

Growth and Opportunity



As many now know, the Latino community accounts for all of the net population growth in the City of Milwaukee since 2000. This strong and growing community is made of individual lives and families, which presents numerous opportunities but is not without challenges. In order for our community to contribute to the economy, we will have to address these challenges and provide a pathway to success.

Last year, the United Community Center embarked on the silent phase of an \$8 million fundraising campaign to grow our agency to address this thriving population's needs. I'm happy to announce that with broad support from community partners, we have already reached the half-way point and raised \$4 million! As you will read in this newsletter, some of the key program growth in this campaign include:

SCHOOL GROWTH: Increase by 200 students in the coming years as we continue with enrollment for Acosta Middle School, relocate the facility, and complete the growth of Bruce-Guadalupe Community School.

FAMILY CARE GROWTH: Since 2015 we have increased our family care program by over 65% and almost doubled our staff. We are currently at capacity for space to house this program. We anticipate serving more than 800 clients in the coming years, so we will be relocating this program to our building on 6th and Washington.

HUMAN SERVICES AND WOMEN'S RESIDENTIAL GROWTH: This year we added a second women's residential facility, which doubles the number of women we treat in this program and increases the substance abuse treatment services by 50%.

NEW COLLABORATIVE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS: Recently, we have engaged in a series of ventures with area universities and businesses to train and prepare Latino students to enter career fields that lack ethnic minorities such as nursing, health sciences, and engineering.

The growth of these programs not only impacts the individuals we serve but also their families and the whole community. This provides stability to the neighborhood, facilitates economic and workforce development, and most importantly, provides a bridge to the American Dream and further opportunity for each new life, each family, and our community.

I look forward to sharing highlights and further developments of this campaign with you throughout the next two years.

Sincerely,
Ricardo Diaz
Ricardo Diaz



**United Community Center
Celebrates 47 Years**

¡Muchas Gracias!
to all sponsors including these premier and gold sponsors

PREMIER SPONSORS
Aurora Health Care®

MillerCoors™

GOLD SPONSORS
BAIRD Children's Community Health Plan vjs CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

**Serving our Seniors:
Helping them Age in Place**

The Elderly Programs at UCC continue to grow in reach and breadth of services to ensure we can meet the needs of the community.

The My Choice Family Care Program at UCC has greatly increased staffing to meet the growing client population of **almost 500 clients**. Additionally, the UCC team recently **began serving Hmong seniors** with culturally sensitive services in their language. This program, part of a larger initiative serving all of Milwaukee County, is a Medicaid long-term care program to provide care management services, coordination of care, assessment, and comprehensive planning to meet each individual's long-term care needs.

The UCC Elderly Programs team is also working to ensure the seniors who live in our on-campus senior housing can "age in place," by working with the Department of Housing and Urban Development to transition some of the apartments to assisted living units. This will allow aging seniors to stay in their home while UCC provides additional services to them.

Providing needed support services to our elders is an important part of UCC's mission to serve the families in our community.



**THE BIG IDEA V:
ENGAGE AND PERSIST**

June 29 - September 1

Opening Reception:
June 29 at 5:00 p.m.

Latino Arts Gallery

Visit our website: www.latinartsinc.org

[/latinartsinc](https://www.facebook.com/latinartsinc) [@latinartsinc](https://twitter.com/latinartsinc)

[YouTube /latinartsinc](https://www.youtube.com/latinartsinc)

2017 Wall of Fame Winners Announced

Enrique Aldape is a dedicated musician, always striving to be a positive role model to his peers. Enrique has participated in the Latino Arts Strings Program since age five, currently serving as the Concertmaster in the Latino Arts Strings Orchestra, and a member of Mariachi Juvenil. Enrique is also a member of the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra, the Wisconsin School of Music Honors Orchestra, and a three time gold medalist at the WSMA District and State Solo Festivals. Outside of music, Enrique serves on Student Council, works as a peer tutor, and plays youth basketball and soccer. Enrique hopes to attend an Ivy League university and become a criminal defense lawyer.

