

ROLE CALL

Reaching Out Lifting to Excellence



ROLE volunteers in action. Above left: ESL conversation at HEC. Left: Preparing for holiday celebrations. Above, children enjoy a visit from the Three Kings at ROLE's Cultural Event.

Expanding our ROLE

These past months have been extremely busy for ROLE volunteers. They have answered the call to bring programming to all 4 POC campuses (POC Palatine, POC Edgebrook Center, POC at HEC and POC Community School). Because of this increase in services, ROLE has created the ROLE Advisory Board. The board serves to help bridge communication between the POC communities and POC staff. They meet once a month and plans out activities for the POC community. The goal of the board is to bring programs that are needed in our community while continuing to empower women. If you would like to a part of the ROLE Advisory Board, contact the ROLE Coordinator, Liza Gutierrez at 847-963-6351.

In this newsletter you will read all about ROLE's involvement in our communities. To stay up to date on upcoming programs, join us on REMIND.



Enter this number

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Save the Date . . .
ICOMPETE's Wine Tasting
Fundraiser on Thursday,
February 4th. Visit poc.news
for more information.

ROLE Volunteers. . .
Don't forget to report your
volunteer hours to the ROLE
coordinator at 847-963-
6351.

The **POC Community School** located in the Winston Campus Jr. High School in Palatine, opened in October of 2015. Since its inception, ROLE has been instrumental in bringing programs to the students and their families. Bob, a therapy dog and his handler Annie Morel, a longtime ROLE volunteer, taught students all about the world of therapy dogs. Laura Ramirez, another long time volunteer, meets regularly with individuals and families at the school to teach them the art of jewelry making. She will soon be sharing her skills at our POC HEC campus as well. ROLE volunteers, Nancy Grybash, Kathy Millin, Dorothy Ogurek and Kay Chishom meet with students weekly to teach a cooking class and help students build-on and learn new skills in the kitchen.

Recently, the ROLE Advisory Board voted to bring more cultural events to the POC campuses. In early January, it celebrated a Three Kings Event, a Latin American and European holiday tradition, at the POC Community School. This event brought in over 70 people to the community school. Both parents and children enjoyed traditional Kings Bread, goodie bags and a special visit from the Three Kings!

Recently the POC Family Learning Lab was a buzz with the busy hands of ROLE volunteers making tutus for the **ICOMPETE** ballet program. ICOMPETE ROLE volunteers made tutus for little girls in the program. POC collaborates with ICOMPETE to bring academics, arts and athletics to at risk youth in the NE Palatine area.

ROLE volunteers have also started the **ROLE Folkloric Dance Group**. This group, comprised of ROLE volunteers, meets regularly to practice for POC and ROLE events. Led by volunteer, Violeta Solano, the group has performed at ROLE's Annual Cookie Exchange and at the Three Kings Celebration. Violeta will soon bring dance classes to the POC Community School.

At the **POC HEC** campus in Hoffman Estates, ROLE has been warmly received. ROLE coordinator, Liza Gutierrez has taught a group of area women to crochet. They meet on Monday evenings and are

currently creating little read hats for children in local hospitals through the American Heart Association, Little Hats, Big Hearts Campaign. Other ROLE volunteers, Dorothy Ogurek and Karen Norman meet with the women and their families to practice English conversation. This English conversation group meets during the evening hours and provides a space for families to practice English together!

At our main campus, **POC at the CRC**, ROLE has been spreading holiday cheer, raising funds to support the POC, and bringing cultural and family events to our communities.

In the fall ROLE volunteers began crafting one of a kind greeting cards and gift tags to sell at the Fall *Artisans Market*. A special thank you to all of our volunteers for creating these unique items. ROLE volunteers also helped run *Ann's Closet* and the Artisan's Market bringing in over \$1000 to support POC. And, to continue in their fundraising efforts, ROLE volunteers organized a *December Bake Sale* bringing in an additional \$150 to support programming at all campuses. We are especially thankful to all of our amazing bakers who donated delicious treats for this sale. Many of the ladies that volunteered are new to ROLE and/or are clients of the POC programs who wanted to show their gratitude by donating baked goods. Thank you!

ROLE volunteers and their families also joined forces with Countryside Universalist Unitarian Church to deck the halls of the CRC. ROLE also set up for our popular ROLE Cookie Exchange. We had a great time trading cookies, enjoying the ROLE Folkloric Dance Group showcase the Mexican Pineapple Dance and singing karaoke.

ROLE volunteers have also been helping with *Cartoons in the Afternoons*, which began this winter season. The POC goal was a simple one, to bring a family activity to POC during the holiday school break. However, due to its popularity, this program now meets once a month and brings families together through crafts, snacks and fun movies.



**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.