

Town of Apex Hispanic History



HISPANIC MINISTRIES LAUNCH

One ministry that consistently serves the Hispanic community is Fiesta Cristiana. Started in 2008 during an exceptionally challenging economic time, Apex United Methodist Church (UMC) hired Pastor José Luis Villaseñor to serve the Hispanic/Latino community in Apex and the greater Triangle area. By 2010, the church was recognized as a “faith community” by the UMC of North Carolina and began weekly services in Spanish.

The faith community continued to gain support and resources to support the growing congregation and community. Fiesta Cristiana now has a Family Resource Center, which provides food, financial assistance, parenting classes, tutoring, and referral services to community members.



HISPANIC-OWNED BUSINESSES

Hispanic-owned small businesses in Apex include beauty salons, car repair shops, supermarkets, and restaurants. Tacos Mexico, the first Hispanic-owned business in Apex, which opened in the early 2000s, opened to fill a void in western Wake County with Mexican cuisine. Owner Antonio Romero started the business as a food truck to bring tacos and Mexican flavors and quickly grew it into the restaurant it is today at 209 E. Williams Street.

Compare Foods, which opened in 2013, also opened to fill a void for the Hispanic community. Originally offering mainly Mexican products, their inventory has grown to now include selections from Peru, Colombia, Brazil, Argentina, and more. Members of the Hispanic community are able to find foods and products that represent moments from the countries they feel connected to.

COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Based on the 2021 American Community Survey, 6% of the Apex population is Hispanic or Latino. Fifteen countries of origin are represented in the Apex community, including Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, and more with the largest populations originating in Mexico and Puerto Rico.



APEX LATINO ARTS FESTIVAL

The inaugural Apex Latino Arts Festival, held in 2010, aimed to highlight local Latino arts and culture and to promote opportunities for common understanding with the community. Each year, the Festival includes a food tasting culinary event, children’s arts and crafts workshops, traditional piñata breaking ceremonies, Latin American dance and music performances, and an arts and crafts bazaar.

The event is organized by a group of dedicated volunteers that work in conjunction with Fiesta Cristiana and the Town of Apex. This annual festival brings people together while affirming Hispanic/Latino arts and culture.

HISPANIC COMMUNITY TRADITIONS

The Hispanic community celebrates and cherishes traditions with family and fellow community members. One example of a beloved tradition is Las Posadas, hosted in December each year. Las Posadas, which is based on a Biblical story, commemorates the journey of Mary and Joseph in search of lodging for the birth of Jesus.

For more than 10 years, Iglesia Fiesta Cristiana has hosted this tradition and celebrates with food, piñatas, caroling, and a processional walk down Salem Street in downtown Apex. Each year, the event hosts nearly 200 people from different cultural backgrounds.

