

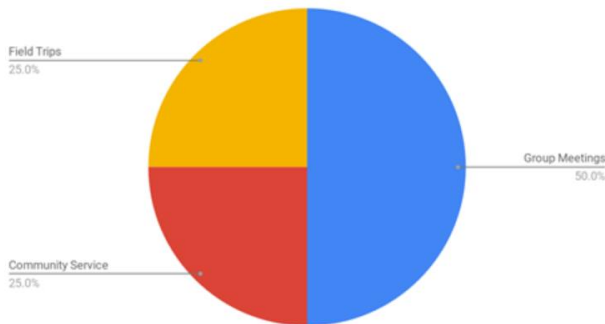
ORGULLO LATINX PRIDE



The Hispanic Liaison's Youth Leadership Latinx Program

What is Orgullo Latinx Pride (OLP)?

OLP Activities



Who:

- 9th through 12th grade Latinx students from Jordan Matthews High School

What:

- Empowering members through a racial equity lens and Popular Education model
- Highlights Latinx identity and resiliency

How:

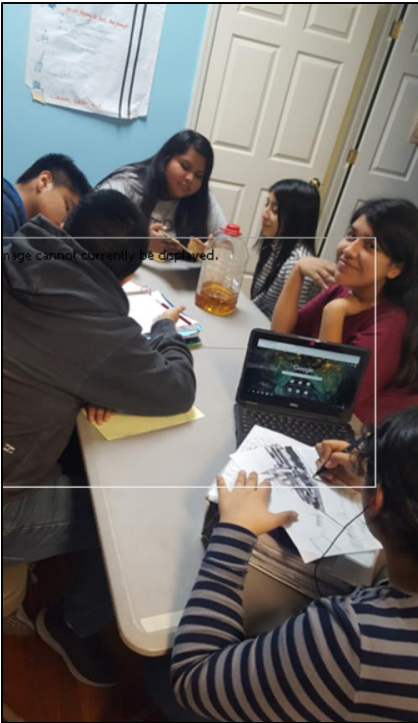
- Safe and brave spaces are fostered that encourage dialogue regarding cultural and individual identities
- Participation in activities that promote self-reflection, self-esteem, and positive thinking
- Challenging youth to reach personal goals and gives them tools to become leaders and use their voice for social change

Good Evening Chatham County Commissioners, friends, and other chatham county residents,

My name is Selina Lopez and I am the Youth Leadership Program Manager for The Hispanic Liaison/ El Vinculo Hispano youth program formally called Orgullo Latinx Pride.

I want to thank-you for your time and for allowing us to present to you tonight. The reason for our presentation is to officially introduce our fabulous youth leadership program to you and allow some of Orgullo Latinx Pride's members to present themselves and give their own personal testimonies of their time in Orgullo Latinx Pride. Before I let the youth wow you away I want to give you a brief, but very brief overview of what Orgullo Latinx Pride offers and I'll let the youth talk about different components of the program that has impacted them.

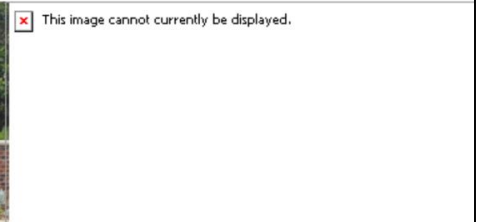
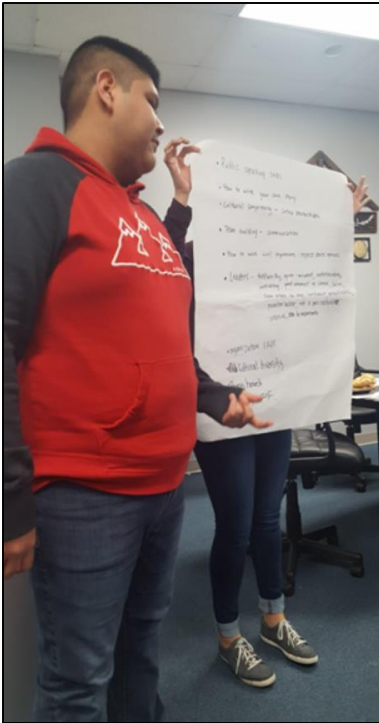
Homework Hour La Tarea



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Good afternoon my name is Grecia Hernandez. I am a sophomore at Jordan Matthews High School. I have been coming to OLP for about half a year now and throughout my time, OLP has helped me become a better student. My freshmen year was very tough for me but this year I have become more responsible with my education and have improved my grades thanks to the homework hour we have in OLP. I have also learned how to take school more seriously thanks to OLP and my peers.

