

## Professional Background

# Moisés Pérez

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Moisés Pérez is a co-founder and Executive Director of Alianza Dominicana, Inc. (ADI), a multiservice, community-based organization which provides comprehensive and integrated services for children, youth, and families. With a staff of 150 persons, ADI is the largest human service organization in northern Manhattan, the site of the largest and most diverse concentration of Latinos and immigrants from the Dominican Republic in the state of New York. ADI's target area stretches well into the surrounding neighborhoods of the northwest and west Bronx that include Mott Haven, Kingsbridge, and the South Bronx. Founded in 1986 out of a public housing storefront under Mr. Pérez's leadership, ADI has developed a wide range of programs and services, which include:

**La Familia Unida Daycare and After School Program**

**The Center for Employment and Training:** operates CLAVE, a computer training and leadership program; a Part Time Job Club and the Summer Youth Employment Program for 2000 youth; provides counseling and training in work maturity, employability skills, and job-seeking techniques;

**The Center for Rehabilitation, Education, and Orientation (CREO):** a substance abuse training program for the entire family;

**The Family Assistance Program:** intensive assistance for families at risk of losing their children to the foster care system

**The Family Center at Holyrood Church:** mental health assistance, outreach and counseling for Dominican immigrant families;

**The HOPE Program:** a comprehensive service program for people living with AIDS; HIV/AIDS prevention and education; AIDS mental health counseling; HIV testing site;

**Centro Communal La Plaza:** the largest youth development program in the community, based at Intermediate School #143; arts, sports, recreation, cultural programs, counseling, youth leadership development, after school programs; also includes the most extensive adult education program, providing instruction in ESL, adult basic education, GED preparation, and others;

**ATTENDANCE IMPROVEMENT AND DROP OUT PREVENTION:** motivates at-risk youth to stay in school through tutoring, attendance monitoring, case management services, and home visits;

**The Triangle Project:** an innovative community revitalization project which will use a for-profit commercial development to support youth entrepreneurship, employment training programs, and social service activities;

**Center for Health Promotion and Education:** targets underinsured and uninsured community members who are not part of the health care system, and facilitates enrollment in either Medicaid or Child Health Plus health plans; also runs a Child Immunization Project;

**Project FAITH:** provides early intervention, outreach and preventive strategies within a managed care model to prevent domestic violence.

**Best Beginnings:** a child abuse prevention/home visiting program;

**Satellite Day Care:** trains mothers involved in welfare-to-work as child care providers.

### **Technical Assistance to Community-Based Organizations**

Prior to ADI, Mr. Pérez was a Management Specialist with **Community Service Society of New York (CSS)**, responsible for the day-to-day operations of its Center for Organizational Development. For 150 years, CSS has been a leader in the fight against poverty. Its pioneering work in this arena makes it the oldest social welfare institution in the City of New York. Through the Center, Mr. Pérez directed technical assistance efforts to over 400 community-based organizations in New York's poorest neighborhoods.

As a Senior Staff Associate with **Progress, Inc.** (The Puerto Rican Organization for Growth, Research, Education, and Self-Sufficiency), Mr. Pérez coordinated the provision of technical assistance to over 200 Puerto Rican and Latino community based organizations. Progress, Inc was then the primary provider of technical assistance and support to Puerto Rican and Latino community based organizations in the city of New York. Through Progress, Mr. Pérez directed a major organizing effort in the South Bronx, Washington Heights, the Lower East Side, and Bushwick, creating four teenage pregnancy prevention networks in response to a state-driven request for proposals. The Washington Heights and Lower East Side networks were funded and are still operational.

### **On the National Scene**

Mr. Pérez was one of 12 **National Urban League George Edmund Haynes Fellows**. The eighteen month fellowship program was created and organized by Vernon Jordan, President of the National Urban League as a teaching laboratory for young and promising minority leadership in the National Urban League system. As a fellow, Mr. Pérez had unlimited access to the President and top leadership of the League, participated in Board meetings, served on the convention planning committee, met with some of the most prominent African-American leaders of the nation, participated in major press conferences, and traveled extensively on assignment to National Urban League-affiliated organizations throughout the nation. Mr. Pérez authored a major proposal to introduce local affiliates to personal computing and organized a computing expo for affiliates in New Orleans.

### **Pioneering Work in Youth Development**

Mr. Pérez participated in the conceptualization and start up of three thriving national models in education and youth services.

Mr. Pérez is co-founder of **City as School**, an alternative high school of the New York City Board of Education. City as School was developed on the notion of "schools without walls" in the early '70's with support from the Ford Foundation. Mr. Pérez was responsible for marketing, student recruitment, and establishing numerous learning sites throughout the city such as the New York Aquarium, the Bronx Zoo, Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, and the Society of the Americas.

