

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY - APRIL 2015



Gratitude and Celebrations!

As we close out 2014, we are grateful for the many contributions we have received this year. Our "Building on Success" campaign reached a major milestone of \$6 million. With an \$8 million goal, this is our largest fundraising effort in the history of UCC and every gift is treasured - a generous \$25,000 anonymous donation arrived the same day as an envelope containing a single dollar bill and four quarters. We know that every gift is shared with the trust that UCC will transform lives. It is with deep and sincere appreciation that we value your commitment to our work as we look to wrap up the \$8 million campaign in the coming year. I invite you to visit our website (www.unitedcc.org/BuildingOnSuccess.htm) to view our progress and recognize the many contributors to our cause.

In 2015, we celebrate our 45th year serving this community. However, none of that would be possible without the generosity of so many, including volunteers, corporate partners, and numerous other organizations who help us in our mission every day! It is with gratitude that we begin this new year of celebration for what we accomplished and dream of what else we can achieve together.

-Ricardo Diaz

Building on Success CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



EXPANDING  OUR SCHOOL
EXPANDING  OUR SUCCESS

UCC Students Create Original Music on John Lennon Bus

In March, the United Community Center was named as one of the NAMM Foundation's Best Communities for Music Education. Just over three hundred districts throughout the United States were given such a designation for their outstanding commitment to music education. However, UCC was one of just a handful that were chosen as destinations for the John Lennon Educational Tour Bus and Support Music Community Forum!

The John Lennon Bus arrived on Thursday, September 4th and occupied space in the Bruce-Guadalupe Community School's faculty parking lot. More than two hundred students and community members were given tours of the mobile recording studio and the opportunity to explore their creative sides by playing music on real instruments and collaborating with the bus' staff, who are studio engineers and producers.

The two-day residency included the SupportMusic Community Forum, which shined a light on UCC's music programming, featured special guests from throughout the area and was broadcast live via the Lennon Bus' website.

Six students from BGCS experienced the real magic of the John Lennon Tour Bus when they wrote and recorded an original song and produced a music video with the help of the Lennon Bus' staff. The video can be seen at:

www.unitedcc.org/Events/SupportMusicCommunityForum.htm

Congratulations to the students and staff that continue to make UCC one of the Best Communities for Music Education!



ART CONNECTS US- WAEA Conference Hosted by UCC



In October, the United Community Center proudly hosted the 2014 Wisconsin Art Education Association (WAEA) Conference, a statewide conference aimed at K-12 arts education professionals. This year's theme, "ART CONNECTS US," was inspired by the emphasis of art integration, artist collaboration, and ALMA (Advancing Literacy and Math through Art), a research program funded by the U.S. Department of Education featuring participants from the Bruce-Guadalupe Community School. With over 300 attendees, the UCC and BGCS campus welcomed educators and vendors from all over the state to participate in hands-on workshops and presentations, and to celebrate distinguished educators.

The Outdoors Brings Mothers and Daughters Closer

The Youth Empowered to Succeed III (YES3) program in conjunction with the Department of Physical Therapy at Marquette University, aims to empower youth to succeed academically, socially, mentally, and physically. One of the prime factors for a child's success is to have the support and involvement of their parents. With parental support, a child is more respectful, cooperative, and more likely to excel in school. Yet, it is increasingly difficult for parents and especially pre-teens to share quality time; this is why the YES3 program arranged a one-day retreat at Plymouth Rock campground for mothers and daughters to spend time together.



On a Saturday morning in September, mothers and daughters started their hikes separately. They were led through the wilderness by two experienced therapists (also a mother and daughter duo), but there was one caveat – no talking. Taking in the sounds and sights, they were asked to write about their experiences. During the hike, they imagined different scenarios they could encounter. For example, what would happen if they saw a bear? The two groups let their imaginations fly.

After reconvening at the campground, the mother/daughter pairs participated in group activities together, all revolving around the theme of communication. For some of the girls, it was the first time that they had seen their mothers' "fun side." The girls loved spending time alone with their moms.



After a stress-free day, everyone sat around the campfire in a circle. It was time for storytelling. Everyone took out their notes from the silent hike. They went through each scenario and shared what they imagined. The surprising part came when both mother and daughter shared similar ideas even though they were nowhere near each other when they wrote it!