College Readiness Preparación Para el Colegio



Good evening, My name is Oscar Manzanarez and I'm currently the assistant representative of OLP and a junior at Jordan Matthews High School. I am also a first generation college student so that means I don't really know what the college process consists of because my parents did not have the opportunity to attend college. Being in OLP, I am exposed to someone who has been through college and who I can ask questions to. OLP has given me college readiness advisors to help me with my academics and how to apply for college in my near future. Thanks to the program, I have one-to-one time with mentors who are helping me and have someone who is always watching over me.

Personal Growth Crecimiento Personal



Hello, my name is Carlos Santiago, I am a freshman at Jordan Matthews High School and I have been part of OLP for approximately 8 months.

OLP has really pushed me outside of my comfort zone. Before joining, I had no idea that this program existed nor how greatly it was going to impact me. I was, and still am shy, but OLP has really pushed me to work on my public speaking skills. Before I joined, I would have never raised my hand to answer a question in school or talk to people that I have maybe seen, but never talked to before. I am now more open than I have ever been before!

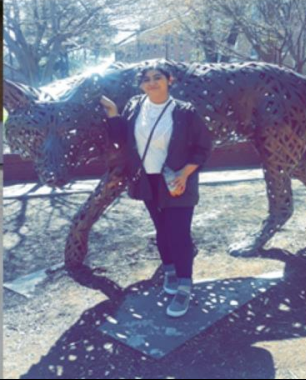
I can safely say that if I had any problems, whether it be school related, or personal, I could talk about them, or ask others for help, instead of trying to resolve them myself. All in all, OLP has really shaped me up to be a better me, and have a better life.

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We Are a Family! ¡Somos Una Familia!



Hello, my name is Berenice Diaz and I've been part of OLP for five months. It first started when my parents wanted me to join a youth group based on my certain interests. They thought it would be a great opportunity for me to meet new people and play a role in the community. Around that time, I had just enrolled into high school not knowing what was ahead of me. I really thought it would be like in the movies but boy I was dead wrong. I used to be socially awkward and making new friends was difficult for me. So I decided, why not give it another try? From the moment I placed that black pen over the signup sheet, I knew I made the greatest decision in my life. I soon made brand new friends who have the power to boost my self-esteem. They made me have the confidence to be more open towards others and push me to share my thoughts and ideas of the world. OLP has shaped me into who I am today. Today, I'm able to look at someone's eyes and give them the level of determination and keep moving forward. I have also learned to be a good friend and have learned to be there for others and learn how it's like to be in someone's else shoes. I feel like together we are one big family!

Giving Back Devolver en Servicio



Good afternoon, my name is Ervin Martinez-Tavera, I have been in the OLP program for 8 months. I am a freshman at Jordan Matthews High School. This program really puts a lot of effort in our community and in us as youth. This program pushes me outside my comfort zone because it makes me try to improve my ethics of communication with other people and that at first makes me a little nervous because this is the first time I meet new people from. An example of this is when I volunteer and help people out through OLP I have never volunteered before I joined OLP. Another example of volunteering is the Fiesta 2018 event, sending out flyers, the community diner, etc.

When I joined OLP I thought that it was going to be a bit weird because I was going to be with new people that I haven't met but a couple of weeks later I started to know a little bit more about them and started to feel more comfortable. I participated in community service in which I was involved with helping with upcoming events like the community diner, cleaning Jordan Lake, etc..., after a couple of volunteerings I started to get more interested and also I had a lot of fun because I really felt that I can help and know more new people when volunteering and that makes me more comfortable than I was before.



Field Trips Los Paseos



Good afternoon my name is Jackie Vasquez and I have been part of OLP for about 6 months. Even though I haven't been in EVH as long as others, this program has been a great impact in my life so far and as well for many others, one thing provided in EVH is having the opportunity to go on educational or even just for fun field trips. OLP is very important to me and as for someone who loves going to new places, having the opportunity to be able to go on field trips is so amazing and helpful for many others. It allows me to see other places and experience things I would've never had the chance of doing!

