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EMPOWERING YOUTH. STRENGTHENING FAMILIES. ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

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Happy Fall -

Start to harvest and a time to nourish your goals and dreams. We miss you. While virtual reality has proven to be an effective means of innovation and communication, it is no substitute for the humanity and the relationships we build inside of our building, our Centro.

In these most unusual times, we have sought out more intentionally than ever, our collaborations, to ensure our community thrives and our hopes remain intact.

- Esperanza, our WPP-funded partnership with the School of Education, Counseling Psychology was proud to celebrate the establishment of a graduate/professional Certificate in Bilingual Psychological Services through the UW School of Education, a vehicle for training and retaining in Dane County the next generation of Latinx therapists in this community.
- Journey Mental Health and Centro have officially established a memorandum of understanding for the provision of culturally responsive community substance abuse prevention and treatment services for the Latinx community. Our collective work will cultivate healing and harvest the resilience in our community.
- In collaboration with our community partners we continue to stand strong, available, and accessible to the housing, financial and mental health needs of our immigrant community during this pandemic, in particular our undocumented community. Together we will always advocate for our humanity, as citizens not based on a piece of paper but on right to land, shelter, and basic dignity and human rights.

Lastly, our youth team continues to grow...courageously believing in Juventud, Escalera, [Re]Generacion, and Avanzando as spaces where youth transitioning into young adults, can be their true selves, and dream and create their own reality, driven by their voice, despite the many obstacles and structures of oppression that often tell them they cannot.

During this time, we also reflect on our heritage and re-commit to decolonizing our past and dreaming of a future that consistently acknowledges the vibrancy and true history of our community. We are excited to engage with you in deep thought-provoking conversation during our annual Evening of Dreaming. Looking forward very much to having you join us.

I hope you'll take the time to consider how your connection with Centro and the immigrant community is seen in how you approach your day-to-day life. In what way are you impacting your sphere of influence? How can you deepen your knowledge, so that you too, can raise the voice of the immigrant community and our organization's work in your daily space? What doubts are holding you back?

We are so committed to ensuring Centro remains the strong, safe, and sustainable home for our community – because that is essential. But that is not enough. We need you. As we emerge from this pandemic, we ask that you join us and stand with us every day with courage, conviction, and a hope and desire for visibility and equity for all in Dane County.

Juntos adelante, Karen

MAKE AN IMPACT TODAY



*32nd
Annual Celebration*

We stand with **community.**

To protect our families, and to protect you, we have made the difficult decision to cancel our Annual Celebration Gala again this year.

But we cannot afford to cancel the valuable support the gala has provided to our families, especially now, when they need it most.

Will you stand with our families and make a gift to Centro in lieu of attending the event this year?

DONATE TODAY

The Tres Reyes Celebration is a long-standing tradition at Centro Hispano of Dane County. In early 2021, to protect the safety of our community we worked with volunteers to deliver toys to children's homes across Dane County in celebration of Tres Reyes.

Please consider helping us prepare for 2022 by donating new toys or gifts to Centro. You can join the celebration by having toys sent right to the Centro office. Visit our wishlist and support families today!

PURCHASE A TOY

YOUTH PROGRAMS



This year has definitely proven to be challenging for many as well as an opportunity to welcome creativity, innovation and a reminder that collective commUNITY/taking care of each other continues to be a high priority.

JUVENTUD | JUVENTURAS UPDATES

- We offered opportunities for community and connection in a hybrid model: Virtual clubs and in-person workshops, including shibori tie-dye, sushi and salsa making, music, anime/mangas, and poetry. More than twenty students participated.
- Students from all different areas from Dane County were able to connect and meet people that they typically wouldn't have interacted with.
- Parents were interested in their students spending time in community and we were able to do just that throughout the summer.
- Forming relationships with students who have been missing in-person connections over the past year.

ESCALERA | VIRTUAL ESCALERA INTERNSHIPS UPDATES

- 8 students completed the Escalera Summer Internship Program in partnership with the Wisconsin Center for Education Research (WCER), UW Health, American Family Insurance, Madison Gas & Electric and the Henry Villas Zoo
- Anahi Gallegos, coordinator at Sennett Middle School will now be leading our Escalera Program at La Follette High School
- We congratulate Yarillen Hernandez Shupe who has recently begun the Master of Social Work (MSW) Program at UW and will do her placement with families and youth at Centro
- We are all excited to be back in person this October! Supporting our kids in a hybrid model that is there for them more in-person while continuing to prioritize our health and well-being.

Congratulations



Cultura y Salud Celebration 20-21



AVANZANDO THROUGH COLLEGE UPDATES

- Avanzando started the summer celebrating the first cohort of 28 college students as they navigated the college experience this past academic year through a creative experience
- 19 students from the first cohort received their \$500 stipend for participating in Avanzando.
- Our plan this year is to invite more guest community guest speakers that focus in on our four focus themes
- Tabeing info sessions will be happening around the community to recruit students .

YOUTH EVALUATION PILOT LEAD BY ESPERANZA PROJECT & WCER 2020-2021

- In collaboration and guidance from the Esperanza grant and WCER, 3 youth who participated in Centro's Youth Programs led insightful presentations sharing all the learning and wisdom regarding COVID's impact in the community.
- All students participated in an evaluation training pilot and received a \$500 stipend for their participation in this first pilot project.

YOUTH PROGRAMS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – VOLUNTEERS

- The team welcomed Jackie's experience & talent as the first Youth Programs – Community Engagement Coordinator focusing her work on volunteer engagement.
- A volunteer application was created in collaboration with youth team peers' input. Consider applying to volunteer with us today through the new [application](#).
- An official "[youth volunteer opportunities](#)" tab was included under Centro's website "Get Involved" section.

WORKFORCE TEAM



SHOUT OUT TO MONICA CALDWELL FOR OBTAINING HER PEER SPECIALIST CERTIFICATE!

At her 2-year anniversary at Centro, Monica celebrates her achievements as a Caminos Progreso Specialist, and her personal growth. Monica is always striving to provide the best learning experience for Progreso participants. She graduated and received her Human Services certificate through Madison College, funded by a Wisconsin Fast Forward grant supporting a partnership between Centro and Dane County Human Services. This past year, she completed a statewide Peer Specialist Certification. Moni has led our Progreso training by example and continues to nourish a community of growth and learning. When we grow together, we thrive together.



CAMINOS COHORT 15- BRENDA'S SUCCESS

Brenda Martinez is a talented and bright professional, a role model for her 2 daughters and a dreamer. As a DACA recipient, Brenda has overcome many academic and professional barriers. After graduating from high school, she had her first daughter and decided to start working full time at a manufacturing company. She sought different job opportunities and her last job was a temporary Product Finishing Technician. After a couple months in that position, she decided to quit and start looking for a new and better professional opportunity.

She joined Caminos Finance and at week 4, she was already connecting with our partners at Summit Credit Union and scheduling her first mock interview. Before graduation, Brenda had already received a job offer from Summit as a Bilingual Call Center Representative with a starting wage of \$18/hr. We are excited to see Brenda continue fostering connections, and she's excited "to give back to the community."

Thank you to UW Credit Union, Dane County Credit Union, Summit Credit Union, Madison College, UnidosUS, and our newest program partner, Park Bank for supporting the dreams of our Caminos Finance graduates!

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