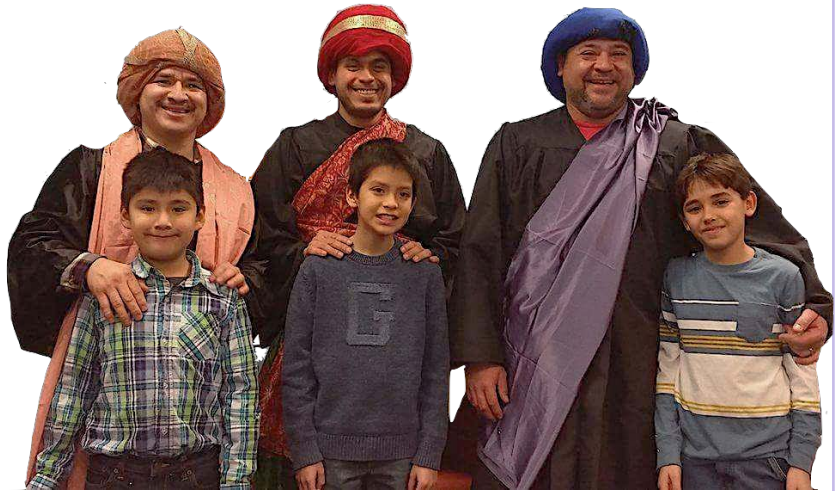


ROLE CALL

Reaching Out Lifting to Excellence

It's Never Too Cold to Celebrate Three Kings Day!

January 6th is traditionally celebrated in **many** countries as Three Kings Day. On this day, children receive presents, families gather to celebrate with great food, music and of course, the Three Kings Bread. Last year, ROLE celebrated this holiday with families as a way to showcase our cultural diversity. Our weather thus far had been very mild for winter, yet January



6th presented with wild winds and freezing temperatures. Many people who are served at POC lack transportation and have walk to the center. We were pretty sure that no one was going to make it to this year's celebration. We were wrong! Nearly 120 children and adults made it to this year's celebration. ROLE members were at hand to help handing out gifts donated by WINGS and Shelter Inc., hot chocolate, pastries and cookies. Thank you to Debbie Rohrwasser and Denise Florczak for helping our Three Kings hand out gifts, Gloria Perez for a delicious quinoa hot chocolate, Celsa Santiago for making three, large King Cakes, Violeta Solano, Ana, Laura Ramirez, Liza Gutierrez and Kathy Millin for setting up and clean up. And a special thanks to our mysterious Three Kings who have visited us for the second year in a row and taken the time to meet with our families!

From Old Sweaters To New Mittens for Veterans!

Thanks to the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), ROLE members and guests of POC took time out during the gray winter months to make mittens for Veterans. Eli Skinner DAR Chapter members Holly Peterson, Diane Pellettiere, Barbara Peterson, Marcia Thayer, Beth Jayapalan and Bonnie Kurtt took the time to teach women how to reuse old sweaters and sew them into warm mittens. The POC Family Learning Lab was a buzz with the sound of sewing machines donated by United Way, and the chatter of women as they learned a new skill. DAR is a non-for-profit, nonpolitical women's volunteer organization dedicated to preserving history, education and patriotism. Thank you DAR for your hours of teaching and organizing this event!





ROLE member spearheads children's folkloric dance classes @at POC Community School.

She is an NCH community health worker, a BPAC District 15 President and now a teacher at POC's Community School at Winston Campus Jr. High in Palatine. Bringing her usual enthusiastic spirit and dance talents, Violeta Solano will be teaching area children Latin folkloric dancing. In February a record-breaking number of parents registered their children for the classes. To find out more about the POC Community School, visit us



Doing Community
"Community is something WE DO TOGETHER. It's not just a container!" -D. Brain

The Community Resource Center, where POC operates, is filled with busy staff members, community partners, partner agencies, volunteers and patrons. On any given day, the front desk will greet hundreds of people that walk thru the door to use the many services made available through the POC. ROLE, as a program of the POC, sought to bring together all of these people to do community. And, what better way to do community than by sharing *A Place at Our Table* for the third year in a row. Led by the Family Learning Lab Coordinator, Teresa Kelly, folks signed up to bring soup and stews to share during the month of February. Each Wednesday, the front lobby was set up with covered tables, inviting chairs and warm crock-pots that filled the air with delicious smells. Folks slowed their pace and sat down on their way in or out, service providers came out of their offices, staff took lunch breaks together and we did community. They shared recipes, funny stories and provided support when sharing concerns. They learned of programs available to them and where and what the needs of our community are. They left smiling, tummies warmed and filled, and with the knowledge that POC is not just an organization in a container running programs. We are more than that. **We are a welcoming and listening community that is dedicated to making lives better for everyone.** Thank you to everyone who shared and sat with us at *A Place at Our Table*.

SAVE THE DATE!

Artisan's Market: April 20th and 21st : Find unique, handmade gifts for Mother's Day and new clothes donated by local boutiques (Friday only) while supporting women entrepreneurs, ROLE and POC.

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo: May 4th: Falcon Recreational Center in Palatine. A fun evening as we raise funds to support POC.

Interested in volunteering with POC? Fill out an application online at poc.news/you-can-help/



**Empowering women.
 Building strong communities.**
 Partners for Our Communities

For more information on ROLE and other POC programs, visit us online at poc.news or call the ROLE Coordinator at 847-963-6351.