

UCC Early Learning Academy HOAN
Lighting the Way
FOR BRIGHT FUTURES



Thursday, May 20th @ 7:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.

On May 20th, United Community Center will be showcased as part of the Light the Hoan initiative, celebrating Milwaukee area nonprofits. From 7:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. the Hoan bridge will light up the night sky with UCC blue and yellow to celebrate our young learners in our Early Childhood programs.

For more information on our Bright Futures Campaign visit <https://www.unitedcc.org>



Latinx Women Take The Spotlight at Latino Arts to Celebrate Women's History Month

March was an exciting month for Latino Arts, Inc! In honor of Women's History month, Latino Arts spotlighted female artists in the gallery and on the virtual stage. *Canciones del Alma: Celebrating the Latinx Voice Through Music and Song* highlighted both international and local artists including Brazilian singer/songwriter Caro Pierotto, Las Cafeteras artists Leah Rose Gallegos and Denise Carlos, Karlies Kelly of Panadanza Dance Company and spoken word artist, Anais Deal Marques.



Additionally, the Latino Arts Gallery celebrated the opening of the exhibit *Hyphenated Americans* with an in-person reception, welcoming more than 70 guests that included both new and familiar faces. Curated by Katie Avila Loughmiller, *Hyphenated Americans* features the works of artists and friends of LUNA (Latinas Unidas en las Artes). The exhibit explores what it means to be Latinx in the United States today and the emotions that come with embracing multiple cultures. The exhibit runs through June 4th.

While Women's History Month is now complete, we continue to honor and celebrate wonderful female Latina Artists and you can too by attending one of these events via www.latinoartsinc.org

- View the gallery during our registration only open gallery hours for *Hyphenated Americans* through June 4th.
- Attend our virtual concert, *Canciones de Alma* and dance along to this wonderful collection of art and take advantage of our unique art packages.

Teach for Team UCC!



www.unitedcc.org/careers



Open for Caring - Open for Service!

The one constant in this last year of change and challenge has been our desire and commitment to remain open! We remained open to serve, open to care, open to learn, and most importantly, open to the community.

While we had temporary closures in all of our programs except our residential Human Services program, our staff remained ready and willing to serve and go the extra mile. We knew we needed to remain open for our community to have relief, comfort, education, and other vital services.

We are so grateful to our staff and supporters who remained loyal to our mission. Without the open hearts of all of these people, our community would have suffered even more due to the pandemic. The past year has demonstrated how dedicated and passionate individuals can make a real difference in the face of obstacles.

Moving into our 51st year we are committed and dedicated to remain open for new opportunities to make an impact in our community!

Laura E. Gutierrez
-Laura Gutierrez

United Community Center
Centro de la Comunidad Unida

51st Anniversary Celebration

Thank You Sponsors!

Premiere **Celebration**

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Congrats to our 2021 Wall of Fame Honorees

Each year, five students are chosen for the Badger Mutual Wall of Fame. Honorees excel in academics, community service, and leadership. This year we had many qualified applicants, and we are so proud to announce our final winners, whose pictures will forever live on the walls of UCC to inspire students for years to come.



PERLA MARITZA CERDA, an 8th grader at UCC Acosta Middle School, came from Mexico in 6th grade, knowing little English but immersed herself into a new culture and school in Milwaukee. Perla explains that she, "wants other students to know that if they follow the rules and work hard they can achieve anything!" She plans to pursue either nursing, law, or economics/business in college.



SAMANTHA FLORES, a junior at Divine Savior Holy Angels High School, and an alumna of Bruce-Guadalupe Middle School, has a 3.72 GPA and is active in basketball, cross country, Best Buddies, Furia Latina, Entrepreneur Club, and Campus Ministry. Samantha shares, "through my life experiences I model and encourage others to succeed in school, take risks, and learn from successes and failures."



SAUL FLORES, an 8th grader at Bruce-Guadalupe Middle School, currently holds a 4.0 GPA and is involved in the Triathlon & Mountain Biking Team. Saul plans to attend the University School of Milwaukee and post high school would like to attend Stanford University to study Aerospace Engineering. As a leader in his community, Saul is determined to succeed even though he knows the path to success may not be easy.



