



# “CREA” (Centro de Recursos Educativos para Adultos) NY. USA

## SUMMARY OF PROJECT

<b>Location</b>	475 East 115 <sup>th</sup> Street, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10029		
<b>Organization carrying it out:</b>	Centro de Recursos Educativos para Adultos (CREA)		
<b>Contact person for further information:</b>	Maria Guadalupe Martinez, Executive Director		
<b>Year it began</b>	2013	<b>Year it ended</b>	Currently operating

## The reason for the Project and its objectives

**What was the context of this Project? What is/was the need to which this Project responded?** CREA began in 2013 in response to the urgent literacy needs in East Harlem. The present wave of immigration to East Harlem is from Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. Some of them speak an indigenous language (mixteco, nahuatl, mam, quechua, etc). New residents come seeking education for their children, economic security and others escaped from violence. Illiteracy and lack of English are challenges to be surmounted on the way out of poverty.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

**Please give a brief description of the Project:**

**What is/was its main objective:** To offer Spanish-speaking people the opportunity to begin/and or finish their education in their own language and provide them, once they reach the academic proficiency in Elementary and Middle School, with a certificate offered by The Public Education Secretariat (SEP-Mexico). To encourage participants to continue or improve their education attainment of TASC/GED (High School Equivalent in USA), or start their own business. To connect Latino immigrants to information and educational resources that enables them to succeed economically and to fully participate in the life of their community.

**What is/were the main activities:** Teaching in Literacy, Elementary, Secondary and High School Level. Computer courses, English as a Second Language, workshops based on community needs, Counseling, Referrals to other organizations, Socialization and Networking skills. Integration in the American culture.

**The main results of the activities:** Students receive an official diploma by the Mexican government for Elementary and Secondary level. Students received their TASC/GED Diploma from the Department of Education in NY.

## MODEL OF INTERVENCION

### **The team which participated in the Project:**

#### **Describe the people who were involved in developing it: ie salaried? Volunteers? Both?**

All volunteers :

Two Mexican women had the idea and enlisted the help of Little Sisters of the Assumption, Sisters of Mercy, Congregation of Notre Dame and members of the community.

### **Benefits of the Project:**

**What were the principal benefits for the participants and for the local community?** CREA is serving the East Harlem immigrant community and is committed to every student and family and their potential as responsible community members. CREA students have learned to exercise personal power with landlords, their children's schools, employers and health providers. They have participated in local city sponsored hearings, have joined in community efforts regarding health of individuals and the neighborhood.

**What changes were produced in individuals, and in families through in this project** Students can get better jobs with better salaries, they can help their children with homework or school activities, it also increased parent participation in schools, knowledge of the English language and the respect and pride of their children, as their parents or grandparents are studying.

**Other organizations involved:** Little Sisters of the Assumption Family in Mission, Sisters of Mercy, Congregation of Notre Dame, the Mexican Consulate in NY, Institute for Mexicans Abroad, The National Institute for Adult Education in Mexico, The Jaime Lucero Mexican Studies Institute/City University of NY (CUNY), Universidad Iberoamericana (Mexico), Carlos Slim Foundation, LSAFHS, Violence Intervention Program (VIP), Secretariat of Public Education in Mexico, Together We Can, Qualitas of Life Foundation, Mecenaz, CUNY Citizenship Now, Mexicana Solutions, ARIVA, Settlement Health Clinic and two local churches.

### **The Budget and the way of financing the Project:**

**Was there funding from government, or totally voluntary funds or both?** We receive funds from the Mexican government. All other funds are attained via volunteers, grants from religious congregations, local fundraising.

**How sustainable is/was the Project into the future?** CREA has just become incorporated as its own non-profit organization; this will help us receive funds from different organizations, allowing us to further increase our network.

**How was our charism made present/alive through this Project?** Both CREA and LSA have a strong belief in empowering the community through education and networking while providing its residents with resources that they need. CREA achieves this through the relationship that it creates and upholds with each student, teachers, and others willing to work with us.

**Signed:** Maria Guadalupe Martinez

**Date:** January 20, 2018