



## 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2008 “Vista L.A.”

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### Summary:

#### **LATINO VOTE '08**

The 2008 General Election is especially important to Latinos because they are anticipated to turn out at the polls in record numbers this year. Latinos are projected to cast more votes in this election, than any other presidential race in U.S. history. Political experts talk about the Latino vote and how the growing number of Latinos in this country are using their voice – their vote -- to be heard. Among them are youth voters. Many organizations like “Voto Latino” and NALEO are helping to get the word out about getting Latino voters registered and pushing them to show up at the polls.

#### **WORLD VISION YOUTH**

“World Vision” is a humanitarian organization with global connections committed to helping children overcome poverty and other obstacles beyond their control. One of their local programs, “Youth Empowerment Program,” focuses on guiding and training L.A. teenagers to make positive change in their communities through political advocacy. Myrna Gutierrez, a “World Vision” communications representative, spoke to Vista L.A. about the group of local students chosen this year for sixteen weeks of workshops and instruction. Two of these students are Alvaro Rosado and Ashley Sandoval. The program culminates with a four-day summit in Washington D.C. where the group of teenagers met with congressional leaders.

#### **LIVING WITH AUTISM**

The growing number of children diagnosed with autism is considered to be at epidemic proportions. Latino children are no exception. Although Latinos aren't diagnosed with autism more than other ethnic groups, they are often diagnosed later...and with autism, early intervention is key. We talk to three Latino mothers raising sons with autism. Sandra Baker's son Larry was diagnosed with down syndrome as a newborn and with autism at six years old, Magdalena Beltran-del Olmo's sixteen-year-old son Frankie was diagnosed with autism as a toddler and Gabriela Banuelos's nine-year-old son Edgar was diagnosed just over a year ago. We also speak to autism advocate, Emily Iland, whose adult son Tom was diagnosed with autism in fourth grade. She wrote a book about autism in Spanish, so Latino families new to the diagnosis could get the information, care and services they need. Her profession now includes fighting for Latino parents to get the appropriate

services for their children and helping them navigate their medical care and therapy.

## A STELLAR SCHOOL

Located in an unlikely place in Downtown Los Angeles, Para Los Niños, a charter school and family learning center, provides educational services and programs to thousands of deserving kids. Some of the poorest kids and their families in L.A. receive services at this stellar place. Giselle Acevedo, President of Para Los Niños gives our host Jovana Lara a tour of this enriching facility. Curriculum Specialist Lisa Schaeffer talks to us about the school's unique teaching approaches and how the multi-faceted curriculum was developed. Plus, Olivia Lozano, a fifth grade teacher, spoke candidly about how her life has changed for the better since beginning her job at Para Los Niños. Also, fifth graders Yansi Murga and Jazmin Garcia share their personal experiences as students here.

**Hosts:** Danny Romero, Jovana Lara

**Guests:** Rosario Dawson, Wilmer Valderrama, Ana Ortiz, Selena Gomez; Maria Teresa Petersen, "Voto Latino"; Efrain Escobedo, "NALEO"; Antonio Gonzalez, "Southwest Voter Registration Education Project"; Myrna Gutierrez, "World Vision"; Alvaro Rosado, Student; Ashley Sandoval, Student; Sandra Baker; Frankie del Olmo, Magdalena Beltran-del Olmo, Frankie's Mother; Edgar Banuelos; Gabriela Banuelos, Edgar's Mother; Emily Iland, Autism Advocate; Giselle Acevedo, President Para Los Niños; Lisa Schaeffer, Curriculum Specialist; Olivia Lozano, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher; Yansi Murga, 5<sup>th</sup> Grader; Jazmin Garcia, 5<sup>th</sup> Grader.