ANISSA HERNANDEZ, a junior at Divine Savior Holy Angels, maintains a 3.6 GPA while staying highly involved in sports and community service activities. Anissa shares that she is "excited to live life to the fullest and find my purpose in this world." She hopes to attend UW-Madison or UW-Whitewater in the future and is exploring careers in law enforcement, forensic science or the FBI.



ELIZABETH HERRERA, a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, is majoring in Communications and also plans to pursue her Real Estate License. Elizabeth aims to use her degree to help families find homes and is inspired to rehabilitate homes to help the community become stronger. Elizabeth's goal is to motivate others through her example and leadership.

Keeping Mothers with their Children Through Recovery

UCC is committed to serving women of all ages and backgrounds. Our Human Services Department offers both residential and outpatient Substance Use Disorder Treatment Programs, along with a specialty service for women that are pregnant or recently had a baby. These women and their children are in a very vulnerable time in their lives, and in a need of a specialized program that can cater to their circumstances, which they can now find at UCC. In 2020, UCC served almost 200 women, including 13 pregnant women, across all Human Services Programs and care needs for substance use-disorder treatment. During the pandemic, UCC served 96 women in the residential treatment program, including nine children living in the UCC facility with their mothers.

Some of the unique and bilingual services of this program include group and individual counseling sessions, case management, childcare coordination, primary physician referrals, medication monitoring, parenting education and dedicated programming and services for children. Parenting education and therapy groups related to parenting are offered weekly in the residential treatment schedule. These groups include Pathways to Family Reunification and Recovery and The Nurturing Program for Families in Substance Abuse Treatment.

Staff serve each client and family's individual needs to help each find recovery. A recent participant shared, "I am so glad I gave UCC a chance because it changed my life. I am now happy and thankful that I am starting to regain everything I lost during addiction."

Pregnant Women & Women with Infants

Alcohol & Other Drug Use

Women's Residential Treatment Program

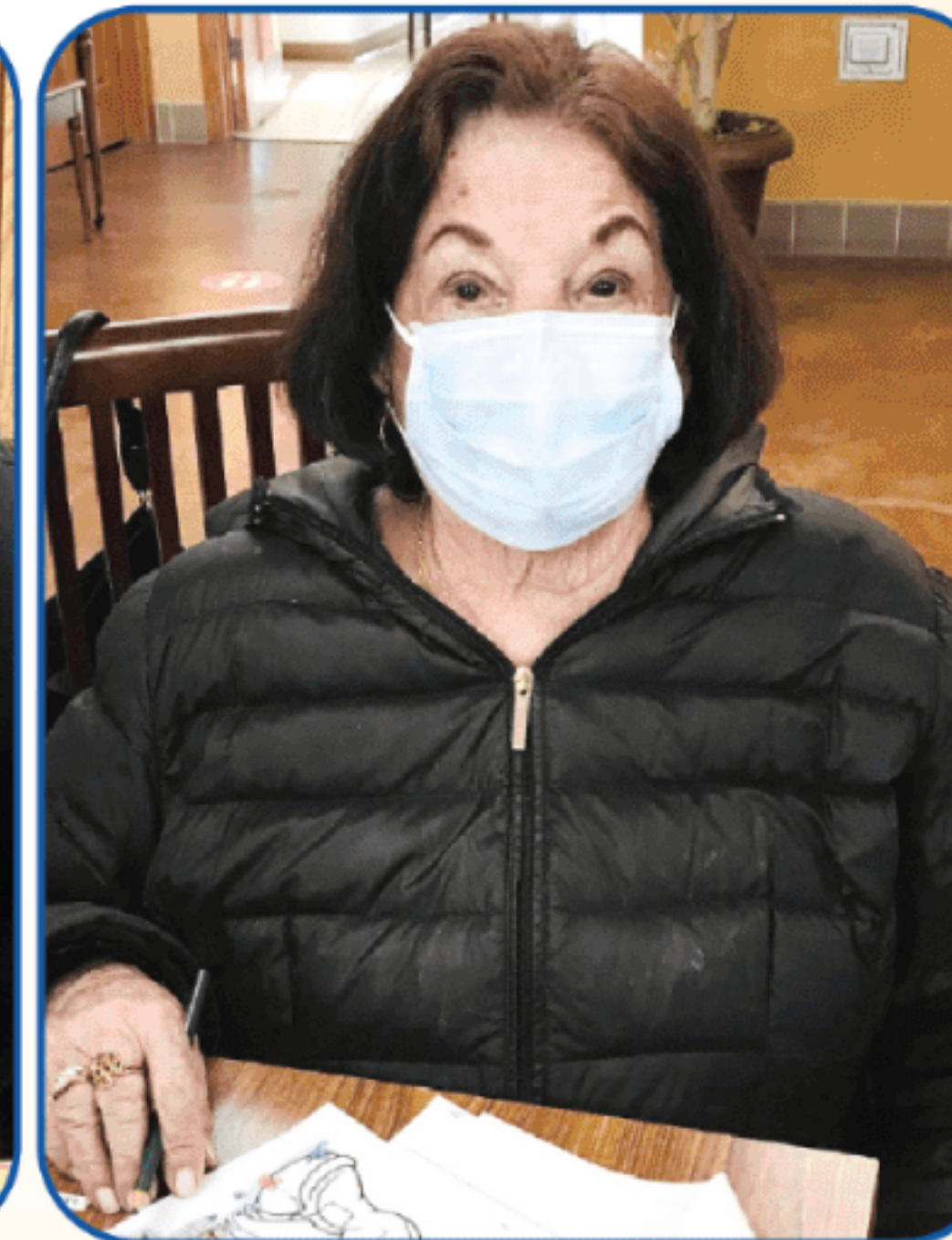
United Community Center
Centro de la Comunidad Unida
Call: (414) 643-8530
Assessments done over the phone.

