

Thanks for the Memories



A mainstay of Latinas Unidas since its inception, Vilma Burgos-Torres bids farewell to the steering committee of LU. For 15 years, Vilma has volunteered countless hours of her talent to this organization, ensuring its growth and vision of creating a group where Latina women from all walks of life could come together and support each other, regardless of background, education, profession or status.

For the past three years, Vilma has served as membership chair of the LU steering committee. "When I found out her last child was leaving for college, I asked to meet with her (the secret is out — don't have lunch with Daisy if you're about to be an empty nester). I knew her skills and professionalism would be an added asset to LU and we were right," said Latinas Unidas Chair Daisy Rivera Algarin.

"Vilma has been very dedicated to her job as membership chair," said Iveth Reynolds, secretary of the LU steering committee. "We've worked closely together on how to recruit members, and she has always been open to new ideas."

Vilma took on the daunting task of creating a database and organizing LU's mailing list. Thanks to Vilma's hard work, today LU has a list of over 450 names along with membership data that is kept current.

Most steering committee members believe that just talking to Vilma is the best way to increase membership. "Vilma's a very positive and outgoing person and that's what appeals to people. If you want to know what Latinas Unidas is about, just look at Vilma — she is exactly what this organization is about," said Reynolds. Website Chair Kelly Mullaney added, "Vilma is an intelligent and successful Latina woman who has become an inspiration as I work side by side with her."

"Vilma has what I call the Latina hallmark — she has a very quiet passion that comes through in her follow through," said Rivera Algarin. "Most Latinas don't necessarily



Iveth Reynolds, Tri Mar Consulting CEO/ CAMP YEA donor and Christina Brown, scholarship recipient.

show passion in the stereotypical way of being loud and in your face, but rather quietly working away on what we believe in — and that is Vilma."

So does this mean Vilma will disappear from LU events? Reynolds said, "Knowing Vilma, I see her always being involved with LU in one way or another. Being the person that she is, she's just making room for the next person's ideas."

Latinas Unidas Youth Leadership Scholarship

In 2007, Latinas Unidas awarded its first \$1,000 Youth Leadership Scholarship Award to Christina Brown, a senior at Spencerport High School. We recently sat down with Christina to find out how she has put her scholarship money to use.

LU: How did you find out about the Latinas Unidas Youth Leadership Scholarship?

CB: At the Soy Unica! Soy Latina! Rally.

LU: Where did you decide to use your scholarship money?

CB: I used the scholarship money to apply to University of Rochester's Young Entrepreneur's

Academy (YEA!) which meets weekly for three hours from September through May of 2008.

LU: Can you explain what YEA! is?

CB: YEA! is for middle and high schools students and teaches us how to start and run our own real businesses.

LU: What kind of business do you want to own?

CB: I'm really into fashion, accessories and jewelry. So, I'd really like to own a boutique.

LU: What have you learned so far in YEA?

CB: I've learned how to do a business plan, about interviewing and legal structures. We've had businesses like Blue Tie and Scott Miller and his wife visit our class to talk about how they became successful business owners. We visited the county clerk's office to get a DBA. It's been really good so far.

LU: What are your plans for the future?

CB: Well right now, I'm actually interning with Iveth Reynolds of TriMar Consulting. That's good because she's the one who told me about the LU scholarship so it's great to intern with her too. I want to major in International Business. I plan on doing two years at Monroe Community College and then I'd like to go to Columbia University.

Christina Brown is the daughter of Christian and Zury Brown.



Helping those in need with the power of your dollars



Do you or someone you know need help with winter heating bills? The Red Cross/RG&E Heating Fund, administered by the American Red Cross Greater Rochester Chapter, is an emergency energy assistance program for people who are not eligible for government assistance programs. It is supported by contributions from RG&E customers, shareholders, employees and the community, and provides grants during the heating season or until funds are exhausted.

For more information or to apply for a grant, contact your local chapter of the American Red Cross or call 585.241.4474.

Three ways you can give:

- 1** Through automatic giving — visit rge.com or call us at **1.800.743.2110**.
- 2** Add exactly **\$1, \$2 or \$5** to your next RG&E bill payment.
- 3** Send a check payable to the **Red Cross/RG&E Heating Fund** to:
Red Cross/RG&E Heating Fund — American Red Cross Greater Rochester Chapter, 50 Prince Street, Rochester, NY 14607.

Help Spread the Word

Do you have a friend or colleague who might like to receive information on Latinas Unidas events? Let us know by e-mailing us at info@latinasunidas.org and we'll be glad to send them a copy of our newsletter.

Rochester's Latinas Shine at the Reconocimiento Awards 2007

On October 26, 2007, Rochester's brightest and most successful Latinas and their supportive families, friends and co-workers, gathered at the Crowne Plaza for the 14th Annual Reconocimiento Awards celebration.

The evening was full of laughs, tears of pride and joy, and a very special guest that left everyone's mouth watering for her diverse Latin cuisine — Chef Daisy Martinez. A nationally syndicated television chef and author of *Daisy Cooks!*, Martinez visited the best of what Rochester has to offer in food and spirits. To take a look at Daisy's photo album, visit her website at www.daisy-martinez.com and click on Daisy's photo album, then Daisy's Flickr on the right hand side to see her Rochester photo set.

