



Recognizes
**Hispanic International
 Action Center**
*as a Special
 Recognition Award recipient*



Miriam Hernandez is the director of the center.

Opening Doors

It is difficult for those who grew up in this country to comprehend the plight of immigrants. Many come to this country not knowing how to access essential services or how to speak the language in order to ask for help. The Hispanic International Action Center opened last July to help ease the transition to the United States for Hispanics.

North Carolina has had the largest increase in the nation among its Hispanic population. Many of those newcomers choose to make their homes in Winston-Salem. The center is located on a floor of Central Terrace United Methodist Church on Devonshire Street.

Within the center's walls is access to a variety of services. English classes are taught there through a program spearheaded by Forsyth Technical Community College. Child care, legal and housing services are also available at the center.

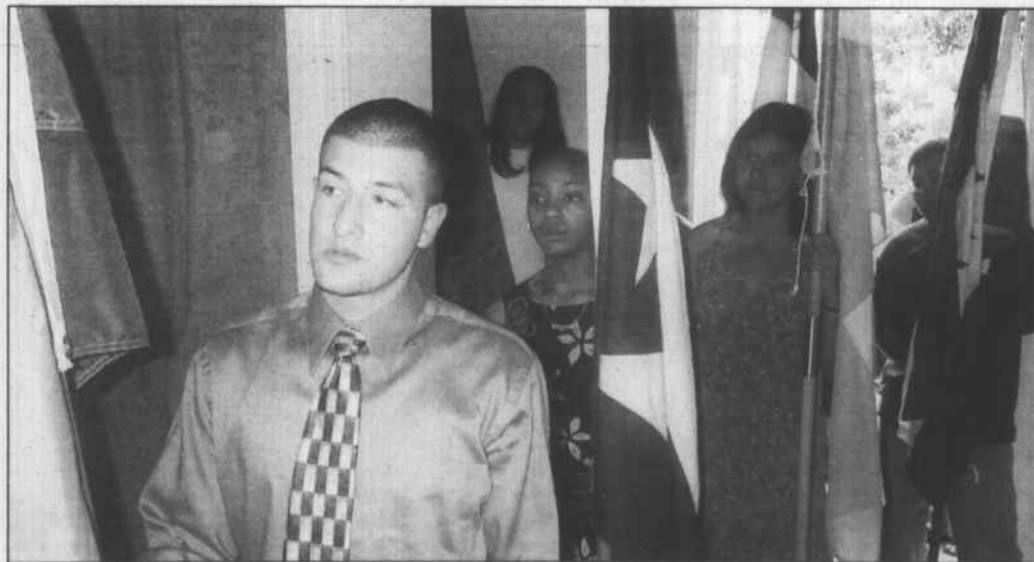
Novant Health and AIDS Care Services provide information on wellness and prevention to the many people who come to the center seeking services. Officials from the Forsyth County Public Health Department's WIC program are also on hand to help those who qualify for temporary help. A program to help parents become more involved in their children's education is offered at the center as well.

The Hispanic International Action Center is a wing of Neighbors in Ministry, a group of churches and individuals working to solve community problems. The center relies on donations to stay afloat. Although a small fee is requested for those who use the center's services, center officials never turn anyone away.

"Everyone who comes through that door will be served," Miriam Hernandez, the center's executive director, told *The Chronicle*.



Daisy Bartash runs an educational program at the center.



Students hold flags of Spanish-speaking nations during a ceremony last year to mark the opening of the Hispanic International Action Center.