

CONTRIBUTIONS PROVIDE NEW HOME FOR SPANISH CENTER

Valcourt Building Services proudly participated in the dedication of a new, state-of-the-art facility for the Spanish Education Development (SED) Center in Washington, D.C.—an organization that, for 36 years, has provided infant care, preschool for 3- to 5-year-olds, and adult continuing education classes. According to Derek Dabbs, VP and Regional Manager for the DC/Baltimore and Virginia Window Cleaning Branches, Valcourt has had thousands of Hispanic employees over the years. When approached by Boston Properties, which was leading the effort to develop this new venue, Valcourt saw a wonderful opportunity to give back to the Hispanic community. Valcourt undertook a highly successful employee fundraising campaign and then more than doubled the funds raised.

Ray Ritchey, Executive Vice President of Boston Properties, explains that a friend on the SED Center's board of directors had asked if he could find the center a new home. It had grown out of its original space, the building was rundown, and they were on a month-to-month rental because of future plans for the site. Boston Properties gladly took on the challenge because, says Ray, "No other segment of our society has contributed more to the real estate industry and received less than the Hispanic community." Boston Properties located an

art deco warehouse that, with renovations, would triple the center's capacity and give it an attractive, spacious new home.

Ray himself joined the board and eventually became chairman. He reached out to Boston Properties' service partners to assist with finances and services for the renovation. Valcourt, as an Angel Donor, not only contributed financial support but also committed to providing its services as they become needed in the future. Says Ray, "Valcourt appreciates the importance of continuing education in fostering good citizenship and a strong workforce. And it recognizes the major role Hispanics have played in our respective industries."

Although the Spanish Education Development Center is now in its new home, Ray notes that financial support and certain items are still needed. If you would like to help, contact Ray at rritchey@bostonproperties.com.



Ray Ritchey, Executive Vice President of Boston Properties, led the effort to develop a new home for the Spanish Education Development Center.



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