

# LATINO IMMIGRATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN RICHMOND, INDIANA, 1998-2009.

A survey designed to describe the development of Richmond's Latino  
Community, Fall 2009

## **Introduction and Background** by Howard and Patty Lamson

### ***Indiana and Richmond attract a new wave of immigrants in the 1990's***

Like many areas of the United States, the economic growth in Indiana in the 1990's coincided with an economic downturn in Mexico and Latin America, pushing people to join the migratory stream seeking employment in the U.S. and Europe. Many came to work in businesses throughout Indiana with the hope of creating a better life for their families. Richmond became one of the many Indiana cities to be affected by this migratory movement.

### ***The important role immigrants play in Indiana today***

A July 2010 report by the **Immigration Policy Center** titled *New Americans in the Hoosier State: The Political and Economic Power of Immigrants, Latinos and Asians in Indiana* states: Immigrants, Latinos, and Asians, account for growing shares of the economy and electorate in Indiana. Immigrants (the foreign-born) make up 4.0% of the state's population, and more than a third of them are naturalized U.S. citizens who are eligible to vote. "New Americans"--immigrants and the children of immigrants--account for 2.9% of registered voters in the state. Immigrants are not only integral to the state's economy as workers, but also account for billions of dollars in tax revenue and consumer purchasing power. Moreover, Latinos and Asians (both foreign-born and native-born) wield \$10.1 billion in consumer purchasing power, and the businesses they own had sales and receipts of \$3.4 billion and employed more than 25,000 people at last count. (Immigration Policy Center, American Immigration Council, July 2010, [www.immigrationpolicy.org](http://www.immigrationpolicy.org))

### ***The first Richmond survey, 1998***

In the summer of 1998, a team of three Earlham students, one ESR graduate and one Earlham professor designed and carried out the first survey of the Hispanic population in Richmond. We learned that from 1995 to 1998, Richmond had become the home to over a 1000 Latino immigrants, primarily younger males and a small group of females, many from small, tight-knit Mixteco speaking communities in the highlands of the southern state of Oaxaca, Mexico. Their values and belief in community and mutual aid helped them to establish roots here. In Richmond we witnessed the creation of Latino soccer leagues, basketball tournaments, volleyball games in Springwood Park, dances, supermarket shelves filled with Mexican foods, Spanish speaking priests and ministers traveling to Richmond on Sundays, and local churches offering services in Spanish. St. Andrews Church organized the celebration of one of the biggest holidays in Mexico, December 12, the Day of the Virgen of Guadalupe. The first small El Rodeo restaurant appeared early on the east side. Soon after, immigrant drive and initiative led to the opening of Hispanic groceries stores and more restaurants, including the Old Richmond Inn, and most recently, Galo's Italian Grill and the new Rodeo on the eastside..

### ***Amigos, the Richmond Latino Center, is formed in 1998***

Amigos, the Richmond Latino Center, was founded in the summer of 1998 to form a network to support the newcomers to Richmond. At the request of members of the Latino community, Amigos began to offer English as a second language at the Brethren Church on NW 17th St. After two years in operation, Amigos was offered office space in the Townsend Community Center. English as a second language classes continued to provide instruction to the many migrants who spoke their native language, Mixteco, and Spanish. Amigos provided information, responded to many emergencies, held information sessions, translated documents for Latinos and for organizations and agencies serving Latinos. Amigos sent out volunteers 24 hours a day to act as interpreters all over the city.

### ***Richmond is responding to and being reshaped by more immigrant families***

By 2005 many more families had arrived, joining their relatives who had come in the first wave. We estimated that the population had grown to 1500. More and more families came together, who have today become an essential part of the fabric of Richmond, Indiana. In addition to Amigos, Richmond residents, churches, schools, stores and organizations reached out to welcome our new neighbors. However, during this time, Richmond was not only becoming a home for Mexicans, but rather, we were witnessing the rapid transformation of Richmond into a multicultural city. Many Latin Americans from Ecuador, Perú, Colombia and others, settled here as well as Koreans, Indians, Pakistanis, and Chinese.

### ***The Second Survey, Fall of 2009.***

The next chapter involves Kumar Jensen, Earlham student and Bonner Scholar, who began his work at Amigos in the summer of 2009. Due to his increasing interest in the Spanish speaking community he came to Amigos to request to do his Bonner summer of service project with Amigos. We were already familiar with Kumar's ability and interest as well as his fluency in Spanish and knowledge of Hispanic culture. Consequently, we enthusiastically welcomed his proposal. During the summer, he spent many hours in the office looking at documentation we had accumulated, getting to know the Latino population personally in the additional daily two-hour English classes he initiated at Townsend Center, and in responding to requests and visitors who came to the office. He also read the first survey report we completed in 1998, and quickly realized that it would be useful to conduct another. By the end of the summer, he suggested that we needed to do a comprehensive survey of a group that had evolved significantly in size, shape and direction since the year 2000. We wanted to document how the community had developed over ten years.

Amigos was delighted with the idea, and we agreed that Kumar would make the survey part of his academic program during the fall of 2009. He spoke with Professor Howard Lamson and Patty Lamson, Director of Earlham International Programs, about working with him on the project. They agreed to carry out the project during the entire four month fall semester. This time frame would allow us to design the survey, recruit volunteers, contact Hispanic families and interpret the information.

## **THE 2009 SURVEY** by Kumar Jensen

## ***Abstract***

This project was inspired by my work at Amigos, The Richmond Latino center in the summer of 2009. During my summer work it became apparent that the center no longer had current information about the Latino population in Richmond and that we could reach a larger contingent of the population if we were to take a survey of the population. I decided to take on this task as an independent study with Howard and Patty Lamson as my advisers. Our goal was to find out as much information as we could about the Latino community in Richmond through a hard copy survey and conversation-like interviews with community members.

The information we were most interested in was focused on family's living situations. We asked questions about the services they use in Richmond, their place of origin, whether they feel discriminated against, what types of groups/programs they are involved with, what could we do as a Latino center to better support them...etc. In addition to collecting opinions and quantitative data such as demographic information we also hoped to meet many more Latinos and hear their personal stories and feelings about what it is like to live in Richmond. I worked with a group of 10 or so volunteers who helped conduct the survey throughout a two month period in the fall of 2009. The following report presents a summary of the process, data and results from that comprehensive survey.

(The full, detailed report is available upon request)

## ***Latino Immigration and Community Development in Richmond, IN***

The information collected through the community survey proved to be great initial data for Amigos because it showed snapshot examples of what it is like to live in Richmond for some Latinos. It is also important to note that the procedure of trying to carry out a community survey was extremely beneficial in providing Amigos with a framework of some of the do's and don't's of conducting a community survey. Most of the information will be reviewed and used to help focus Amigos' resources in places with the highest demand or need.

The actual procedure of conducting the survey proved to be time-intensive and rigorous. The physical survey packet that volunteers used with each participant consisted of a double-sided survey with 27 questions, a notes sheet and two local agency resource sheets. Each volunteer had to demonstrate an intermediate level of Spanish, strong communication skills and a significant time commitment. When volunteers met up with participants they would sit for 20 minutes to an hour talking with the participant not only about questions on the survey but about the participant's life in general. We tried to make the survey as informal as we could without interfering with the integrity of collecting actual data and this was partially achieved by making every question on the survey optional.

## ***Summary of the results of the Survey of 2009(full report available)***

The final results of the survey are summarized in this and the following paragraphs. At the end of the survey we had compiled **62** surveys which represent, in one form or another, almost **300** people. Of the **62** surveyed participants **42 %** were female and **56%** were male; there was one respondent who did not specify gender. The number of people per surveyed household was **4.8**. The average time spent in Richmond for all 62 participants was **6.5** years. The average age of each participant was **30.7** years old for males and **32.8** years old for females.

When we looked at the community services and Amigos programs and services that people utilized, most of the results were not surprising. Reid Hospital and the Wayne County Health Clinic were the most visited health service providers with **72 %** using the hospital and **74 %** visiting the health clinic. **WIC** was the most popular family support agency with **50 %** of participants visiting it. In terms of educational resources **45 %** said they visit library and **40 %** said they utilize the public schools. Additionally, **69 %** said they use a public park where **66 %** said they go to church.

Shifting to Amigos programs and services it looks like close to **60 %** of respondents had used Amigos for a translator or interpreter in contrast to the **35 %** who had received help with a medical referral from Amigos. In addition, **45 %** said they had attended or attend Amigos celebrations, **53 %** said they attend or have attended English Classes and **56 %** said they listen to or have listened to the Amigos Radio program each Sunday. Many indicated that they have learned sufficient English to fulfill work requirements.

