



*Teens Uniting Orange County's  
Multicultural Communities*

---

1015 Tallyho Trail ▶ Chapel Hill, NC 27516 ▶ 919 967-7565 ▶ PO Box 192 ▶ Carrboro, NC 27510

DIRECTOR LETTER, AUTUMN 2003

Dear Readers:

Welcome to the first issue of Pa'Lante!

I find it difficult to believe that after months of work and a lot of fun, we've produced the magazine that you have in your hands.

We hope you like it. We want Pa'Lante Magazine, which will release quarterly, to be an entertaining guide for the Hispanic families who are creating community in Orange County, NC.

And with our bilingual Web site, [www.palanteprogram.org](http://www.palanteprogram.org), we hope to encourage a conversation between our community's English speakers and Spanish speakers. All letters to the editor will be translated and posted in both languages on the Web site, and we'll publish everything that fits in Spanish in the magazine.

By the way, did I mention that the magazine and Web site are produced by teens?

During the past year, five Colombian and Mexican teens – Virginia and Pablo Ramos, Miguel Valencia, Maria Constantino and Juliney Labrada – laid the groundwork for Pa'Lante. This summer, some 20 students in Chapel Hill High School and East Chapel Hill High School learned of Pa'Lante and decided to take the risk on a new venture.

Pa'Lante members developed many of the concepts for the articles in this issue: Anabel Lopez suggested the map of natural areas in the county that appears on pages 4 and 5; Camila Alvarado proposed an event at Paint the Earth, which is featured on Page 8. Half a dozen Mexicans replaced my lame ideas for the section on cultural traditions with a feature on the Day of the Dead.

The teens also sold ads. They approached many businesses, making a brave effort to raise money for a magazine which at the time didn't exist. They had to convince adult strangers who didn't speak their language. If you have any experience in sales, you know what guts that took.

Pa'Lanteros, I'm really proud of you!

Laura