## HISPANIC HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN NEW YORK INC.

P.O. BOX 361 BUFFALO, NY 14201

## El Día del Niño/El Día de los Libros



"El Dia del Niño" or "Day of the Child", a celebration that originated in Mexico and dates back to 1925, is celebrated each year on April 30<sup>th</sup>. It is now Observed in many Latin American and other countries around the world. El Día del Niño is much more than a discovery and event of the 30<sup>th</sup> of April. This day is about recognizing the importance of children in society and promoting their well being. Beginning in 1996, several grass roots organizations, libraries, and universities worked together to link El Día del Niño with language and literacy as a way of supporting the well being of children. On April 30, 1997 this idea came to fruition and the first "Día del Niño/Día de los Libros was observed.

The goals and founding principles of this observance extend throughout the year and call for a daily commitment to:

- o Recognize and honor the importance of children and childhood;
- Promote literacy and the importance of reading by linking children to books, languages, and culture in the home and at school;
- Honor home languages and cultures by promoting bilingual and multilingual literacy in this multicultural nation, and global understanding thru reading and art;
- o Influence parents to become involved in the education of their children;
- Encourage healthy eating habits for nourished bodies and healthy minds; and,
- Show our children the value of character, community, and good citizenship.

In acknowledgement of the cultural importance to this day, the Hispanic Heritage Council of WNY Inc., will partner with organizations, libraries, schools, educational institutions, and the community to host an annual event that will promote "El Dia del Nino/El Día de los Libros" or "Day of the Child/Day of Books" in our community in order to publically recognize the value that children bring to their families and the community.