Gabriela Cardenas struggled early on in her childhood with hearing challenges, putting her behind in language and social development. This setback helped her to realize that she had the power to change her situation and has led her to become a cellist in the Latino Arts Strings Program, building her confidence and self-esteem. Throughout her 11 year career in the Strings Program Gabriela was the lead cellist, a member of Mariachi Juvenil, featured on the Grammy nominated album "Buenaventura," and a participant in the WSMA State Orchestra. Gabriela works to give back to her community, both as an active volunteer and a tutor. She hopes to graduate from Marquette University with a degree in Clinical Laboratory Sciences and Spanish for the Health Professions, becoming the second person in her family to graduate college.

Francisco Hernandez is a dedicated advocate for social justice, sharing the importance of social equity and multiculturalism with the community. Francisco created the Unity Council at Marquette University High School, in addition to utilizing his musical talents to demonstrate the beauty of multiculturalism through Latin American folk music. As a member of the Latino Arts Strings Program, Francisco was a three-time gold medalist at the WSMA District and State Solo Festival, and a principal guitarist in the Latino Arts Mariachi Juvenil. Francisco will continue to challenge himself in college, hoping to pursue a career in computer engineering or political science, while always maintaining music as part of his life.

Viviana Sanchez never shies away from a challenge, working hard to maintain a high GPA while balancing all of her extracurricular activities, including participation in the Dance Academy of Mexico for the past six years. Viviana is a member of Student Council, is looking forward to participating in Preparing and Advancing Students for Opportunities in Science Program at Carroll University (PASOS), and plays volleyball, basketball, and soccer. Viviana hopes to one day become a Labor and Delivery Nurse in order to help bring future leaders into the world.

Lazaro Vegara never does anything halfway, maintaining a strong commitment to achieving his goals. Lazaro is a starter on the Junior Varsity football team at Marquette University High School, an honors student, a member of the Spanish Honor Society, and an active member of Desatar Ministry. Lazaro also participates in the Carroll University PASOS Program, and hopes to one day work at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in cardiology. Lazaro puts school first, working to maintain his high academic standards. He never compromises his values and morals, and works to help others whenever possible, serving as a positive role model for those around him.



Thank you to Badger Mutual for supporting our Wall of Fame with scholarships to students. Come check out our "wall" in the lower level of UCC.

Volunteers Bring the Sunshine to UCC!

The 12th Annual Volunteer Celebration, held on February 23rd, honored some of the most notable volunteer efforts at the United Community Center throughout the last year. UCC is thankful for the support of more than 1,000 volunteers who help us serve the community each year. The event gave special recognition to this year's volunteers who bring the sunshine to UCC:



In-Kind Donor Volunteers of the Year: ST. MARY PARISH OF MEMONONEE FALLS

St. Mary Parish spends countless hours collecting hundreds of toy and gift donations to ensure that every student at Bruce-Guadalupe Community School has a present for the celebration of Three Kings Day on January 6th.

Volunteer Group of the Year: YOUTH EMPOWERED TO SUCCEED (YES) PROGRAM

For the past four years, mentors of the YES program have spent many days per week mentoring, tutoring, and even coaching our youth in cross country, triathlons, and mountain biking.

Volunteer Group of the Year: CARROLL UNIVERSITY NURSING STUDENTS

The Carroll University Nursing Program has generously supported UCC and continues to support more than 1,300 BGCS students annually at our in-school Health Center. We appreciate the Carroll University Nursing team for their care and support of all BGCS students!

Corporate Volunteer Group of the Year: US BANK

From helping BGCS students develop financial literacy, sharing the importance of literacy by reading and donating books for students to take home, to participating in many UCC projects through the United Way Season of Caring. US Bank has supported UCC for 25 years through a wide variety of volunteer projects and contributions.

Youth Volunteer of the Year: MARIANA ROSALES

Mariana has been committed to helping out various programs at UCC, Latino Arts, Inc. and Bruce-Guadalupe Community School. She serves as a positive role model and is always willing to help in any way that she can. We appreciate all that she does for UCC!

