



Working together we influence the development of whole communities.

Dear Education Committee Members;

Todos Juntos originated as a program to provide culturally appropriate services to the Latin community. Initial efforts were effective in working with gang involved youth and their parents, developing school based programming, structured parent meetings and a variety of partnerships that allowed for recent immigrant Hispanic youth to better integrate into their local setting. Since 2000, Todos Juntos through a well established partnership of agencies called 'PreventNet' was able to expand services to over 1500 youth and families annually in rural Clackamas County. Current programs are based in the Sandy Grade School, Sandy Cedar Ridge Middle School, Estacada Middle School, Molalla River Middle School and Canby Baker Prairie Middle School.

Starting with Clackamas County Children Youth and Families Division, PreventNet is an integrated system of partnerships and non-profits that act as a hub of 'Early Intervention' activity at the local school/community in which they are based. The most effective intervention programs use a variety of approaches, including mentoring, after-school/in-school supports, employment and training, school to work and parenting curriculums. The 'Todos Juntos PreventNet' sites provide programming under the Extended-Service Schools Initiative (ESSI) model to incorporate best practice curriculums that help meet STEM and CTE initiatives. Curriculums that include gender specific 'Girls Circle' and 'Boys Council', 'Service Learning' work projects, 'Lego Robotics', 'Parent Trainings' and other ESSI model/best practice programming. To assist in improving academics, school teachers are identified and hired to extend their school day to provide structured 'Homework Clubs' and therefore improving student chances of academic success.

Todos Juntos strives to secure staff from the communities in which they live. In some communities we have hired ex-student participants in Todos Juntos programming as staff members. In our more diverse schools, our philosophy is to identify and employ Site Coordinators and support staff that are first-generation Hispanics who grew up in the American school system. Therefore they are fully bi-cultural / bi-lingual and able to navigate the complex system that incorporates schools, county agencies and other human service organizations, while at the same time fully understand the cultural norms of the recent immigrant population in which they serve.

Sincerely, Eric Johnston

Todos Juntos Executive Director

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