UCC Human Services Is here to help



UCC Adult Day Center is Back in Action

In February, after almost 11 months of closure, UCC was able to welcome a limited number of seniors back to the Adult Day Center. With all participants vaccinated and following safety protocols, clients have expressed gratitude to be enjoying each other's company and developing new skills through group activities again. Since their return, the seniors have been getting creative through art using many different mediums. While the pandemic affected everyone, we know the seniors experienced much isolation and loneliness during this time. UCC is proud to offer a safe homelike environment while transitioning our seniors back to socializing and interacting with others. The goal is to slowly welcome back more seniors to campus soon and to bring friendship and joy to the seniors and their families again.



Open for Learning- Bright Futures Ahead!

In April, the Early Learning Academy officially opened its doors and welcomed 57 children to their new classrooms. Students were so excited to explore the indoor playground, bright sunny classrooms, and play with the Lego wall. Families were overjoyed to walk into their new space. At capacity, this building will give 325 infants and toddlers the promising start they need to create bright futures.

Just Announced at our 51st Anniversary Celebration:

The UCC Board of Directors announced the dedication of the new building in honor of Ricardo Diaz, UCC's former and retired Executive Director. "We couldn't think of a more fitting way to honor the lifelong commitment, dedication, and eternal optimism of Ricardo Diaz than naming this building in his honor. Like the name it bears, the Ricardo Diaz Early Learning Academy will be a place overflowing with opportunity, committed to excellence, and a recognition of the sheer potential of each child within." stated Patty Whaley, Development Committee Chair.

Challenge Grant:

In celebration of Ricardo's legacy, a generous donor has issued a matching gift challenge. If we're able to raise \$50,000 for the Ricardo Diaz Early Learning Academy, every dollar will be matched.

Please consider making a gift to support the Ricardo Diaz Early Learning Academy. By donating, your gift will be doubled - meaning every dollar you donate will become two! With your support, over 300 children will get the bright start every young child deserves. Donating is very easy: Gifts can be made using the enclosed envelope, at www.unitedcc.org, or by scanning this code:

