

2016 Leck Grant: Hora de Café

Colonial Club Senior Activity Center

A Leck grant was submitted in April 2016 to the Area Agency on Aging to request funding to support the continued development of Hora de Cafe at the Colonial Club, a program that is a key step towards the goal of providing services and programs to non-Caucasian older adults in the Sun Prairie and Northeast Dane County area. Volunteer Beva Loreda (who is also a senior adult) came to staff with ideas and willingness to provide outreach to Latino senior adults in the area. Hora de Café began in October of 2015 as a casual social group attracting both English and Spanish speaking participants to socialize for light conversation and coffee. It quickly turned into both an educational and social hour each week that provided mental stimulation by learning new skills and educated the participants about each other and their cultural history.

The following objectives were met between June 1 and December 31, 2016:

Objective 1 - English speaking participants in Hora de Café will learn key Spanish phrases.

Participants have been learning phrases and using what they learned in the community. When asked “What skill have you learned?” comments on the survey conducted in December 2016 included:

- “Use Spanish to get to know my neighbors in the new year 2017”
- “Keep on learning & taking risks of speaking to Spanish-speaking people”
- “Use greetings to Mexican people out in community”
- “I can talk to our cleaning man @ our sr. complex (Mario)”
- “I will be able to communicate with my Puerto Rican relatives in Puerto Rico”
- “Use Spanish to make people feel more welcome if they are Spanish speakers”
- “I’m interacting more with Spanish-speaking people”

Objective 2 - Spanish (and limited speaking English) participants will learn the equivalent key English phrases

Spanish speaking participants attended and integrated with the group to learn English phrases. One of the participants invited others in the group to her house for a homemade birthday lunch of posole.

Objective 3 - Hora de Café will attract at least 5 new participants in 2016

The original group started with 5 people. 20 additional people have attended with approximately 10 of these becoming regular attendees through December of 2016.

Objective 4 - Outreach to the community including Latino businesses and organizations.

A community picnic was held on September 14, 2016 and the annual celebration was held on December 12, 2016, both at Colonial Club. Invitations were sent to Northeast Senior Coalition and surrounding Sun Prairie communities. Flyers were sent to for both events to area businesses and information was in the local Sun Prairie and Cottage Grove newspapers. Contact was made with El Primo, a local Mexican Taqueria and with Red Latina, a new Latino outreach group working through the Sunshine Place in Sun Prairie. The Sun Prairie Star also did a feature article about Hora de Café.

Additional Outcomes:

- Spanish phrase books and Spanish work books were purchased for all participants.
- The volunteer instructor also received instructional materials such as flashcards, posters and an instructor’s guide.
- Two Spanish speaking community members are now volunteering to help with the class and upcoming programs and have registered as Colonial Club volunteers.
- The original class has been divided into an “advanced” group and “beginner” group.
- A new Coffee Hour for Spanish Speaking Seniors to Learn English will begin in February, 2017.