

## Celebrating 15 Years!



Since 2001, Intercambio has worked toward a future where communities unite across cultures through English education.

To date, **10,000** students have taken classes taught by **5,000** trained volunteers.

Thanks to your sustaining support, together we create a community where all people **communicate**, **connect**, and **succeed**!

## Eliminating education barriers in Longmont

For many parents, finding reliable childcare is a major challenge to their ability to complete their English education. In January, Intercambio's dream of offering on-site childcare came true.

The Longmont office now has **12 spaces available for childcare!** The first term was a huge success with nine children, and the second term is off to a great start with 12 children enrolled.

Intercambio is taking the opportunity to create a positive first experience of "school" for these young people.

Our childcare providers are charged with planning **fun**, **educational** and **structured** activities for children ranging in ages from infant to 4 years old. During one recent class, kids made butterflies out of recycled paper!



Parents have the opportunity to learn while their children are cared for in Longmont.

One student, Brenda, has noticed changes in her daughter since coming to childcare. "**She's learning a lot and speaking English at home!**" she said.

We believe that giving kids the opportunity to be present while their parents learn provides a **foundation for successful educational endeavors.**

# SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

## Intercambio receives national acknowledgment

The Commission on Adult Basic Education (COABE) is a national organization that inspires educators so that adults succeed and thrive. With 13,000 members nationwide, they provide a variety of services to provide leadership, communication, professional development, and advocacy for adult education.

This year, Intercambio's Executive Director Lee Shainis was nominated by community members for COABE's *Outstanding Administrator of the Year* award, and **was selected as the national Runner Up!**

COABE recognized Lee and Intercambio for outstanding work in fostering meaningful relationships between immigrants and receiving communities, and understanding the specific challenges facing immigrant learners to build a deep sense of community among all involved.

## Learning English to connect

Nancy Rivas has been attending Intercambio classes for nine years, and started in the first level.

Nancy fondly remembers her Level 1 class where she went to her neighbor's house, 1-year-old daughter in tow to learn with her teacher Mary Jane. Showing incredible perseverance, Nancy just finished Level 7.

Nancy recounts her **breakthrough moment**. She was standing at the bus stop, and someone came to ask her if she was waiting for the bus, and what time it would leave. "I understood, and I could speak," recalls Nancy with a smile. "I felt like, 'wow, I can hear!'"

**"You feel more a part of the country and culture when you understand the people," she explains.**

Now, she uses her abilities often. **"My girls are so proud of me because I don't need [a] translator when I go to [their school] conference."**

She also uses her language skills to give back, often translating for her extended family, and making announcements on the bus for other passengers.



*Nancy Rivas (above, with her two daughters) uses English to support her children in school and translate for community members.*

Nancy has graduated from Intercambio's six level curriculum. She is using her final term to focus on improving her reading and writing skills, as well as building vocabulary.

In the future, she hopes to earn her GED, which motivates her to continue classes to improve her English. "It's a challenge," she explains.

Nancy is proud of how her hard work to learn English has helped her accomplish her goals, and looks forward to the future!

## INTERCAMBIO BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016

Jane McConnell (Chair), Dan Thomas (Vice Chair), John Ricotta (Treasurer),  
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# WHAT'S GOING ON



Professional Samba performances, Caribbean infused tapas, and outrageous comedy done Puerto Rican-style. Don't miss this entertaining party to benefit Intercambio!

## Comedian Joey Vega's first love is performing live in front of an audience.

Whether it's a packed house at the famed Madison Square Garden, or opening on tour for Marc Anthony, Joey has so much fun on stage that you can't help but have a great time watching him.

Raised by Puerto Rican parents in New York, Joey's comedy is also motivational. "No matter who you are — Latino, Black, White, female, gay, disabled — you can go beyond all obstacles and become successful in America," says Vega.

**When:**  
Friday, April 29, 2016  
6-9pm

**Where:**  
The Avalon Ballroom  
in Boulder  
(6185 Arapahoe Ave.)

**Tickets:**  
\$75

**Purchase at:**  
[www.intercambio.org](http://www.intercambio.org)

Joey takes pride in doing comedy that is **engaging**, **culturally relevant**, and **funny**. People leave his shows not only laughing, but also feeling good about themselves and the future.

In addition to Vega's anticipated performance, *Comedy for Cambio's* tropical show will excite and inspire you, transporting you the beaches of Brazil. Live music and professional dance performances by the award-winning Samba Colorado will also highlight the evening!

As a guest at the "Copacabana" you'll enjoy opportunities to win gift cards for dinner at Mountain Sun or the Boulder Cork, or a luxurious spa treatment. The evening also features unique auction packages including a week in Hawaii and a taste of Provence in your home with Mateo's acclaimed Chef Matthew Jansen.

**See you on April 29th at the "Copacabana"!**



*Comedian Joey Vega has toured with Marc Anthony, written for Chris Rock, and worked with George Lopez. He will be featured at **Comedy for Cambio** on April 29th at The Avalon Ballroom.*

## THANK YOU TO THE 2016 COMEDY FOR CAMBIO SPONSORS:



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& MEDICAL SPA  
Helping the Most Beautiful You Emerge



**CENTRO**  
LATIN KITCHEN & REFRESHMENT PALACE







## Opportunities for volunteers to develop teaching skills

After completing teacher training, many volunteers ask how they can continue to develop their teaching skills.

Intercambio provides ongoing teacher training through **regularly scheduled workshops** covering topics such as *Culture*, *Preparing Your Student for the Citizenship Exam* and *Teaching Pronunciation*.

Recently, Intercambio added a **new webinar component** to training opportunities for teachers. This allows teachers to attend live online trainings from their homes, at a time that's convenient.

Topics such as the *Why It's Worth Repeating*, *Pronunciation Fun* (tips on teaching pronunciation using the the Color Vowel™ Chart) and *Strategies in Teaching and Student Engagement* have been offered, with more to come! Explore upcoming topics and register for upcoming webinars on our website.

We also offer opportunities for teachers to meet socially to build confidence in teaching, and community among volunteers.

Every third Tuesday we host coffee hour from 4:30-5:30pm at our Longmont office, and will soon begin to host coffee hour in Boulder. Stop by and chat with fellow teachers!

Check out our calendar at  
[www.intercambio.org/events](http://www.intercambio.org/events)  
to see what's coming up!

## BRIDGE COMMUNITIES AND GET INVOLVED!

### Events

#### Comedy for Cambio at the "Copacabana"

Details on page 3!

#### Attend a monthly intercultural event

See the schedule at [www.intercambio.org/events](http://www.intercambio.org/events)

### Visit Intercambio Online



[www.facebook.com/IntercambioUC](http://www.facebook.com/IntercambioUC)



[@intercambio01](https://twitter.com/intercambio01)



[www.intercambio.org](http://www.intercambio.org)

### Give Generously

#### Make a donation

Ask your workplace about matching donations, or donate online at [www.intercambio.org](http://www.intercambio.org).

#### Attend a class observation

See what a difference learning English can make. Contact [Leanne@intercambio.org](mailto:Leanne@intercambio.org) for more information.

#### Spread the word about our mission

Host a gathering where a representative can talk about Intercambio's impact or lead a Cultural Awareness Training.

### Save the Date!

**LA FIESTA – SEPTEMBER 10, 2016**  
**AT THE BOULDER COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**

Help us go green by signing up to receive our newsletter via e-mail.  
Send your e-mail address to Annie at [annie@intercambio.org](mailto:annie@intercambio.org).