Mi Cultura My Culture



Hi my name is Jocelyn Lopez, I'm a ninth grader at Jordan Matthews high school and a member of OLP. Culture. Why is culture important? Culture connects people. Culture gives people a chance to learn from other people and see the world through their eyes. It is important to be proud of your culture no matter where you come from. But there are some people in the world and in this town who refuse to accept our differences. OLP gives us a chance to express ourselves, it's a safe spot where we can speak our minds and how we feel about the world around us. OLP lets out and embraces our creativity. We can volunteer in our community and make our community better for everyone, and along the way we learn more about our roots and culture.

Before I join OLP I didn't think much of my culture nor did I care. I remember when I when little I was watching Tv and noticed that those people had everything, nice cars, a good house, nice neighborhood and I didn't. I remember asking my mom why we weren't like them and she said "We have no money and we are not like them." At the time I didn't understand, but now I do. Now I see

If they could let go of this hatred and accept us, no one would be afraid to go out of their houses without fearing that ICE could come at any minute to take them away from their families, no one would be afraid to go work fearing that they will be stopped by the police just because the color of their skin, no one will be afraid of being judge, no one would be afraid. They don't care to know our differences, our culture. When I learned about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr I felt moved by his speech because I too want see justice and change in society. It is unfair to see people have less opportunities than others just because of the color of their skin, it is unfair and inhumane. I admire that someone like Dr. King stood up and fought for what is right. If everyone could learn to accept cultures this town, county, state, country, world would be better for all.

Telling My Story Contando Mi Historia



Hello, My name is Esmar Bixcul. I am a junior at Jordan Matthews High School. Today there are many immigrants who are afraid of ICE because they don't know the moment and time that they can show up at their door. I am one of those people who worries that ICE will show up at my door and take me without warning or reason. I am one of those people who doesn't have the same privileges as my U.S. born peers that can get permission to drive a car and have their own licenses and they don't have to be afraid when the police stops them on the road because they have licenses or permits. I don't have the privilege to travel the world or visit my family back in Guatemala. I am a Dreamer who's path will be a lot harder to attend a 4 year university because of my status.

The program Orgullo Latinx Pride helps me to learn and be educated on what to do in case ICE comes to my house or if our car were to get pulled over when driving with my family. OLP and EVH has informed me of my rights and keeps me informed on what is happening in the town. I want to help my community.

~~and they without knowing who they are they open the door. And ICE can take those immigrant people without asking, who they are or where they are from or asking if they have done something. Bad against the law of The US. and they send those immigrant, people back to their country without no reason. The only reason is that~~

they are here, in the us but they are not causing any problem. Also it happens in the street when the police is helping, ice to pull out car out of the road and stores.

Citizens have more privileged than us the immigrant people to get work anywhere and also have permission to drive a car and have their own licenses and not be afraid that the police stop them on the road and ask them if they have a license and permission to drive the car that they are driving. And have the privileged to travel the world anywhere they want to visit their family also citizen people can have more opportunity to go to college then an immigrant people.

Advocacy Abogacía



Hello everyone good evening. My name is Lizbeth Rodriguez Ramos and I am the daughter of immigrant parents who is proud to be a Latina. I am 16 years old and I'm a sophomore at Jordan Matthews High school. I am one of the representatives of our youth group. Tonight I want to take the opportunity to talk about an issue that affects my peers and I and our community. What is immigration? Immigration can mean many different things to different people. We don't all have the same meaning of immigration. For some, it's the act of coming to live in a foreign country. For others, the privileged, it does not mean anything but for me, it means a lot. Just hearing the word gives me the chills. When I hear the word immigration I think of my parents and the possibility that I may never be able to see and live with my parents. I think of coming home to find out my parents have been taken away and not knowing where they are. As a daughter of immigrant parents and as a Latinx individual I started to hear the word immigrant and immigration since I can remember. I remember my parents telling me and explaining to me the protocol if something ever did happen as if I was getting trained. Before OLP I would have never dared to stand here talking about this topic as it may be a scary topic for some people. Nowadays society sets us aside and silences us. Society puts us in a position where we feel like our voices are not heard and therefore we do not feel validated. But, OLP has provided all of us a space to talk about these issues and to express ourselves where we feel safe and where we are in an environment with no judgment. OLP is also an open space where we get to talk about these topics because we don't get to talk about them at home. The youth group has pushed us to not be silent about expressing our worries. It has pushed us to stand up for our community and try to make a change as the young

leaders that we are. We need to create a supportive, safe, and welcoming community where we feel like we are heard. I hope that as representatives of our county, you express your support and solidarity with me and help protect your constituents and lessen the fear within us, thank you.

