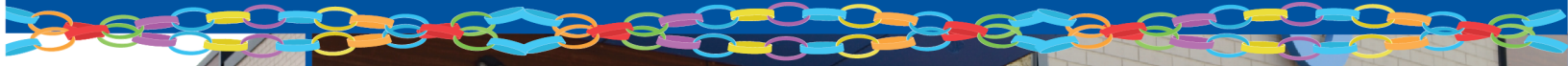




CENTRO DE LA COMUNIDAD UNIDA / UNITED COMMUNITY CENTER

UCC Newsletter

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2021



We welcomed many special guests to our Grand Opening of Ricardo Diaz Early Learning Academy in early June.

At UCC Every Day is A Chance to Make a Difference

The activity across UCC's lively campus inspires me daily. On any given day, you will find neighbors learning from one another, having fun together, and creating better lives for their families.

For example, on Thursday night, you'll find a group of potential homeowners participating in homebuyer counseling sessions to achieve their dream of homeownership.

Stop by the Adult Day Center any weekday morning, and you'll see elderly living with dementia disorders finding fulfillment in arts, crafts, and other activities in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Every day, there are hardworking individuals working to defeat addiction to drugs and alcohol through therapy and medical care in UCC's Human Services program.

In this edition of UCC's newsletter, we wanted to do something a little different and introduce you to a

"Day in the Life" of these and other UCC programs. While we are most known for our education programs, the campus is buzzing all year long serving children ages six weeks to adults 103 years old.

I hope this newsletter leaves you inspired about the work happening at UCC. This work is only possible due to the commitment of our donors, Board of Directors, neighbors, partners, and other advocates. Thank you for your support.

In gratitude,

Laura E. Gutierrez
Laura Gutierrez

P.S. The newest addition to UCC – the Ricardo Diaz Early Learning Academy – is open and serving children ages six weeks to four years old! While we continue to raise the final \$1 million in our fundraising campaign for this project, we are already serving children in this state-of-of-the-art center in the 53215-zip code!

UCC Adult Day Center - Festive and Fun For All Ages

UCC Adult Day Center (ADC) is a fun and festive environment for elderly to live life to the fullest no matter their age! Clients arrive at the center between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. and are welcomed with festive music to set the tone for a positive and fun day. Soraya Cazco, Program Administrator at the ADC, is the first person the clients greet in the morning and she describes the ADC as a united family full of love and trust.

At the ADC, elderly with cognitive impairments such as Alzheimer's and other dementia, elderly with caregiver needs, and those with physical impairments are welcomed with open arms. The families of clients entrust the staff with their loved ones as they continue to work to sustain their families.



On a typical day, Soraya is at the center bright and early taking calls regarding client attendance and transportation. She loves welcoming each client with a big smile and cracks a joke with them while going through the center's COVID-19 entrance procedure.

The center was closed due to the pandemic, yet, this

February, the ADC opened up once more with an average attendance of 25 clients per day. Each day the clients have a social hour in the morning and are encouraged to converse with others. They partake in activities such as making mosaic-like compositions with tissue paper and playing dominos with other clients. They sometime even have impromptu karaoke as clients love to belt out their favorite songs.

The staff truly cares for all of the clients and will go to all ends to ensure they are happy. The small acts of preparing coffee just like a client would at home or painting a client's nails or ensuring a client is comfortable throughout the day impacts the clients tremendously. So much so that on the weekends, clients want to come to the ADC! At the end of the day, Soraya describes her job as "being human to other humans" and is very proud to be working at the ADC because she is given the opportunity to take care of those who worked so hard before her.



Days at the Early Learning Academy Are Filled with Learning and Discovery

Days start early at the Ricardo Diaz Early Learning Academy. To ensure parents can be on time to work, some students arrive as early as 6:30 a.m.! While staff prepare classrooms for the day, families are welcomed at the entrance with a smile. Students ages six-weeks to 4-years are brought to their mixed-aged classroom where they are greeted by name with excitement and a hug. Mixed-age classrooms allow students to grow and build a relationship with their teacher and build trust with the family from the time they enroll until age 4.

