

Elgin Hispanic Network's

MEMBER of the YEAR

23 February 2016

2015 Member of the Year...**Marcos Bostho**¹

How did it feel to win Individual Member of the Year?

I was so surprised! I had no idea. I've always liked helping people and doing good for the community...especially the Latino community. I've been here for 30 years but, as an immigrant, I know their struggles; for example, a new language, new culture, financial and locating resources. It's tough sometimes even for those born and raised here. Dealing with health issues are among the greatest struggles. I'm proud to say I'm a Christian and it has given me the strength to go on in life. I love to be around people and have always worked for the community. As a former cashier, I had lots of interactions with people and after years of ESL classes, Elgin Community College offered me a job as tutor which I did for 10 years. I interacted with many people, including immigrants, and just loved working with everyone and their families. I love connecting them with resources that help them get on with life. I don't look for rewards or payback. I do it from my heart and want to feel good at the end of the day.



What do you like best about EHN?

Networking and getting to know the resources that are out in the community. I like getting to know more people and the resources they have for referral purposes and to be helpful to others...especially clients.

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Open Door Health Center of Illinois, 1665 Larkin Ave, Elgin, IL 60123 • odhcil.org

What is Open Door clinic?

Open Door provides medical services for people living with HIV. They provide testing for HIV and sexually transmitted infections. The goal is to provide comprehensive services under one roof for those with HIV. We have case management, support groups, mental health services, primary care for HIV, etc. We serve as a patient-centered medical home to provide quality, comprehensive and cost-effective health care to our community and are striving to become the premier provider of sexual health and wellness.



How long have you been a member of EHN?

About 5 years.

What do you do at Open Door?

I provide outreach education and prevention. I reach out to the community and find high-risk individuals with HIV and connect them with HIV counselors. I've been doing this for 15 years. I help get them into services after diagnosis and link them to the medical services they need. My goal is to help get them tested, medical

services, required prescriptions, address behavioral issues and get them to the point where they are undetectable (i.e. lowest risk possible to pass virus).

What's life look like for Marcos in 2026?

Well, I'm back in college now finishing my A.A. in Liberal Arts. Afterwards, I will seek a Master's in Social Work. Before getting into this field, I had only a few goals. Now, I want more education which will mean more opportunities to better help others. I'm the oldest in my family and therefore, as head of household, I supported my mother and siblings by working. I just couldn't afford to go back to school and take further classes. I know my current educational goals will take time but I know I will achieve them. It'll open more doors. I know that whatever I do, it will involve helping people. Education is key.

Quick Pick! Session

Novela or Soap Opera? **Novela**
Play or musical? **Musical**
Theater or a movie? **Theater**
Hike or bike? **Bike**
Favorite...plane, train, or automobile? **Train**
Night out or evening in? **Night out**
TV or book? **Book**

RV or tent? **Tent**
Facebook or Twitter? **Facebook**
Free trip or money? **Money :)**
Lottery or perfect job? **Perfect job**
Swim in a pool or the ocean? **Pool (no sharks!)**
Travel by sailboat or cruise ship? **Cruise ship**
Watch sports or play sports? **Play**