

LATINO arts inc. Upcoming Events

BEMBÉ DRUM AND DANCE

Friday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m.
In the Latino Arts Auditorium
Bembé Drum and Dance's youth performance ensemble, along with professional dancers and musicians from Milwaukee's Latino music scene, presents their Carnival show, inviting the community to join them on a historical, cultural and rhythmic voyage throughout Brazil, Cuba and Puerto Rico's Carnival celebrations.

EXPANSIVE THREADS

BY EDRA SOTO
Friday, March 23, 5:00 p.m.
In the Latino Arts Auditorium
This exhibition features a group of contemporary Latina American artists who incorporate the language of fiber arts into their practice. Through materials and concepts, the formal models denoted as fiber arts are being challenged by incorporating non-traditional materials, forms of display, or discourses.

BETSAYDA MACHADO Y LA PARRANDA EL CLAVO

Friday, March 23 at 7:30 p.m.
In the Latino Arts Auditorium
Betsayda Machado is the voice of Venezuela. Raised in the small village of El Clavo, her recent rural recordings with lifelong friends, Parranda El Clavo, brought new attention to Venezuelan Afro-Soul genre: "Tambor." Now the parranderos are leaving El Clavo for the first time, embarking on an international tour!

To learn how you can help, visit www.latinoartsinc.org/SupportUs.htm

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UCC Chess Club Excels in First Year

Last fall, while supervising the Acosta After School Enrichment Program, UCC Acosta Middle School (AMS) staff member, Peter Bolger, noticed many kids were not using their time well, and he wanted to find an activity that was both entertaining and intellectually stimulating. He knew the answer - chess. Bolger was familiar with research that proved the many benefits of playing chess. Children who play chess demonstrate improvement in concentration, planning, and strategic thinking.

After scouring local Goodwill stores for chess sets, he brought several to school, and a couple of kids took interest. Soon, a small group was playing chess every day. As the fall progressed, the idea of starting a chess club as an after school activity was born. Bruce-Guadalupe Middle School (BGMS) teacher Lazaro Edwards joined and the UCC Chess Club was formed and made available to middle school kids from BGMS and AMS.

Weekly meetings began in January 2017 with 25 students. Two months later, the group competed in their first tournament at St. Monica's School in Whitefish Bay and won a 1st place trophy! A week later at the State Championship at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the 8th grade team took 3rd place.

This year, the club has grown to 40 students who practice once a week and on occasional Saturdays at the Zablocki library. On November 11, 2017, the UCC Chess Club (in conjunction with the Wisconsin Scholastic Chess Federation) hosted a scholastic chess tournament for the first time.



While it was a lot of work, assistant coaches, parents, teachers, and administrators came together to make the tournament a huge success.

At UCC, teachers are taking notice of the benefits of chess. Meredith Mitchell, 7th grade English teacher at AMS, said, "Thanks to the chess club, I have seen a significant improvement in students' stamina for deep thought. After a year of chess club, all members improved their reading scores by exceeding the state average. One student even moved from the 33rd to the 94th percentile in reading when compared to all Wisconsin 6th graders. Chess club members are truly role models in the classroom. Their enthusiasm for challenging work has had a significant positive impact on our entire school."



Creating and Seizing New Opportunities

As we begin a new year, we continue to focus on ensuring we take advantage of every opportunity possible. In this newsletter you will read about many new opportunities – the opportunity to serve more clients in our Human Services Program, the opportunity for kids to learn and excel at chess, the opportunity to serve the youngest members of the family in our new daycare center, the opportunity to build a new school focused on science and technology, and the many opportunities that volunteers, donors, and partners have shared with us!

We are fortunate that so many community members are part of our mission and are willing to support it. We are still seeking funders to help us complete our campaign to build the UCC Acosta Middle School. With generous support from so many, we have reached \$5 million but still need to raise an additional \$2 million for this project. Thank you to those who have helped thus far, and we welcome more to learn about our work and join us as we give students and families the opportunity to change their lives!