Athletic Coach of the Year: ROY CONTRERAS

Over the past 20 years, Roy has dedicated hundreds of hours coaching, supporting, and mentoring our youth. Roy coaches almost every sport that UCC offers, including flag football, basketball, and volleyball.

Individual Volunteer of the Year: LUCY APOLINAR

Lucy devotes countless volunteer hours, helping both Bruce-Guadalupe Community School and the Latino Arts Strings Program. Lucy coordinates all parent volunteer activities for the Latino Arts Strings program and even chaperones different program events, concerts, and solo festivals.

Mentor of the Year: EMELI-MARI GASTON-FRIEDL

Emeli-Mari has been volunteering over the past three years as a panelist in the UCC Life Changers Talk Show and mentor in the UCC Summer Recreation Program.



Thank you volunteers!



Dream Bikes Donates Equipment to YES Program Students

Following their participation in a Wisconsin High School Cycling League race last fall, participants of the UCC Youth Empowered to Succeed (YES), an athletic and academic support program, received the great news that Dream Bikes, a non-profit subsidiary of Trek Bike Corporation, would generously donate between 15-25 new bikes to the program. Dream Bikes also committed to refurbish and replace existing bikes, and will provide race ready bikes for 40-50 students. Finally, they will donate helmets, jerseys, shoes, and other riding equipment for 25 students. The YES Program is excited to secure these resources, begin training with proper equipment, and travel to races next fall!



THANK YOU to Dream Bikes and Trek Corporation.

Talent and Tapas – Raising Scholarship Funds for Alumni

UCC recently held the 2nd Annual Talent and Tapas event to raise critical funds to support our Bruce-Guadalupe Community School (BGCS) alumni attending the best local high schools. With almost 150 people in attendance, and a challenge presented by Bill O'Toole of Catholic Financial Life, and Chris Goller of PNC Bank, we were able to raise more than \$40,000 in one evening. With more than 60% of BGCS alumni pursuing private high schools requiring significant tuition costs, these funds ensure our students are challenged academically in an environment that will maximize their future success.

Thanks to Catholic Financial Life and PNC Bank for their support, as well as UCC Board members Patty Whaley and Keith Kolb for their leadership in planning this successful event.

Building Bridges
TOWARD A BRIGHTER FUTURE

**UNITED COMMUNITY CENTER
BRUCE-GUADALUPE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAM AND
ALUMNI OVERVIEW**

<p>HIGH SCHOOL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 96% of BGCS alumni graduate high school ■ Students attend 42 high schools including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brookfield Academy (7) • Carmen High School (37) • Divine Savior Holy Angels High School (24) • Dominican High School (18) • Martin Luther High School (17) • Marquette University High School (46) • Pius XI (25) • Ronald Reagan High School (13) • St. Thomas More High School (30) • University School of Milwaukee (8) 	<p>COLLEGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 85% of BGCS high school alumni enrolled in a 2 or 4 year higher education institution ■ Over the last 7 years, BGCS alumni have earned \$5.5 million in scholarships to attend: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alverno College • Carroll University • Marquette University • Milwaukee School of Engineering • Northwestern University • Roosevelt University • University of Wisconsin School of Law
---	--

Second Women's Residential Treatment Facility Opens on UCC Campus

This winter, the United Community Center (UCC) proudly opened our second Residential Treatment Facility for women called, Latinas Unidas II, which treats Substance Use Disorder (SUD). Modeled after its predecessor, Latinas Unidas, which opened on UCC's campus in 2014, this new facility houses 16 women and provides them with treatment for substance abuse, group support, and counseling. Latinas Unidas II also accommodates clients that are pregnant or with infant children, providing mothers with services including therapy, prenatal and post-partum care, child care coordination and parenting classes. The Grand Opening ceremony took place on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at the newly constructed building and included a short program with some special guests including County Executive Chris Abele and Mayor Tom Barrett.

