

As Publisher of Natural Awakenings "healthy living" magazine, I wanted to share the great experience we had in working with Jorge Ochoa. We had asked Jorge to facilitate an Earth Day Community Drum Circle in Boerne, TX - our very first one ever, and without hesitation, and without having any idea what to expect - crowd-wise, he happily embraced the opportunity and said 'yes'. We were pleased too, that right from the start, Jorge made sure every detail was corrected addressed in a timely manner. This allowed me to sleep easy at night, knowing I did not have to worry about him NOT showing up, and it gave me confidence in his abilities to run a large Circle - something I did not have experience with.

When it came down to the actual event, Jorge exceeded our expectations. Watching the smiles and the sweet family bonding that was a direct result of the music and Jorge's positive energy, was most satisfying. Jorge has a unique ability to pull a crowd "into the moment". He also approached the crowd in a welcoming and professional way, with high energy and playful rhythms, which really got the group going! Both of us were surprised at our a large crowd - over 100 (and we were hoping for 50), and this extra large number did not seem to bother Jorge at all, or compromise the quality of the event in any way. He just went with it.

Everyone seemed to love Jorge --- He would move in and out towards the crowd in playful movements, making them laugh and smile. He was great will all ages, and in the end, the ultimate statement of the value of that day came a month later, when the Boerne Park District called and asked, *"Do you think Jorge would be willing to come back, and do that again for Boerne around Earth Day again next year? All the feedback we received was very positive. The families loved it!"*

In my opinion, Jorge Ochoa has mastered the craft of facilitating a Community Drum Circle, making it a fun, uplifting and healthy experience. Even as a spectator, it was rewarding to watch the crowd who seemed to let their cares and worries drift away, as a result of this community experience. Many came up to both Jorge and I at the end and profusely thanked us for this most special event. Their words of gratitude made me feel proud for Jorge, and the good work he had done!

LIVE WELL, LAUGH OFTEN, LOVE MUCH & HELP BE THE CHANGE!

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