## **SOME CONCLUSIONS** by Howard and Patty Lamson

1. The recent survey tells us that the make-up of the Latino population has changed considerably since 1998.
2. By 2009, the population had evolved from being predominantly young males to a family centered community. Many families have been here more than five years, some up to 15 and 16 years.
3. The percentage of females has increased dramatically.
4. Families express an appreciation for the “peaceful, safe” environment of Richmond.
5. Living conditions have improved considerably. Many of the early arrivals lived in trailer parks in the NW 5th St. area, while now people rent homes, and several have bought homes. A few homes have been extensively renovated by the new owners.
6. Latino children have been integrated into Head Start and public and private schools.
7. According to figures from Richmond community schools (kept since 2002)the percentage of Hispanic children in school has risen from 1.67%(102 students) in 2002 to 4% (209 students) in 2009.
8. Special appreciation was expressed for several public agencies: WIC, Morrisson Reeves library, the Wayne County Health Clinic, Birth-to-Five, Head Start and Reid Hospital.
9. Most people now speak some English to carry out daily activities, and a number have become quite fluent.
10. English classes should be adapted to community needs. Many people are ready for more advanced classes.
11. Many school age children already speak fluent English (English dominant).
12. The Amigos radio show is an important vehicle for communicating information and announcements to the Latino population. Many Latino residents have participated in the

show over the years.

**We have also learned that there are social and cultural issues that need to be addressed.**

We need to continue teaching English, and primarily useful, everyday English to women in order to enable them to go to appointments with little or no support.

Women don't tend to come to classes, but they are the group that needs the most help with language and transportation issues.

Amigos needs to build even more relationships with agencies and schools so we can all work together to improve the quality of life for Latinos. Workshops, discussion and regular contact are extremely important.

More workshops on Latino culture should be scheduled to make people aware of cultural values and customs that guide many people in the Latino community.

We (Richmond) need to find ways to be more proactive in the area of health.

## **APPENDIX AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

(Available upon request)

### ***How we constructed the Survey (written by Kumar)***

Before we could think about anything else we realized we needed to create a survey that would be useful to Amigos, the larger Richmond community and the Latino population. The first draft of the survey was finished on August 25th and the final version was finalized and ready on October 25th. It took two full months to figure out what questions we wanted to ask, why we wanted to ask them, if they would be helpful, how to word them and then translate them into Spanish. During those two months we worked through 12 drafts of the survey. I met with/ talked to 13 individuals/organizations who helped read, edit, translate and revise the survey. There were a few goals we wanted to accomplish while creating the survey: the survey should be no more than two pages long, collect information that would be useful not just large quantities of data, make the participants feel confident in us and comfortable answering the questions and to include a notes sheet that could be used to put down additional information the participants felt was pertinent. Additionally, the survey was designed to be done face-to-face with a volunteer and the participant. Each participant had the option of filling out the survey on their own or the participant could have the volunteer read the questions and write down the participants' responses verbatim. It was also very important to explain to each volunteer and participants that every single question was optional. This meant that if they did not feel comfortable answering things such as their address or telephone number they did not have to, but of course we encouraged all participants to answer all of the questions.

### ***Contacting local groups/agencies***

In my initial proposal I had thought that the survey would be done by going door-to-door asking

families to participate. This was when we were still thinking about trying to more census-orientated approach (focusing on counting and quantitative information). After realizing how difficult this would be especially with our limited time frame, we opted to scrap the door-to-door approach and focus on qualitative information from a smaller number of families. It was decided that we would work through already existing institutions in order to find families to participate in the survey.

This meant that we first had to identify existing institutions within the Latino community and approach them for support and advice with the survey. We spoke with: The Hispanic Wesleyan Church, Galileo, Head Start, Birth to Five, La Mexicana, Miller Woods, The Wayne County Health Clinic, La Chiquita, Sueno Americano and El Rodeo. Of these ten groups we had successful contact/interactions with seven. Miller Woods, La Chiquita and Birth to Five were not as receptive in supporting our efforts as the other agencies. In part, I believe our relationships with those three groups were less successful because we approached them in a different manner. With Miller Woods we just showed up one day after only notifying the worker's boss, not their supervisor. The result was that when the workers got off work they were not expecting us and did not know who we were, what we were doing and why we were there. I do not blame the workers for feeling reluctant/hesitant to talk with us. Even their floor supervisor didn't recognize us and didn't know who we were. Planning ahead and making ourselves out as familiar faces with transparent intentions would've made the situation more beneficial and comfortable for both groups.

