

Ivan Ortiz

Eng. 96

October 27, 2008

Challenge in the Community

There is a problem between the Hispanic community and the resources of Rice County. Rice County has a lot of resources, but the Hispanic community cannot get any; the problem may come from the difference of language and culture. Because of this obstacle, I work for the organization called Growing up Healthy. This organization tries to connect the communities of Rice County and understand their needs. Also, the organization tries to give Hispanic communities the opportunity to know about the different health resource and organizations to become healthy people. Organizations like Growing up Healthy focus on connecting the Hispanic community to resources in Rice County, this is very challenging because the difference of language and culture.

The biggest challenge for Growing up Healthy it is to connect with the Hispanic community. Octavio Paz, a famous writer, talks about the culture from Mexico. He writes that the Hispanic community is a community that likes to be all by itself. This community does not like to bother someone else, or to be bothered. This is true for the Hispanics. That's why Growing up Healthy needs to know the needs from the Hispanic community, and try to get involved with them. All this will take a lot of time and be a challenge. But I know if I give this time to my community it will be a good situation for everybody, and maybe we can finally be one community.

Low attendance at events is another challenge. We distributed flyers to the whole community to bring them to an event where we waited with many resources for them, but they did not show up. That frustrated me and I felt bad, because it appears to me that the community is not interested in resources. But we learned that distributing flyers is not the way to connect with the Hispanic community. The way to connect with the Hispanic community is by connecting with them in person. This is the tricky part, but I know we can make it happen. Many times people do not recognize the opportunity or resources in front of them. Sometimes the community has recreation activities to wake up your imagination and challenge your creativity. Also, they have events where your children can connect with other children where they can play and learn at the same time. This is great, because this activity is teaching you and your children to make a better future.

This organization provided training to their team to confront any situation. This training was about the different health organizations and what they can offer to the community. Also, we received training on how to speak with people about health and other issues, for example, education, food, clothes, events, and what is going on with the community. With this training, the community will feel comfortable when they speak with us. They will feel comfortable for two reasons: first, the group of Growing up Healthy speaks Spanish and English, and knows the culture; this is helpful for Growing up Healthy and for the community. Second, the community can know about the resource opportunities and Growing up Healthy can know more about the needs from the community. With this training I think we are ready to answer almost any question about resources or at least where we can find the resources for the person interested.

Organizations like Growing up Healthy focus on connecting the Hispanic community to resources in Rice County. After I learned the plan of this organization, I realized this benefits

my community. This is why I want to connect the Hispanic community with the resources of Rice County, even if there is a problem with the differences of language and culture. This is the focus of Growing up Healthy for my community, and I want to make it happen to look toward a better community and a better future.