volunteers committed to serve their neighbors; they are the leaders in their community" said Gabriela Pragman SLF's Executive Director. Somos Salud is based on SLF's philosophy of building leadership in immigrant communities through education and empowerment.

Thanks to the continued collaboration and support of the Eastern Dutchess Rural Health Network, Somos Salud continues to grow and strengthen well into 2011. Last year our CHPs helped vaccinate the population for H1N1 and now are working in a campaign addressing obesity and diabetes. It is not unusual to see our CHPs: Delia, Irma, Javier, Adalberto, Tanibeth, Julia and others checking blood sugars , blood pressure, heights and weights and more.

Many people have expressed their gratitude for our services. Humberto arrived from Ecuador last winter and works on a farm in Millbrook. In the spring he developed severe fatigue and achiness and through the network of Somos Salud health promoters was told he probably had Lyme disease and was taken to the local clinic. Humberto was grateful for the guidance that led to his treatment and recovery.

"Bernarda", said, "I did not know where to go and whom to ask for help. As a recent immigrant I wanted to have family, but when I was ready. The promoters guided me about healthcare programs and family planning services available locally to help ensure my family's wellbeing. Now thanks to Somos Salud I know what to do and I can wait."

The award ceremony will take place April 11, 2011 at the Dutchess County Legislature, 22 Market St, 6th floor at 7 pm.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT GABRIELA PRAGMAN AT (845) 675-8045 .