



Corazón a Corazón

We Learn Together!

Volume 1, Issue 1

Spring 2010

Introducing our New Director, Sr. Loretta



I had never been to Chicago, did not know Spanish, and had never been part of an ESL program. In August, as I drove from Baltimore to my new ministry at Corazón I couldn't help but wonder why I said yes.

I remember my first days at Corazón. I met Amanda, Sister Lupita, and Sister Helen Joseph. They were busy finalizing the schedule. As I walked through the center, I met tutors, adult learners who knew little English, and parents arriving with their children to register for homework help. I was reminded instantly that this was not a job but a calling from Almighty God.

I recalled the words of Mother Theresa, the foundress of the School Sisters of Notre

Dame, that "we educate with the conviction that the world can be changed through the transformation of persons." Thanks to Sr. Rose Cecile, who began this ministry in 2002, and the SSNDs, this is what we do each day at Corazón a Corazón.

I am overwhelmed by the continuous support and encouragement of the tutors, the learners and each of you who believe deeply in the value of Corazón. Thank you for being good and generous partners as together we work to create a future full of hope for our community on the South Side of Chicago.

Summer School Program

Math and Reading classes
for Grades 1-8

June 21-July 15

Monday—Thursday

9:00am-noon

Tutors are needed. Training is free.

Please call Corazón
if you can help.
773-221-0620

Save the Date for Corazón's First Fundraiser

Summer Fest, July 17th

If you would like to make a donation to help support our first fundraiser, here's what we need:

- **Prizes for children's games:** small stuffed animals, toys, etc.
- **Food:** hot dogs, tacos, cookies, pop, or anything you would love to cook and donate.
- **Variety Baskets** to be raffled: cost per basket, about \$30.

Our Mission

Corazón a Corazón, under the sponsorship of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, serves as a catalyst for fundamental change in the community by providing individualized educational services to women and children at-risk.

Corazón Board Members

Sister Carolyn Jost, SSND
President
Mr. Ben Espinos
Vice President
Sister Joan O'Connell, SSND
Treasurer

Members

Mrs. Katherine Barth
Sister Joan Doyle, SSND
Ms. Olivia Hernandez
Ms. Rosa Pelaez
Mrs. Rosa Perea
Ms. Therese Smith
Ms. Rita Zambon



Our School Program

At Corazón a Corazón, we strive year-round to meet the needs of the children of the community through our After School and Summer School programs. The After School program is one-on-one tutoring once or multiple times a week and is tailored to the child's needs. This ranges from homework assistance, plus reading and math, to individualized lessons in areas the student needs help. The Summer School Program is designed to catch students up in reading, writing, and math, and to prepare them for the coming school year. Classes are kept small to increase the amount of individual attention for each student.



Brittany and Alyssa.

Meet Annie, Corazón Volunteer

No experience necessary.

Three years ago I walked into the East Side Library and saw on the bulletin board a lovely heart sign, Corazón a Corazón. The simplicity of the message and two hearts together resonated for me. I was hooked.

To the newcomer tutor or student, Corazón offers a safe haven in which to grow, meet friends and share what I know about the English language, and I soon learned what I don't know. Sisters Rose Cecile, Lupita, Loretta and Amanda Kross have maintained a level of excellence in teaching. They are there to help and guide, and I can even learn Spanish.



One of my students, Angélica, has progressed so much on ExpressWays and Rosetta Stone. Coincidentally, we met outside of Corazón at the library's knitting class; she is also a great knitter and crocheter. Angélica brings smiles and an eagerness to learn.

Visiting Springfield for the Literacy Rally in 2007 was a group effort to persuade legislators of the necessity to fund Literacy Campaigns in Illinois. Riding on a fancy bus down to the State Capital gave me the chance to chat with students in an informal gathering. The most important lesson for me has been to listen to the progress of English students and to learn about their struggles and joys in this country. Fast forward, three Latino women have taught me as much if not more about the English language than I taught them. After all, it is heart to heart.

Angélica's Story

I was born in a little town named Techaluta in the State of Jalisco in Mexico. I was the seventh child in a large family. I have four brothers and three sisters. My older brothers, Oscar and Hector, chose the name Angélica.

Bravery is part of my family history. The entire family had to be brave when I was a little girl. My father, Jesus Lopez, had to leave us to come to Chicago to work. He worked at the Art Institute in the kitchen for ten years to support our family. The separation was difficult for all of us, but we were very happy when he returned.

Many years later my brothers, my son and I came to Chicago. We left Mexico because we wanted a chance for a better life. In order to have a better life, I needed to learn English. I came to Corazón a Corazón to receive tutoring in English, and I also learned how to



Angélica and her son, Arnulfo.

operate a computer. My son, Arnulfo, is being tutored as well. The tutoring he receives has helped with his school work. I am very grateful to all of the people at Corazón a Corazón for the help they have given to my son and me.

Partners in Excellence

Corazón has been blessed to have many partners. In these difficult economic times, our grantors are both generous and caring.

Our English as a Second Language program has been funded by the **Illinois Secretary of State Literacy Grant** as well as the **Chicago Tribune Charities - Holiday Campaign**. Sixty women and men have participated in this program. Many come three days a week to meet one on one with their tutor.

Grants from the **Springboard Foundation**, the **School Sisters of Notre Dame Gospel Fund** and **Fred J. Brunner Foundation** will assure us the ability to continue the After School and Summer School for 50 children.