Through sharing experiences during the hike, they were able to see how important it is to communicate with one another, while also understanding how much they share in common. At the end of the day, the retreat brought parents and children closer together just by sharing some time alone to get to know each other.



Students Share Art With First Stage's *Luchadora*

This spring, students from Bruce-Guadalupe Community School will play a special part in the upcoming First Stage production of *Luchadora*, an original play exploring a young girl's Mexican-American heritage as she discovers a pink wrestling mask of her grandmother's and plunges into the colorful world of lucha libre wrestling. Last fall, middle school art students met with First Stage set-designer, Sarah Hunt-Frank, and artistic director, Jeff Frank, to discuss the play and its themes of family, identity, masks, honor, journeys, and more. Later, as part of their class students produced original pieces of papel picado that will be incorporated into the set of the play.

As a thank you for a series of performance workshops last summer with the Latino Arts Strings Program (LASP) students that focused on stage presence and performance skills, the LASP will perform prior to one of the performances of the play and provide some consultation on the musical aspects of the production. Additionally, students of the Latino Arts Strings Program and their parents participated in a reading and talk-back about the play while it was being finalized last year, so this will be a great opportunity for them to see and appreciate the final product.

Luchadora, part of First Stage's Wisconsin Cycle series, creates work that reflects and helps us connect more deeply with our community. This experience has most definitely connected UCC, BGCS, and First Stage. According to Jeff Frank, "through this partnership, we have learned a great deal and made a lot of new friends and we look forward to these new connections continuing for years to come."



Help young professionals open doors; volunteer with



We are currently seeking volunteers to serve as Career Coaches to help at our Abriendo Puertas events to open doors for our current college students. Abriendo Puertas (Opening Doors) is a professional preparation and mentorship program for Hispanic/Minority college students in Milwaukee. It aims to expand the talent pool of young Hispanics/Minorities that are completing college degrees to become quality job candidates and enjoy successful careers!

Volunteers are needed for the below dates:

Thursday, February 12th & Thursday, April 9th
5:15 - 6:30 p.m.

Marquette University Alumni Union
 Contact dmatthews@unitedcc.org with questions
 or for more information.

Volunteers Give Back This Fall

Another year has come and gone, and the United Community Center would like to take time to reflect and thank all of the amazing volunteers that gave their time, energy, and efforts in making this past fall and holiday season a huge success. We had a very busy and remarkable season starting with United Way Season of Caring, during which we we hosted ten different projects with local companies including: Rockwell Automation, Northwestern Mutual, The Bon-Ton Stores, Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated, UPS, Rexnord Corp, and US Bank. With their support, we were able to take our seniors to the Milwaukee Public Museum, read fun books to our students, bring casino games to our senior center, provide a fun enrichment hour with board games for students after school, and provide career presentations to our middle school students. Thank you to all of these companies for a successful Season of Caring!

UCC also received special visits from students at Divine Savior Holy Angels High School, who spent time pampering seniors in our Adult Day Center on Spa Day as well as helping Latino Arts' Day of the Dead events. AXA Advisors also stopped by to share dance moves with elderly clients in our first Dancing with the Seniors competition. Northwestern Mutual Future Business Readers program has top secret plans for literacy. A handful of lucky third grade students from Bruce-Guadalupe Community School partnered with special mentors at Northwestern Mutual to make reading a bit more fun. Every Tuesday afterschool, BGCS students go to NML to read Encyclopedia Brown mystery books with their mentors. They become detectives, solving mystery cases by completing worksheets and discussing what they are reading and learning.

Wrapping up the year, we had dozens of volunteers come together by sharing not only their spirit but their generosity this holiday season. Johnson Controls shared their spirit by baking cookies and creating holiday cards with our Senior Center clients. Brady Corporation helped make residential

treatment homes warm and festive. Oconomowoc High School brought Santa and his elves to read and distribute gifts to students of Bruce-Guadalupe Community School. Gifts were also donated by Wauwatosa East High School, St. Mary's Parish, and many more!

A new year, a new resolution...become a tutor and help Bruce-Guadalupe Community School students with homework after school. We need your help Monday through Thursday, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, please visit our website at www.unitedcc.org or call Joanna Rivas at 414-384-3100. Muchas Gracias, a warm and heartfelt thanks to all of you who have contributed this past season. We look forward to seeing your friendly faces again this spring!