## **COPIES OF THE SURVEY IN SPANISH AND ENGLISH**

The Richmond Latino Center  
855 N. 12 Street, Richmond, IN 47374 (765) 965-5803

### **Encuesta Comunitaria**

Fecha: \_\_\_\_\_ Nombre: \_\_\_\_\_  
Edad: \_\_\_\_\_

Género: Femenino \_\_\_\_\_ Masculino \_\_\_\_\_ Lugar de Origen (ciudad, estado, país): \_\_\_\_\_

Dirección: \_\_\_\_\_ Número de Teléfono: \_\_\_\_\_

¿Nivel de estudios terminados? \_\_\_\_\_

¿Cuánto tiempo ha vivido en Richmond? \_\_\_\_\_

¿Dónde trabaja ahora? \_\_\_\_\_ ¿Cuáles han sido sus lugares de trabajo en los últimos 5 años?

---

¿Número de personas que viven en su casa? \_\_\_\_\_

Niños:

Edad Género Lugar de Nacimiento Escuela

¿Qué servicios y programas usa usted en Richmond? Circule los que usa

--

Servicios de salud:

El Hospital

La Clínica de la Condado Wayne

WIC

Dentista o Doctor Privado

Medicaid

Otro: \_\_\_\_\_

Apoyo a la familia:

WIC

Birth to Five

Primeros Pasos

Genesis (Violencia Domestica)

Alcohólicos Anónimos

Educación:

Escuelas Públicas de Richmond (Cuál?) \_\_\_\_\_

Head Start

La Universidad

Biblioteca Morrisson Reeves

Otro: \_\_\_\_\_

Otros servicios:

Transporte público

Parques públicos

Alberca municipal

La Corte

Iglesia (¿Cuál?): \_\_\_\_\_

Otro: \_\_\_\_\_

¿Qué agencias/servicios le han ayudado para mejorar su vida? Explique

¿Cuáles servicios no le han servido bien? Explique

¿Siente usted el apoyo de la comunidad Latina de Richmond? ¿Le gustaría recibir más apoyo?  
Explique

¿Es usted miembro de alguna sociedad/grupo en Richmond (Sueño, iglesia, bingo...)?

¿Qué podría usted hacer para tener un papel más activo y positivo en la comunidad Latina?

¿Sufre usted o algún familiar de depresión, enfermedad mental, abuso de drogas o violencia doméstica? ¿Ha sido víctima de alguno de éstos en el pasado? ¿Alguien de su familia?

¿Ha hecho uso usted o alguien de la familia de un servicio o programa de Amigos? ¿Con qué frecuencia?

Servicios:

Referencia de Medicaid

Traductor/intérprete

Referencia legal

Computadores

Transporte

Ayuda personal

Empleo

Programas:

Corazón Latino

Celebraciones de feriados

Clases de inglés

Actividades para la familia

Programa de radio

Actividades para los niños

¿Otro? \_\_\_\_\_

¿Cómo puede Amigos mejorar estos servicios y programas?

¿Hay otros servicios o programas que le gustaría que Amigos ofreciera? Explique

¿Hay otras preocupaciones que le gustaría que Amigos tratara? Por ejemplo, problemas con algún servicio/agencia/compañía:

¿Le gustaría que Amigos ofreciera información para hacer uso de un servicio/agencia/compañía en concreto?

¿Usted habla inglés? Sí No

¿Qué tan bien habla inglés? Poco Bastante Bien

¿Comentarios adicionales?:

ENGLISH VERSION

The Richmond Latino Center  
855 N. 12 Street, Richmond, IN 47374 (765) 965-5803

### Community Survey IN ENGLISH

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: Female \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Origen (city, state, country): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Level of schools finished? \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you lived in Richmond? \_\_\_\_\_

Where do you work currently? \_\_\_\_\_ Where  
have you worked within the last five years?

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of people that live in your house? \_\_\_\_\_

Children:

Age Gender Place of Birth School

What services or programs do you use in Richmond? Circle the ones you use

Health Services:

The Hospital

The Wayne County Health Clinic

WIC

Dentist or private doctor

Medicaid

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Support:

WIC

Birth to Five

First Steps

Genesis (Domestic Violence)

Alcoholics Anonymous

Education:

Richmond Public Schools (Which?) \_\_\_\_\_

Head Start

College or University

Morrisson Reeves Library

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Services:

Public Transit

Public Parks

Community Pool

The Court

Church (which?): \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What services/agencies have helped to better your life? Explain

What services have been unhelpful to you? Explain

Do you feel the support of the Latino Community in Richmond? Would you like to receive more support? Explain

Are you a member of a Group/organization in Richmond (Sueño, Church, bingo...)?

