

Rev. William A. Thaden

Pastor, Sacred Heart Chapel. Lorain, OH.

Rev. Thaden's tireless work among the community in Lorain has not only touched the lives of many Latinos, but his work has greatly impacted their lives by identifying and helping lift its future leaders. As the Pastor at Sacred Heart Chapel in Lorain, Ohio, he has offered hope for many by helping secure neighborhoods, ministering among the immigrant workers, and encouraging Latinos to participate in grassroots organizations that can improve the quality of life in our communities. He has served in different boards and organizations. Reverend Thaden is the Founder and Board Chair of the Coalition for South Lorain and member of the grassroots organization Reclaim Lorain. He has also helped to create a community Youth Center to keep our youth off the streets. Rev. Thaden is an admirable guide, leader, friend and brother who makes everyone feel part of Nuestra Familia [Our Family].

Tracy Nichols

Director of Economic Development, City of Cleveland. Cleveland, OH.

Ms. Nichols' commitment to empowering Latinos has been evident in the Cleveland community. Her assistance towards the economic development of the Hispanic business community in Northeast Ohio has created a momentum that offers prosperity and opportunity to Latinos in the region. Her dedication and vision inspired the realization of the pilot program entitled the Hispanic Business Attraction and Retention Program. Since its start in 2006, the program has created a Hispanic Business Directory which includes approximately 325 listings. Also, the program produced a survey that identifies issues facing Latino businesses in the community and has established a Minority Business Loan Program that will assist all minority businesses within Cuyahoga County. Tracy is respected and admired in the Latino community. Through her genuine feelings for Latinos and desire to bring progress, she continuously makes us believe that together we can achieve great things.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio is a non-profit prevention based agency that serves the community by providing quality mentoring relationships to children and youth in need of a friend. The organization has a rich history of nurturing friendships between caring adult volunteers and promising children and youth. They impact the lives of approximately 3,000 children and youth in the Central Ohio area each year through its programs. For the past six years, BBBS has developed a Latino school based and traditional mentor program. Volunteers from different companies mentor over 100 students in the city's West side annually. Over 240 students have been through this program. In addition, for the past 6 years, money has been raised to provide over 409 Latino children and their families the opportunity to go camping at Camp Oty'Okwa. Due to these programs over 530 Hispanic/Latino mentoring relationships have been established. BBBS is helping our Latino community integrate and mentor our youth and the leaders of tomorrow.