Thank you to all volunteers who have made a huge impact by donating their time and energy to UCC programs.



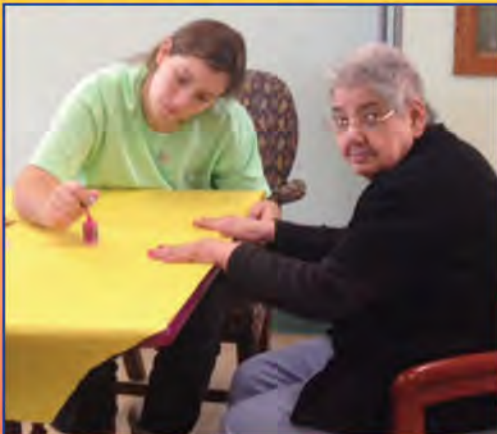
United Way Season of Caring ends with Rockwell Automation volunteers helping out BGCS K5 students in a fun holiday craft.



US Bank volunteers read spooky Halloween books to 1st grade BGCS students during United Way Season of Caring.



AXA Advisors had a blast showing off their moves in a dance competition with our Senior Center clients.



Divine Savior Holy Angels High School Freshmen brought their helping hands and happy hearts to pamper our elderly clients at the Adult Day Center Spa Day.



Brady Corporation shares their holiday spirit by baking cookies and decorating residential homes.



Volunteers from Johnson Controls decorated holiday cookies with UCC seniors and spread holiday cheer when they delivered the treats to residents of Olga Village and the UCC US Bank Village.



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LATINO inc. 2015 Spring Preview

THE SECOND ANNUAL GUITAR FESTIVAL

Saturday, January 31 & Friday, February 6

in the Latino Arts Auditorium



VISIONS TAKING FLIGHT by Vivian Vivas

Opening Reception: Friday, March 13th at 5:00 p.m.

in the Latino Arts Gallery
On display through June 2015



GRUPO REBOLÚ

Friday, March 13th at 7:30 p.m.

in the Latino Arts Auditorium



Visit our website: www.latinoartsinc.org

Play, Enjoy, and Appreciate Guitar With Latino Arts Guitar Festival

The Latino Arts Strings Program is delighted to invite youth from 8 to 18 years old to compete in the second annual Latino Arts Strings Program (LASP) Classical Guitar Youth Competition on Saturday, January 31st. A panel of internationally recognized guitarists will judge each individual competitor based on technique, musicality, phrasing, and rhythm. All participants who enter the competition will have access to all aspects of the competition, entrance into the Festival Concert on February 6th at 7:30 p.m., and a Master Class with renowned guest artists on February 7th at 10:00 am. Winners of each division will be featured in the Festival Concert on February 6th and will receive a special prize plus diploma.

The 2nd Annual GUITAR FESTIVAL
PRESENTED BY THE LATINO ARTS STRINGS PROGRAM
Competition: January 31
Concert: February 6
www.latinoartsinc.org

For more information go to <http://youthguitarcompetition.mivoz.com/>

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UCC Human Services to Make Big Impact With New \$3 Million Grants

The United Community Center was recently awarded two grants, totaling \$3,572,000 over four years from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). In December, UCC Human Services Department began programming through Minority Health Initiatives which is part of a federal program to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on American communities.

The first grant, which targets pregnant and postpartum women, will serve low-income mothers and their children. To ensure a healthy child, it is essential for the mother to be healthy. These families will benefit from substance abuse treatment as well as prenatal and pediatric care.

The second grant, part of the HIV Minority AIDS Initiative, will treat medical, mental health, and substance abuse issues for patients with HIV/AIDS - giving a patient the opportunity to lead a healthier, better life. Data shows HIV affects minorities the most in the City of Milwaukee and many of those affected by HIV also have mental health disorders. Not only will this program integrate substance abuse, mental health, and medical care, but it will also help educate clients about HIV and prevent HIV in the community.

Each of these projects will be implemented in collaboration with Sixteenth Street Community Health Center. UCC is so grateful for this chance to influence the lives of our neighbors in need while continuing to enhance our Human Services treatment programs.