The school day starts with breakfast. UCC provides three nutritious meals each day. Meals are served family style where teachers and students sit and eat together, help one another, talk about the food and their day.

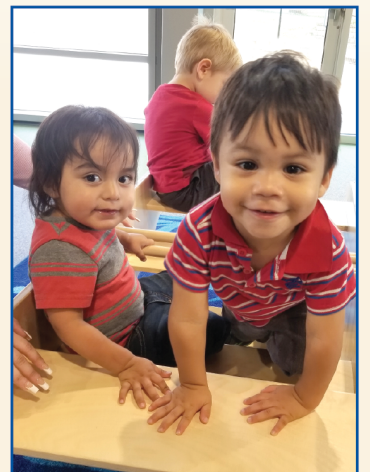
After breakfast, students have 'Shared Play' where all ages of children participate in activities ranging from art and sensory experiences to developing gross motor skills to reading. As students master new skills, teachers document their achievements on iPads. A visit from the music instructor is a welcomed classroom guest with fun songs, instruments, and dancing. To get some energy out before lunch, students visit the indoor or outdoor playground to run and play.

Full after a tasty lunch and tired after a busy morning of learning, the afternoon begins with rest time. As students rest, teachers utilize this quiet time to prepare play and learning plans for each student. By setting individual goals, teachers can see how each student is progressing as they grow to become kindergarten-ready.

As students wake, it is time for a snack before going back to exploring the various centers throughout the classroom including art, sensory bins, dramatic play, math, reading and more!

Parents begin to arrive at 3 p.m. and teachers say goodbye to each child with a hug or high-five. A Daily Experience sheet is provided to the parent to share student progress and what their child did that day.

As classrooms empty and the hallways quiet, teachers sanitize and prepare for the next day of learning and discovery.



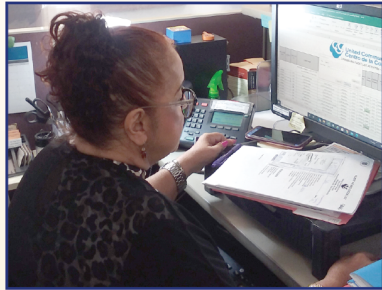
Helping One Family at a Time Find Their Forever Home!

UCC's Neighborhood Development Initiative is a program designed to increase neighborhood stability and helping community members achieve the American dream of owning their own home.

Every day, our Neighborhood Development staff are ready for appointments by 8 a.m. with visits to the office. Upon arrival potential homebuyers, will be greeted by our Neighborhood Development Assistant who will introduce you to one of two counselors. During the appointments the counselor reviews credit history and the walks the client through the financial purchasing process.

Counselors help with a variety of challenges that a homebuyer might encounter such as helping to improve your credit history. All clients all attend a two part homebuyer seminar that occurs in the evenings on Thursdays where participants will learn step by step measures to successfully owning a home. There will also be instruction on housing rehabilitation and home repairs. Seminars will be available in both English and Spanish. All participants attending the homebuyer seminars receive a certificate to be approved by a bank in order to purchase a home.

On any given day our team is working on credit history, loan applications, house viewings, offer letters, and closings. It is always a full day filled with challenges but the satisfaction of helping another family find stability and pride in their own home. Since 2004, the team has helped to close more than 1,762 homes – and helped to stabilize the neighborhood surrounding the United Community Center.



If you are interested in purchasing a home, please call Fernando Campos or Lilia Sotelo at (414) 384-3100, ext. 4720.



