

**LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY ADULT SCHOOL  
EL CIVICS DIRECTORY OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR**

Los Angeles Community Adult School sits in a densely populated area of the city where there are many non-profit agencies and local government departments available to assist people in need. During 2002-03 the school began its EL Civics program with just three EL Civics classes. Students in those three classes chose to study a civic objective focusing on accessing available community resources. Students visited local agencies and created their own Directory of Community Services highlighting services provided. As a culminating event, students organized a community resource fair attended by many of the agencies in the directory. All classes at the school were invited to attend, and each student received a copy of the new directory.

In the last three years agency listings in the directory have increased to 60. This year students suggested adding additional immigration and disability agencies. The fair has also grown. This year's fair showcased more than 55 community agencies, and more than 1,250 students and community members participated. Each year students assist with fair set-up, registration, a raffle table, and clean-up. They serve as agency greeters and translators. Students with jobs are encouraged to approach employers to donate products or services for a complimentary raffle. The fair has become an event in which the entire school and the general public participate, all driven by the EL Civics program.

There have been many success stories as a result of the directory and the fair:

- One EL Civics student used his directory to locate the phone number of the Streetlight Maintenance Division of the Los Angeles City Department of Water and Power. He called to report a broken, buzzing streetlight keeping his family awake at night. Two days later the city department sent a service truck to fix the light.
- A Korean EL Civics student used his directory to locate a low-cost Korean health clinic. At the clinic he learned he had a kidney stone that required surgery.
- Another student helped his aunt understand her tenant rights. She later called an agency listed in the directory for help.

Student voices illustrate the extent of increased community involvement as a result of the information they received in compiling the directory and assisting at the fair.

“I learned a lot of important information. Now, I am able to help anyone else. I share the information with my co-workers.”

“I found an agency which help me how to get my money from my boss. Because he did not give me my last paycheck.”

“I tell to my friends, and I put my directory next to my yellow pages near my phone.”

“I needed, and I used this book (directory) when my daughter wanted information about the L.A. City College, and we found the phone number in there.”

“I learn how the agency Community Counseling Service on page 11 has therapy services including house calls for family and children. This is new for me.”

“I called the American Cancer Society because my grandmother has cancer.”

One student summed up the powerful impact the directory has made on all students' lives:

“It's easier to find a solution to a problem. I know the people (in the directory and at the fair) are able to help me. I'm able to help my neighbors with any problem through the community resources.”