Ricardo Diaz
-Ricardo Diaz

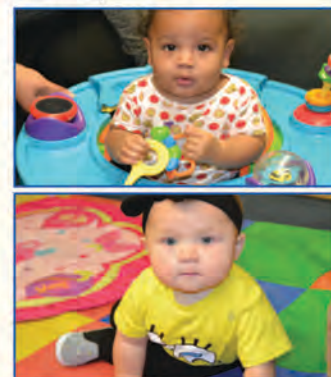
UCC Childcare & Development Center Gives Children Strong Start



Through the acquisition of Day Care Services, Inc. at 2210 W. Becher Street, UCC officially opened the **UCC Childcare and Development Center** on October 1, 2017. This center serves children ages birth to 4 years old, and provides afterschool and summer care for older children up to age 12. Since UCC began operating the center, the enrollment has gone from 17 children to 45, and more families and children join every day with an enrollment goal of 75-100 next year. This new venture is part of UCC's mission to ensure every child is being cared for in a quality environment which provides them with the skills and foundation necessary to be school ready.

Focus has been placed on training staff as well as upgrading the facility with a complete facelift. In the future, new furnishings and toys will ensure children have all of the amenities to provide the best care possible. The center accepts clients who are part of the Wisconsin Shares program as well as private pay clients, and serves the entire family with bilingual certified staff.

More details and enrollment information is available at: www.unitedcc.org or by calling (414) 645-7001



Breaking Ground on New Opportunities for Students – UCC Acosta Middle School

This past October, UCC officially broke ground on the new **UCC Acosta Middle School (AMS)**. The event included a short program with some special guest speakers including WI Secretary of Workforce Development, Ray Allen, President of Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce (MMAC), Tim Sheehy, and District 12 Alderman, Jose G. Perez.

The new AMS building, set to open in the fall of 2018 and enroll 250 students by 2021, features unique spaces that allow for flexible, creative learning. These features include labs, woodshop stations, a technology center and a space for students to learn about rain gardening. The school will also be a "WaterMarks" site. WaterMarks, in conjunction with the Marquette University Haggerty Museum of Art, is a unique new initiative that invites Milwaukee residents to better understand the water systems that support their lives. AMS will be home to one of the WaterMarks "Vertical Markers," an aluminum pole with a corresponding illuminated red character at the top that highlights specific curriculum or programming around the Milwaukee Water Story.

A few of the components of the new school's curriculum include:



computer coding, programming and pre-engineering classes, an emphasis on trades like carpentry and electrical, and project based learning and genius hour, which allows students to learn about topics that interest them. Currently the 116 students in the temporary AMS facility are exploring many of these areas.

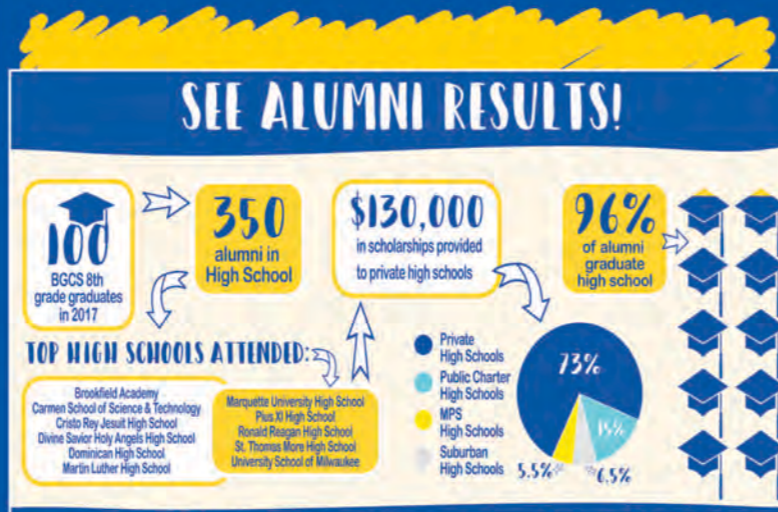
These alternative topics and methods of instruction will prepare students to address the gap in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) workforce. Currently, Latinos make up about 15% of the US workforce but only 7% of all STEM professionals; they remain among the most underrepresented minorities in the fields of science and technology. By providing students with a solid foundation in technology and skilled-trades starting at the middle school level, UCC hopes to bridge this gap and fulfill business' needs for more trained professionals in these fields.