From City As School, Mr. Pérez joined the development team of **The Door-A Center of Alternatives**. The Door evolved from a small storefront agency into a national/international model for comprehensive, integrated youth services serving as many as 450 youth under one roof on any given evening. During his 10 year tenure at The Door, Mr. Pérez played an instrumental role in the development of integrated systems for the delivery of youth development services and conducting interdisciplinary treatment planning. During his final years at The Door, Mr. Pérez traveled to Mexico City with a team of professionals to assist in the establishment of CORA, a comprehensive youth center modeled after The Door. Mr. Pérez then traveled extensively throughout Colombia as a consultant to Colombia's Minister of Health, Dr. Jairo Luna, through the Pan American Health Organization on the development of mental health initiatives for youth. The final report to Dr. Luna included recommendations for the development of a nationwide initiative to develop comprehensive youth programs. Finally, Mr. Pérez helped organize an international conference for youth programs seeking to model The Door in Toronto, Canada. Youth Programs from the United States, Canada, Australia, and Latin America participated in the conference.

After The Door, Mr. Pérez joined the development team that conceptualized and established **El Puente** in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. After a year of planning and organizing, El Puente opened its doors to the community. Today El Puente is the major service provider in the south side of Williamsburg.

#### **Other Professional Activities**

Mr. Pérez is well known in the Latino and human service communities through his membership and activism in numerous community-, city- and state-wide planning and advocacy boards. The most salient of these include:

**The Agenda for Children Tomorrow (ACT)**, of which Mr. Pérez is Co-Vice Chair and founding member. ACT is a citywide public/private consortium, now in its sixth year, whose main task is to restructure and deploy city services for children to the neighborhood level. The ACT Oversight committee is composed of private nonprofit leaders and city government commissioners and representatives. The task force is chaired by Barbara Bloom, President of the Foundation for Child Development, and Mr. Nicholas Scopetta, Commissioner of the Agency for Children Services of the City of New York. ACT operates in 10 of the neediest communities and is represented by organized service cabinets of local providers and city government representatives. In each of these communities, the local service cabinets have produced an in-depth needs assessment and worked on the development of a strategic redeployment plan for more effectively meeting the needs of children in the area.

#### **Co-Chair and Founder, Northern Manhattan Collaborates (NMC)**

NMC is a coalition of consortia that operates in the Washington Heights/Inwood community in northern Manhattan. The coalition is the broadest program planning and implementation body in the area. The membership includes the major institutions of the area, such as the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center (no New York Presbyterian), the Isabella Geriatrics Center, Community and School Boards, the Chamber of Commerce, local elected officials, the Early Childcare Coalition, The Seniors Coalition, Business Improvement Districts, and all the nonprofit service providers of the area. NMC has completed two major needs assessments of the community, authored a Strategic Neighborhood Action plan, operated the State Neighborhood Based Alliance program, and is currently developing a comprehensive business plan for the community through a NY Community Trust grant.

#### **Founding Member, The Hispanic Federation of New York City**

The Hispanic Federation is the most important association of Latino community based organizations in the City of New York. The Federation provides support to its memberships and advocates for the needs and concerns of the Latino community.

#### **Other Affiliations**

Latino Advisory Board, Comptroller of the City of New York  
Member, the Latino Commission on Educational Reform  
Board Member, Tri State Latino Fund  
Member, Northern Manhattan Mental Health Council  
Member, Human Services Council of New York  
Member, Statewide AIDS Service Delivery Consortium  
Member, the Latino Commission on AIDS  
Board Member, National Collaborative on Youth Violence Prevention (NYC)

#### **Awards**

Staff of Alianza Dominicana, 1993  
Governor's Award for Hispanic Americans of Distinction, 1993  
(given by New York Governor Mario Cuomo)  
NYS Decade of the Child/First Lay Award, 1994  
Reliance Award for Excellence in Education, 1992  
Ellen Lurie Award for Community Service, 1996

American Public Health Association, 1996  
Institute for Youth Entrepreneurship, 1995  
Imagen, Santo Domingo Invita, 1994  
Comptroller's Award, 1993  
Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, 2003  
Eureka Communities Award, 1994  
1991 NY/NY Agreement on Measles Immunization, 1992  
Manhattan North Lioness Club, 1992  
Latino College Expo, 1994  
The Society of Dominican Engineers, 1991  
National Supermarkets Association, Role Model Award, 1996  
NYS Department of Health, AIDS Institute, 1996  
National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, 1994  
Manhattan Neighborhood Network, 1994  
President of the Borough of Manhattan, 1990  
NYC Department of Parks, 1994  
Juegos Deportivos de la Mancomunidad Dominicana, 1993  
Lo Mejor del Deporte, 1997  
Centro de Estudios Dominicanos, 1991