

# THE ASPIRANTE

Official Newsletter of ASPIRA of Florida, Inc.

Broward Division

November/December 2008

## ASPIRA Broward Division ending the year strong...



**Miramar FL** Broward Aspirantes again demonstrated their penchant for exemplary leadership by garnering 6 of the 7 officer positions in the **ASPIRA Clubs Federation of Florida (ACFF)** elections. Congratulations ASPIRA Broward and the newly elected officers!

**Pembroke Pines, FL** The 13<sup>th</sup> annual ASPIRA Broward Family Thanksgiving Dinner took place Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008 sponsored by **Broward College**, South Campus. **ASPIRA** hosted 230 Aspirantes and their families who enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving dinner and a variety of delicious desserts. **Dr. Lourdes Oroza**, Provost, officially welcomed the families as she highlighted some of the Broward College programs and initiatives that support the educational needs of minority youth. She also announced plans to support the creation of the first **ASPIRA College Club** in Broward County at Broward College. Aspirantes were actively involved in the program and the entertainment. Aspirantes and parents were thankful to share such a special occasion among their love ones.



### ASPIRA STATE COLLEGE TOUR

December 5 – 6, 2008

**Eileen Cottrill**, ASPIRA Broward YLD Advisor, Tour Coordinator

The **ASPIRA Broward** Annual State College Tour weekend was both educationally stimulating and socially enjoyable. *Aspirantes* traveled by charter bus to the **New College of Florida**, an Honors College in Sarasota; the **University of South Florida**, in Tampa and rounded off the trip with a bit of recreation at **Busch Gardens** theme park. To say the trip was a huge success would be an understatement. The event was sponsored through our partnership with the **Jim Moran Foundation**. Thanks also to **Pamela Serrano**, **Costco** Membership and Marketing Manager, who helped us obtain lunch, snacks and drinks for our trip. With the support of **David Martinez**, ASPIRA Broward Program Manager, **Emma Petit** and **Metherlyn**

**Rondon** our enthusiastic YLD Advisors, and our parent chaperone and police officer, **Mr. Vega** the tour was a huge success. Our *Aspirantes* were amazingly attentive; many of them had researched the schools and had questions prepared to ask university representatives. New College of Florida representatives commented that our group had been the best they had all year. Several stated they were undecided about attending a university or between universities, but now they felt like they had a focus for the rest of their time in high



school; some even commented they wanted to attend the colleges we visited! “Many members commented it was the best weekend of their life” said Sandra Sanchez, Broward Division Director. Continuing in the spirit of our mantra, “Giving Back to The Community”, **Alysha Romero**, an Aspirante graduate of **Everglades HS**, former **ACFF Secretary** and current **USF Freshman**, led a tour around the USF campus, providing information about financial aid, campus activities and places of interest, including a visit into the dorms. Alysha put a real face to the dream our *Aspirantes* have of academic success. We were also fortunate to meet with **Norma Cano-Alvarez**, the representative from **Enlace** (a Hispanic student organization at USF) and three of the *Enlace* members. The *Enlace* group rounded off our trip to USF with an informal, on the lawn, information session. Ms. Cano-Alvarez reiterated the importance of community service, SATs and grades as well as other aspects of college life for our prospective university students. The *Enlace* student members represented different colleges within the USF and gave our *Aspirantes* a chance to ask specific questions on the university’s other programs.

### **Shining Into the Future**

**Eileen Cottrill**, ASPIRA Broward YLD Advisor

**Miramar Fl.** December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 marked the Annual ASPIRA Broward Shining Stars talent

show. The Miramar Civic Center was alight with the many stars that came out to share their gifts and partake in a spaghetti dinner, prepared by David Martinez – it was a night filled with numerous surprises! Lyrical rhymes, dancing (*oh the dancing!*) and inspiring “a cappella” singing were just part of the fantastic entertainment. It was a magical night had by all and a truly blessed note to kick off the holidays, ending our year here in Broward. Happy Holidays and prosperous New Year from ASPIRA Broward!