Friends of UCC Learn How to "Box Like a Pro" from Israel Acosta!



This fall, friends of UCC jumped in the ring with Olympic boxing coach and UCC pioneer, Israel "Shorty" Acosta. Just as a normal boxing training session starts, all of our new "trainees" had their hands professionally taped and were fitted with boxing gloves. Then Shorty and the boxing staff led the group in an intense circuit training and boot camp session. Later, Angel Villarreal, UCC Assistant Boxing Coach, coordinated a sparring demonstration with a few of the club's top boxers. To conclude the event, Shorty handed out medals to each participant to reward them for their hard work.

Thank you to Shorty and the boxing team for coaching our guests through a fun-filled training! Keep your eyes peeled for more exclusive events like this one!



OUR ALUMNI AFTER HIGH SCHOOL...



Volunteers Get in the Spirit of Giving

As we welcome the New Year and look forward to the spring, the United Community Center would like to reflect on the generosity of all of the outstanding volunteers who donated their time, energy, and efforts to make this past fall and holiday season a success. With your help and support, we accomplished more than 20 projects for our students, seniors, and community.

UCC received special visits from local high schools and organizations who were eager to give back to their community. Students at Divine Savior Holy Angels High School (DSHA) spent time pampering seniors in our Adult Day Center for an annual Spa Day as well as helping sell merchandise and tickets for Latino Arts' Day of the Dead events. St. Thomas More High School volunteers set a great example for our preschool students as they assisted them with reading, writing, math, and other learning activities. Our seniors enjoyed a fun and competitive Bingo Tournament with friends from University School of Milwaukee. Thanks to organizations like United Way, The Bon-Ton Stores, Inc., Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc., PNC, US Bank, Milwaukee Area Technical

College and so many others, we were able to provide literacy events to our younger students, create festive holiday crafts, and even take our seniors on an adventurous field trip to the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Wrapping up the year, we had dozens of volunteers come together by sharing not only their spirit but their generosity this holiday season. Marquette University Police Department spent time reading holiday stories with our preschool students. Local companies such as Rockwell Automation, Derse, Cintas, and the City of Milwaukee worked hard to provide more than 150 gifts to our seniors, ensuring that they had a very special and memorable holiday. Gifts were also donated by Wauwatosa East High School, St. Mary's Parish, Hispanic Professionals of Greater Milwaukee, and many more!

¡Muchas Gracias! A warm and heartfelt thank you goes out to all of the volunteers who have made and continue to make a huge impact by supporting UCC clients and programs!



US Bank takes UCC seniors on a fun adventure to the Milwaukee Public Museum



Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc. Lives United by reading to our first grade students during the United Way Season of Caring



DSHA volunteers enjoy the Latino Arts Day of the Dead exhibit before helping the seniors with a spa day.

Save The Date

Please join us for these upcoming events:

• **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018**
4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

All volunteers are invited to attend our **Annual Volunteer Celebration**

• **FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2018**
8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Help our students explore different career paths during the **Middle School Career Day**

More information online at <http://www.unitedcc.org/HowYouCanHelp/BecomeaVolunteer.htm>

Human Services Department Awarded SAMHSA Grant

UCC's Human Services Department recently received a new federal grant from the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). This \$2.5 million five-year grant will integrate HIV medical care into the behavioral health program. In order to be considered for this grant, UCC implemented a pilot program last year titled, Vida, Salud, Esperanza (VSE), which aimed to provide clients with both behavioral health disorder prevention and HIV medical care services, in an integrated and coordinated fashion.

In 2016, the Human Services Department served 718 clients, provided 360 individuals with HIV tests, and aided 77 families of pregnant and post-partum women. Of the 12 babies born to women who were in residential treatment, 100% were born free of illegal substances. With this new grant, UCC looks forward to serving more clients in Milwaukee County and making an even bigger impact on the health of the community!