

What is *El Refugio* (The Refuge)?

El Refugio is an organization created to serve the Immigrant population of Sussex County. It is an outreach center focusing on providing services to the Latino community, who often face barriers when receiving services.

How is *El Refugio* assisting the Latino community?

By providing:

- A resource center that strengthens Latino families and children by providing a place addressing their needs.
- A bridge between the number of social services providers who seek to access an underserved community.
- A connection between the Latino families with

both public and private services available in the area.

- Assistance to the Latino population to integrate into the mainstream life of Sussex County.
- Immigration help.
- A way to promote the Latino culture in Sussex County in a way that inspires the established community.

Is this organization limited exclusively to the Latino community?

No. *El Refugio* will serve people from any national origin, particularly concentrating on recent immigrants, who often have the greatest needs.

What are the vision and the mission of *El Refugio*?

The vision of *El Refugio* is to create a Sussex County Community that embraces and celebrates diverse cultures and

provides a safe and supportive home for all.

The mission of *El Refugio* is to contribute to the empowerment of the Latino community by building bridges to better integrate with the established Sussex community.

Who are the Original founded collaborators of *El Refugio*?

El Refugio was created with the support of a coalition of agencies and religious organizations serving in New Jersey which have in common the well-being of the Immigrants. These include: the Migrant Ministry of the Roman Catholic Church Diocese of Paterson; The Center for Prevention and Counseling; Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sussex County; the American Institute of Hispanic Heritage; and the Christ Episcopal Church.

Who are the additional funding partners of *El Refugio*?

Additional funding partners include: Blessed Kateri Roman Catholic Church Migrant Ministry; Saint Joseph Roman Catholic Church of Newton; The Law Firm of Jeffrey Katz, Esq.; The Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity; and Thorlabs, Inc.

When was *El Refugio* founded?

El Refugio was inaugurated with a gala ribbon cutting celebration in April 2006. This was possible thanks to a \$40,000 grant from the New Jersey Department of State through funds allocated to the Faith-Based Initiatives Program administered by the State Department of New Jersey.

How can you support the work of *El Refugio*?

You can make donations to *El Refugio*; it is a fully tax deductible 501(c)(3) program under the direction of the Center for Prevention and Counseling.

Checks can be made to *El Refugio* and mailed to 62 Main Street, Newton, NJ 07860.

What other services are provided by *El Refugio*?

El Refugio is committed to the following:

- To act as a referral agency to clients can receive services they deserve.
- To defend the rights of recent immigrants.
- To organize and support cultural events.
- To act as a translator advocate to our clients before governmental, school and medical entities.
- To translate brochures for Sussex County Social Services.



Hours:

Mondays 9 to 4 pm

Tuesdays 9 to 4 pm

62 Main Street
Newton, NJ 07860

Phone: 973 383 5099
Lelia A. Gómez