



Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc.

A PROMISE OF OPPORTUNITY



Serving Arizona Youth Since 1994

WESTERN UNION GRANTS FUND COMPUTER LAB FOR STUDENTS, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FOR ADULTS

– Chicanos Por La Causa and Si Se Puede Foundation Channels of Choice for Corporate Initiatives to Strengthen Arizona Communities –

Phoenix (May 18, 2009): Donations from The Western Union Company are supporting the efforts of two Arizona-based nonprofit organizations to create pathways to opportunity for youth and adults alike.

In a joint appearance today, representatives from Chicanos Por La Causa (CPLC) and the Si Se Puede Foundation, along with state Representative Ben Miranda, accepted the grants, which totaled \$30,000, from Western Union, a leader in the global payments industry. The funding will allow CPLC's Westside Workforce Development Center to expand the array of job development services it offers; it has also helped Si Se Puede set up a computer lab where low income students can research community service, employment and scholarship opportunities.

“Thanks to the generosity and foresight of Western Union, young people with college and career aspirations and adults seeking a more prosperous future have additional tools to leverage their talents and achieve success,” noted Rep. Miranda. “At the same time, two pillars of the Arizona nonprofit world – Chicanos Por La Causa and the Si Se Puede Foundation – can build on their long track records of strengthening communities through education and self-improvement.”

CPLC's Westside Center in Phoenix has traditionally provided comprehensive education, employment and training services to low-income youth and young adult ex-offenders. The new funding from Western Union will allow the center to also offer limited services to adults, including job development, career exploration, basic education, food box referrals and job readiness training. The adult services are self-directed and include online job hunting, resume preparation, employer interviews, computer training and agency referrals.

“We are grateful to Western Union for their support, which allows us to provide more comprehensive workforce development services to our community,” said CPLC Chief Development Officer David Adame. “These resources are extremely important for empowering individuals to find employment, especially during these tough economic times.”

The Si Se Puede Foundation computer lab consists of eight computers, a server and a printer. It is open to students across the community who need assistance in researching community service opportunities and accessing job banks. The equipment will also allow students to prepare for college entrance exams such as the ACT and SAT while also researching information about scholarships and other sources of financial assistance.

“Computer access is a utility that many of us take for granted, but without it the most basic of tasks – like looking for a job or studying for an exam – can become huge obstacles,” said Si Se Puede President and CEO Alberto. L. Esparza. “Ambitious students should not be disadvantaged by a lack of fundamental resources as they strive to enhance their lives through community involvement and higher education.”

Fred Niehaus, Senior Vice President of Public Affairs at Western Union, presented the grants today at Rep. Miranda’s Phoenix office. “The common thread that ties these donations – as well as everything else we do in the communities where we operate around the world – is their focus on fostering hope and helping diverse individuals realize their tremendous potential.”

About Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc. (CPLC)

Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc. (CPLC) is a statewide community development corporation committed to building stronger, healthier communities as a lead advocate, coalition builder and direct service provider. The organization promotes positive change and self-sufficiency to enhance the quality of life for the benefit of those it serves. For more information on the CPLC Westside Workforce Development Center, visit www.cplc.org.

About Si Se Puede Foundation

The Si Se Puede Foundation is a prevention and advocacy program that encourages its participants to be stakeholders in their community. The youth based foundation utilizes three components for service provision, educational programming, community activities and advocacy, and recreational activities for youth. The organization focuses on school and community risk factors that cause delinquency and gang affiliation, negative behaviors in youth and detachment of family, school and community relationships.

About Western Union

The Western Union Company (NYSE:WU) is a leader in global money transfer services. Together with its Vigo and Orlandi Valuta branded money transfer services, Western Union provides consumers with fast, reliable and convenient ways to send and receive money around the world, as well as send payments and purchase money orders. It operates through a combined network of more than 379,000 Agent locations in 200 countries and territories. Famous for its pioneering telegraph services, the original Western Union dates back to 1851. For more information, visit www.westernunion.com.

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