2008 Reconocimiento Award Recipients

Dr. Gladys Velarde - *Professional Achievement*
 Salvadora Guzmán - *Inspirational Leadership Achievement*
 Leida Martínez - *Volunteer Service*
 Wanda Liz Pérez - *Young Latina Leader*



Amigo award- Ange Fantuzzo, General Manager at Wegmans Food Market Titus and Hudson, and his wife

Camp Start-Up Scholarship

Iraida Rodriguez

Latinas Unidas Youth Leadership Scholarship

Christina Brown
 (Young Entrepreneur's Academy)

Amigo Awards

Ange Fantuzzo, General Manager of Wegmans Food Markets, Irondequoit

Thank you to the Reconocimiento Awards 2007 sponsors:

Amiga Sponsor: Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield
 Hermana Sponsors: RG&E and Frontier Communications
 VIP Reception Sponsor: Passero Associates

We are now accepting applications for the 2008 Reconocimiento Awards, scheduled for Thursday, October 30 at the Hyatt Regency Rochester Hotel. If you are interested in nominating a Latina for a Reconocimiento Award, please visit www.latinasunidas.org to download an application.



Iraida Rodriguez and her Mom

Our Mission

"Latinas Unidas fosters opportunities that will promote unity, cultural identity and the presence of the Latina Woman in the community."

Our Vision

"Latinas Unidas encourages and motivates women to be proud of themselves and to assume active and positive roles in society."

STEERING COMMITTEE:

Chair: Daisy Rivera Algarin, from City of Rochester
Vice Chair: Elisa DeJesus, from Ibero American Action League
Membership Chair: OPEN POSITION
Media Chair: Blanca Mastbaum-Kane, from ConXion
Website Chair: Kelly Tovar Mullaney, from Working Art Media
Treasurer: Shirley Rivera, from Rochester City School District
Secretary: Iveth Reynolds, from Tri-Mar Consulting

Save the Dates

2008 Reconocimiento Awards

Thursday, October 30, 2008
 Hyatt Regency Rochester Hotel
 Noon – 1:30 p.m.
 For reservations and more information please call 585-234-1495 or email info@LatinasUnidas.org

Soy Unica! Soy Latina! Rally 2008

Saturday 3/1/2008
 8:30 am to 2:00 pm
 University of Rochester
 Rochester, NY 14627

To download a registration form in English or Spanish, please visit www.latinasunidas.org/rally

"Para tu Salud Mujer Latina" Healthfair

Saturday, March 29
 Clarion Hotel, Downtown Rochester
 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 Co-sponsored by AIDS Community Health Center and Latinas Unidas

Women's Council and Latinas Unidas Networking Event

Tuesday, October 21, 2008
 City Hall
 5:30 p.m.

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION:

Editor: Daisy Rivera-Algarin
 Writer: Alicia Nestle
 Photos: Kelly Tovar Mullaney
 Design: Carol Bassett

HOW YOU CAN CONTACT US

Latinas Unidas
 P.O. Box 67055
 Rochester, NY 14617
 e-mail us: info@latinasunidas.org
 Call us: (585) 234-1495
 Visit us at www.latinasunidas.org
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How Soy Unica Inspired Me

Michelle Minlety was 15-years-old when she attended the very first Soy Unica! Soy Latina! Rally in Rochester back in 2002. Today, Minlety is a criminology major at John Jay College in Manhattan and aspires to be an FBI agent. She believes she owes much of her success to her experience at Soy Unica!

"I remember that first rally because my mother organized a group of my friends to go with me," said Michelle. "We thought it was going to be boring but it was really a fun experience." Michelle recalls the workshops on teen pregnancy and peer pressure because those were the issues many of her friends were dealing with at the time.

More than that, Michelle said what impacted her most was seeing so many Latinas together in the same place at the same time. "I just felt this pride. To see so many of us together was special."

"I got to interact with other Latina girls and seeing all the people there just made me feel that it was important to be Latina — that I was wanted and I was special."

It's a feeling she carries with her to this day.

Michelle is the daughter of LU member Mayra Pimentel.



Michelle Minlety



2007 Soy Unica! Soy Latina! Rally at the Martin Luther King Jr. High School.

Find us online at www.latinasunidas.org



Become an LU Member

As we start the new year, we hope you've taken the time to reflect on the many benefits of being a member of Latinas Unidas. With more than 200 members and 400 supporters, Latinas Unidas knows how important it is for you to stay connected, meet people and share resources that help you grow both personally and professionally.

We'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that membership is on a year-to-year basis. We hope you will renew your membership at the affordable level of Hermana, and consider enhancing your level to Madrina.

Membership levels:

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Madrina/Godmother | \$50.00 |
| Hermana/Sister | \$25.00 |
| Ahijada/Student | \$10.00 |
| Amigo/Male Friend | \$25.00 |

For a membership application, please visit www.latinasunidas.org and click on Join Us! Please mail your application and check made out to Latinas Unidas:

Latinas Unidas
 P.O. Box 67055
 Rochester, NY 14617

Welcome New Members

Latinas Unidas continues to grow and we'd like to extend an enthusiastic bienvenida to our newest members:

Joined in 2007

Jeimy Andrade-Kemp
 Gloriela Burns
 Melisza Campos
 June Castellano
 Felicia Garcia
 Yesenia Garcia
 Martha Gomez
 Jessica Guzman
 Jessica Hernandez
 Linda Gariela Kelly
 Jackie Ortiz
 Minerva Ortiz
 Sara Ponce-Rivera
 Annette Ramos
 Leida Rosado

Joined in 2008

Maria Casanova-Hayman
 Miriam E. Jurado
 Maria Ileana Kane
 Gloria Lopez
 Peggy J. Martinez
 Judie Myers-Gell
 Nydia Padilla-Rodriguez
 Ola Piedra
 Damaris Rivera
 Essie Torres
 Irene Turner
 Karina Flaherty