The Senior Center – An Opportunity For Life Long Learning

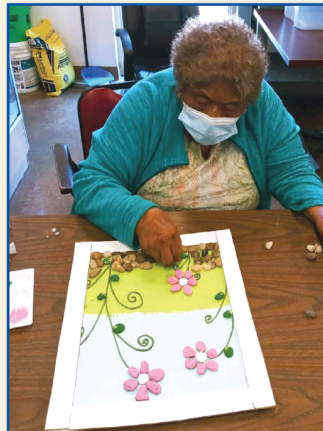
It is an exciting time for the UCC Senior Center! After closing its doors for 16 months, due to the pandemic we welcomed back members to in-person programming on June 28th and the community could not be happier! Our Senior Center is a safe and culturally sensitive environment for older Latino adults to gather with friends and enjoy recreational, educational, and wellness activities.



Since resuming in-person activities, attendance is increasing daily! Arrival time to the center begins at 7:30 a.m. and transportation is available for individuals who need a ride. The day begins with morning coffee, followed by the Rosary. According to UCC Elderly Programs Manager, Ana Castaneda, favorite activities include dominos and pool. Weekly highlights are Bingo and Lotería with prizes!

Another highlight is the reintroduction of the meal program. Lunch is a special part of the day for our seniors - a time to gather as a community and socialize with friends. Although meals look a little different, (no live music), lunch provides a warm, nutritious meal on a daily basis. While there are some challenges to operating during a pandemic, our seniors are making the most of their time at the center. "As a culture, we like to dance, embrace, share recipes...and that isn't happening right now. However, masking up and keeping a comfortable distance are actions that our seniors are more than happy to take if it means they can continue to gather." says Ana

Looking ahead, the center is planning many new activities, including re-opening the sewing room and starting a beginner sewing class for those who are new to the skill. Ana firmly believes in the importance of "learning at every age" and is incorporating that motto into future programming. A matinee movie series, extending programming into late afternoon, and reintroducing live music are just some of the goals the Senior Center hopes to achieve moving forward. Interested in learning more about the Senior Center or enrolling in the program? We'd love to hear from you! Contact Ana Castaneda at (414) 649-2837.





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NOCHE DE GALA

September 25, 6:00 p.m.

Join Latino Arts & Support
 Culture and Arts Education!

Featuring:

- Live music from S'amble Latino
- Latino Arts Strings Program & Mariachi Juvenil
- Fabulous auction & raffle prizes
- Tapas and sangría from Cafe el Sol
- Artwork of Mauricio Ramirez

Other Highlights:

- Tequila tasting for purchase
- Salsa dancing & class
- Live auction
- Helping a great cause!

Reserve your table
 & purchase tickets!



*To learn more about
 sponsorship opportunities,
 visit www.latinartsinc.org



Human Services Clinic Ready to Help with Any Challenge

At 7 a.m. every weekday, the caring staff of UCC's Human Services clinic arrive for their day and check their electronic health records to review the day's appointments. Days vary for each staff member, but at the core, every part of the day is centered around the individual clients served. These therapists, counselors, recovery support coordinators, and administrative staff are passionate about helping those in recovery from substance use disorders.

The Human Services team is a tight-knit family that supports each other, celebrates client successes, and brainstorms solutions to challenges. Shares one staff person, "Each day, get to come in and help others. Seeing the patients progress and grow is so rewarding."

At 8 a.m., clients begin to arrive for their appointments. The front desk team, with their stellar organizational skills, greets the client with a smile and gets the client checked-in while completing any paperwork they may need. Appointment types vary at the clinic and fall into one of these categories:

- Individual Counseling Sessions
- Group Counseling
- Family Counseling Sessions
- Randomized Drug Screens



Monthly, clients also come to the clinic for full team meetings. At these sessions, the entire team working on behalf of a client comes together to discuss progress made and any resources the client may need. The team may consist of the client's attorney, UCC case manager, a probation officer, a child welfare officer, a UCC peer specialist and/or a recovery support coordinator.

UCC staff at the clinic have to be adaptable in this fast-paced environment. For example, a recovery coordinator may end up driving an expectant mother to a doctor's appointment she doesn't have transportation to. Therapists may need to spend extra time with a client in crisis.

By 4 or 5 p.m., after a busy but rewarding day, UCC staff re-connect with one-another and get ready for what the next day will bring!



You are part of this.