



## CENTRO DE LA COMUNIDAD UNIDA UNITED COMMUNITY CENTER

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### PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

#### For more information contact:

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## **Local Boxers Knock Out World Championship** ***United Community Center Boxers participate in Ringside World Championship***

**Milwaukee, Wis., (August 17, 2005)** Home to a world-class boxing program and Olympic Boxing coaches, the United Community Center is proud to bring home two world championship titles from the recent 2005 Ringside World Championship, the world's largest amateur boxing tournament. UCC Boxer, nine-year old John Luna fought his way to a championship belt in the 80lb division and Brittany Thorpe, 14, was named female heavyweight championship.

The United Community Center traveled to the event with 14 boxers from their celebrated Boxing Program. Boxing is just one of the UCC's after school programs that provides constructive and healthy activities to primarily Hispanic children of the neighborhood. The boxing program, which is coached by Israel "Shorty" Acosta, an ex-Olympic Athlete and Olympic Coach, practices seven days of week at a ring located on their south side campus. Throughout the year the program serves more than 200 student participants. UCC and parents help to support trips to local, regional and national competitions.

Held in the KCI Expo Center in Kansas City, Missouri in early August, the 2005 Ringside World championship included almost 1500 boxers from at least 11 different countries. UCC Champion John Luna and Brittany Thorpe were proud to represent UCC and bring home titles. Brittany has been with the program for two years, and John who has participated for three years is also an excellent academic student, a professional model, and loves to play soccer.

In May of 2005, UCC hosted the Junior Olympic State Boxing Championships in conjunction with USA Boxing. Two UCC boxers, Eric Cruz and Luis Feliciano took titles at this event.

The boxing program at UCC is widely supported by volunteer coaches. Without their assistance the program would not be able to continue.

#### ***United Community Center (UCC):***

The United Community Center (UCC) provides programs to Hispanics and near South side residents of all races and ages in education, cultural arts, recreation, community development and health and human services in an effort to help individuals achieve their potential by focusing on cultural heritage as a means of personal development.