What could you do to take a more active and positive role in the Latino community? Explain

Do you or any of your relatives suffer from depression, mental illness, drug abuse or domestic

violence? Have you been a victim of one of those in the past? Has someone in your family?

Have you or anyone in your family used an Amigos program or service? How frequently?

Services:

Medicaid Referral

Translator/Interpreter

Legal Referral

Computers

Transportation

Personal Help

Employment

Programs:

Latino Heart

Holiday celebrations

English classes

Family activities

Radio show

Children's activities

¿Other? \_\_\_\_\_

How can Amigos help better these services and programs?

Are there other programs or services that you would like Amigos to offer? Explain

Are there other concerns that you would like Amigos to address? For example problems with a service/agency/Business.

Would you like Amigos to offer information about the use of a specific service/agency/Business?

Do you speak English? Yes No

How well do you speak English? A little Enough Well

Additional Comments?:

## PREPARING VOLUNTEERS

**Goal of survey:** to better understand the living situations of Latinos in Richmond so that resources and services can be better shared and connected. Also to create a network and general awareness of Amigos and what it strives to do as an organization.

### **Who is the survey intended for?**

Ideally one person in each family will be filling out the survey. If it is only possible to get one person from each household to fill out the survey please indicate by writing household at the top of the survey. If household is not at the top of the survey we will assume it represents a one family.

**Timeline:** starts Oct. 23rd ends Nov. 30th.

**Goal:** 10 surveys per volunteer for a total of 80-100 surveys depending on how many people participate.

**Volunteer help:** I cant do this on my own. Volunteers will have the same role as me. They will be helping conduct the survey and if interested in compiling information and analyzing it at the end of the semester. I need people who are confident in their Spanish language abilities. Who have had at least some, preferably a lot of contact with Spanish speakers and interacting with them so that they will know some of the cultural differences in how to approach people and things that are generally good and which generally are not.

### **What are some things people might be skeptical about in taking the survey?**

Revealing personal information that could be shared with the government: La migra

Not understanding that all personal information will be kept confidential

Not seeing that the survey is an attempt to help build a stronger community

Not trusting the person working with the survey

### **How do you present yourself as a trustworthy and friendly person?**

Make sure to ask each person before surveying if they have filled one out already. We don't

want duplicates. Formal greetings  
Make sure all intentions are made %100 clear (use info sheet)  
Answer all questions as honestly and genuinely as possible  
Have a strong knowledge and understanding of what you are doing, why it is important and the limitations it has  
Do not rush people  
Listen to them – the survey is only part of the process the other is creating relationships with people and getting people to know and trust us as an organization  
Knowledge of services and knowledge of Amigos  
Make sure to have a notes sheet

### **Things to know about the survey**

All answers are confidential  
All questions are optional but it is encouraged that all information is put on the form  
No one should feel pressured to take the survey – volunteer based  
It is aimed at helping Amigos collect information about what types of services and information people do not have access to and how Amigos can help connect people with services.

### **So what about the survey? How will it actually be conducted?**

We are creating the process as we go.  
We are not going to go door-to-door.  
We are going to try to use institutions (churches, Amigos, schools, Head start, businesses...etc.) as ways to connect with people and to talk to them about the survey.  
Each volunteer will be expected to sit down with each individual/family and fill out the survey.  
We do not want to people to have to fill it out on their own because some people cannot read or write in Spanish.  
It is likely that people, while answering the questions, will elaborate on the questions and talk a lot about themselves if they feel comfortable with the survey and the volunteer. In this case each volunteer should have Note Sheets that will accompany the surveys that they should use to make notes (in Spanish) about what the person is saying. **IMPORTANT:** it is extremely important that when writing down what people are saying on the notes sheet that you do not paraphrase or reword what they are saying. Try as hard as you can to copy down word for word what they are saying. Asking them to slow down or repeat is ok.

### **Things you have with you while surveying:**

Amigos info sheet  
Amigos card  
Corazon Latino info  
**Blue** pens  
Clip boards  
Name tags  
Survey  
This Sheet  
Notes sheet  
Folder for completed surveys