Using My Voice Usando Mi Voz



Good evening, My name is Cesia Lopez and I am a senior at Jordan Matthews High School. Overall my experience in OLP has been a great one. It has helped me shape who I am as a person. I have become a better person who aspires to help others. Rather than finding community service as a punishment I now enjoy it. It has also made me more aware of my culture. By Selina encouraging us to embrace our story and what we have gone through and how we have overcome it has helped me realize that I am powerful and there is power in my story.

That being said I now have a different mindset. I now know that my opinion matters and that I have a voice. OLP has made me realize that change is not something to be afraid of and as I now transition from highschool to college I feel like I will thrive, I am confident about my speaking skills and my ability to express my opinions and ideas. I can only thank OLP for that.

Empowerment Empoderamiento

Chatham News + Record

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NATIONAL HUGGING DAY IS JANUARY 21
Hugging is a simple act with many benefits

BY RANDALL KESBEE
News + Record Staff

In Spanish, it's called an *abrazo*. In French, it's *un câlin*. The English language employs only a single word sandwiched between two consonants to mean the same thing: a "hug."

Regardless of the language spoken, or the world we may see, a hug is one of the most basic forms of nonverbal human communication, usually employed to express affection. But for all their simplicity, a lot goes on when we give or receive a hug and a lot of serious research has been conducted to help us better understand the action.

See 'Hugging' page A10



Pittsboro's Alina Wilson and her husband, Aaron Kuehn, share a hug at Carolina Brewery. (Staff photo by Kim Hawks)

Donald Fleming of Chapel Hill hugs the grandmother, Lily Brinkin, who lives in The Legacy in Chatham County. (Staff photo by Kim Hawks)

UNDER PRESSURE

Chatham's Latinx teens battle cultural effects on mental health

BY ELEANOR HORNBERG
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Noemi Mora, Ceia Lopez and Lenora Ramos — each 17-year-old students at Jordan-Matthews High School — share many similarities with their peers. They're in the middle of making some major life decisions, like whether or not to go to college. They're thinking about careers to pursue. And while they'll tell you that these decisions add pressure to their lives, each says they face things many of their classmates will never have to confront.

Mora, Lopez and Ramos are Hispanic. And while that's nothing abnormal in Chatham County, and especially withing strange in Siler City or at Jordan-Matthews, the three say their day-to-day struggles are unique to their ethnicity. "I feel like there's so much more pressure on a Latinx person than there is on a white person," Mora says. "I feel like we all try so hard to not get out of line."

Looking at the *Numbers Fall of America* in a San Antonio-based organization dedicated to "empowering people to drive community change for health equity for Latinx and all kids," according to its mission statement. In 2017, it put together a review of research on mental health and Latinx — a relatively new gender-inclusive term used to describe people of Latin American origin.

The abstract begins this way: "Latinx youth are far more likely than their peers to have mental health issues, which often go undiagnosed and untreated." The International Journal of Adolescent Medical Health reported that 22 percent of Latinx youth across the country have depressive symptoms, "a rate higher than any minority group besides Native American youth." Hispanic high schoolers, according to the Centers for Disease Control, are more likely than their white peers to consider and attempt suicide.



Noemi Mora, Ceia Lopez and Lenora Ramos of Siler City sit in the office of The Hispanic Liaison as they discuss the mental health experience of Latinx teenagers. (Staff photo by Michael Frank)

population is 22.9 percent Hispanic — that is ethnicity behind when (TV & news)

Ramos' mom, Lenora Lopez, says she's from Guatemala. They see they don't feel like

"Pride" is about a year old but has already attracted 26 high schoolers on a roster here.



