

Handout 1.3

ASPIRA's Symbol



The “*Pitirre*” is the symbol of ASPIRA. A small tropical bird found in Puerto Rico, the “*Pitirre*” is known for its agility, rapid flight and for its ability to outsmart, exhaust and defeat much larger birds. Its English name is Gray Kingbird, Pitirre in Spanish or known by its scientific name as *Tyrannus dominicensis*. The Pitirre is a small native bird from coastal Georgia and Florida through the Caribbean Islands to southern Colombia and Venezuela.

A popular Puerto Rican expression is “Cada guaraguo tiene su Pitirre” meaning “Every red tail hawk has its Kingbird to pester it”. ASPIRA believes that the “*Pitirre*” is a fitting symbol for young Latinos. “Aspirantes” gain the confidence of the “*Pitirre*” by acquiring knowledge and developing their leadership skills. They can face and overcome seemingly overwhelming odds to become productive adults, returning to their communities the benefits of their skills and leadership abilities.

The symbol of the “*Pitirre*” reinforces ASPIRA's belief that even the smallest and seemingly powerless can take control of their lives and cause change.