Hi, my name is Noemi Mora Marcial, I'm 17 years old and I'm a senior at Jordan-Matthews High School. I was first introduced to Orgullo Latinx Pride (OLP) the first semester of my Junior year (Dec. 2017) because I needed to complete my SOLO Flight which required me to do community service. I decided that the best place to volunteer was The Hispanic Liaison, since I had known about the organization since I was a little girl and I knew what great things they do for my community. Once, there I learned about OLP! OLP has become a very safe place for me where I've been able to talk about my anxiety. In this space, I have been allowed a place to talk freely with no judgement and a place for personal growth. I have been exposed to things that make me nervous, like public speaking and through this program I have been able to face my fears and overcome them. Through all of the support that I have been given at OLP I feel like I have become empowered to use my own voice to spread awareness, and to defend others who are too afraid to use their voice or are simply unable to. Through OLP I have also been able to express my opinion on something that is very personal to me and something that I am extremely passionate about which is Latinx youth mental health. I had the opportunity to speak about Latinx youth mental health in The Chatham News & Record about why Latinx youths attempted suicide rates were so much higher than other people in the county and in the US. In this setting, I was able to talk about all of the struggles that we face as Latinx students in the US, and why we are so pressured into being better than the stereotypes held

against us. We feel the pressure every day from our parents, siblings, teachers, and even strangers that do not know us. We are made to feel like we are not good enough, and therefore we feel like we have to work twice as hard for things that are simply handed for other people. Through OLP I feel like I have been allowed to find the power inside of myself and learn how to use it for bettering my community, and I have learned to not be afraid of using my voice to speak against the horrible things that my community is put through. One of my biggest dreams is to go to college, and to be able to come back to aid my community.

My Experiences Mis Experiencias



(Lenore closing>> what olp has taught you, inspired>> perhaps coming back and helping the community)

Good Evening, my name is Lenore Ramos. I am a senior at Jordan Matthews High School and unfortunately, this is my last year in OLP.

OLP has brought me closer to my culture and helped me stay connected to my Latinx community. OLP has empowered me to gain knowledge about my community and has taught me the importance of maintaining a safe space for everyone. Our youth group has supported me on my journey of discovering who I am and what shapes me. OLP has led me to notice my strengths and weaknesses. I have also been given the opportunity to engage civically. I have discovered that I am very passionate about activism and social justice. I have decided that I want to attend college and eventually Law School. My goal is to become an immigration or civil rights attorney. OLP has inspired me to serve Latinx people. Currently, I live in a shelter run by my godparents because my parents are in Mexico. When the Hispanic Liaison learned about my background, they opened a door to a supportive and accepting space. I had a space where I could practice my culture and talk about social justice issues. As was mentioned earlier, one of those issues is immigration. When kids and their families live in fear every single day, often these issues don't get talked about at home. Sometimes all we get is "the talk" in which we are told what to do in case we come home one day and our families are nowhere to be found. OLP is giving a space to Latinx youth to talk about these fears and experiences that we all have in common. It gives us a space where we can be vulnerable and where we find support when we feel like the universe is against us. It gets very lonely very quickly when there is no

guarantee that your loved ones will be home when you arrive, when the authorities don't seem supportive, and when we are pushed into a position in which assimilation into American culture seems like the best survival strategy. Latinx youth suffer things we would wish upon no one and yet we perform as successfully as our peers who are not attacked by society every day. OLP gives us a place where our voices are heard and where we can be our true selves. OLP is vital in Siler City and Chatham County for Latinx Youth and our families. Thank you for your time.

THANK YOU ~ GRACIAS



Fellow county commissioners, you have heard only a few of the very powerful Latinx young voices in our program Orgullo Latinx Pride. The people you see in the audience are parents, family members, friends, and/or allies in our community that have come out to show their support and cheer on our young leaders. The youth are excited more than ever to learn and engage in their community. The youth in Orgullo Latinx Pride hope to collaborate more with you in the next months and years to come. Their hope is that after listening to their testimonies, you see them and know that they care and want to contribute to the ongoing work that keeps making Chatham County amazing. They want to help make Chatham County a place of welcome for all its residents and newcomers, a place that acknowledges the beautiful cultures and contributions of all its people, and most importantly a beautiful place everyone can call home.

Thank-you for your time and we hope to work with you all soon!