Hispanics in Philanthropy and **Nuestro Futuro** challenged us to look in the community for other partners to support our mission. Through the relationships we built, we were able to recruit an **AmeriCorps** and a **Capuchin** volunteer. In addition,

when one of the nearby ESL programs needed to close, nine ESL learners transitioned to Corazón to continue their studies.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame and the **Helen Brach Foundation** have helped us complete our computer lab. Twenty adults have been in one of our sessions to learn the computer. Some want to better understand what their children are doing, others want to send e-mail, maybe even to Mexico and all are delighted at their ability to access the internet.

Grants from the **WHO Foundation (Women Helping Others)**, and the **Raymond and Naomi Dungan Foundation** have helped us to purchase educational computer programs for our children. Our library was enhanced through grants from **Peoples Energy Corporation** and **Caveney Foundations**, as well as books from **Literacy Volunteers of Illinois**.

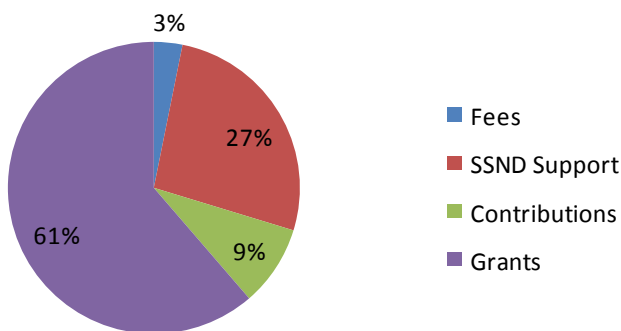
We are so grateful to have materials that will meet the needs of each learner. The generous donations of the Foundations and of so many individuals who are our partners, plus the dedication of an outstanding staff, keep Corazón an excellent program.

Honor Roll of Grantors

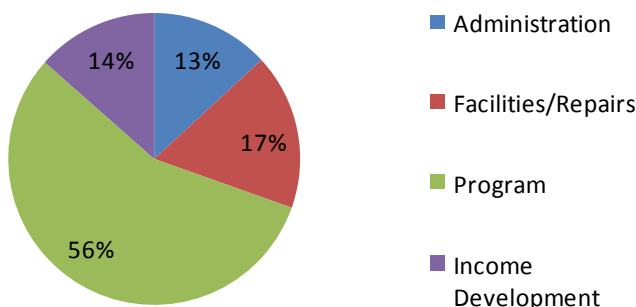
- Illinois Secretary of State
- Hispanics in Philanthropy
- School Sisters of Notre Dame
- Chicago Tribune Charities - Holiday Campaign, a fund of the McCormick Foundation

- The Springboard Foundation
- Nuestro Futuro
- Fred J. Brunner Foundation
- SSND Gospel Fund
- WHO (Women Helping Others)
- Peoples Energy Corporation
- Raymond and Naomi Dungan
- Caveney Family Foundation
- Helen Brach Foundation

2009 income: \$141,190



2009 Expenses: \$141,190



Financially, our primary goal is to make Corazón financially stable. We hope to increase our donor contributions and become less reliant on grants. We are happy to say that we began to see an increase in our contributions this year, but we have a way to go.

Most of our expenses are to support our program. Our volunteer coordinator recruits and trains our 60+ tutors and our ESL coordination assesses and plans the curriculum for each learner.

We are grateful to the School Sisters of Notre Dame and to all the benefactors who help us carry on the Mission of Corazón.

Thank You to Our Many Benefactors!

Donations of \$100 or Greater

Academy of Our Lady Alumnae Association
 Arthur & Martina Vanado
 James and Deirdre Barrett
 T. Rowe Price Associates Foundation
Matching Gift

Rita Zambon
 Rose Cecile Espinos, SSND
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Espinos

Mary Joel Davis
 Ben & April Espinos
*In memory of Marian, Mariano
 & Cecilia Espinos*

John and Donna Folkemer
 Ian and Nora Larkin

Rev. Robert Perez
 Patricia Rogers
In memory of S. Christopher Marie, SSND

Sheila A. Rousseaux
In honor of Sister Loretta Rosendale, SSND
 Patricia Stibich

Donations of \$99 or less

Elaine Coldren & M. Novak
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 Maureen Collins
 Rev. Guido Gutierrez Juarez
 Patricia McLaughlin & Missy Gugerty, SSND
*In honor of the Atlantic-Midwest
 Provincial Council*

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In memory of Carl Merez

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In memory of S. Francisann Rapa, SSND

Vashti Lemelle
 Mary Yvonne Dilworth
In honor of Rev. Robert G. Herne

Loretta Rosendale, SSND
 LaRue & Brian James
In honor of Sr. Maureen Clancy, SSND

Sister Julianne Spliss, SSND
 Joan & Bernie Boyt
In honor of the Entrance Class of 1959

*SSND's in Baltimore, MD, living and
 deceased*

Anna Brigán
 Mike & Nonie Broski
In honor of James Barrett's birthday

Cor Marie Cielocha, SSND
In thanksgiving for God's goodness
 Patricia Flynn, SSND

In honor of Sr. Loretta Rosendale, SSND
 Kathleen Groves & Rose Linder, SSND
 Mamie & Maurice Jackson

In memory of Kloe Grace McKenzie Player
 LaUanah King-Cassell
 Jeanne Landry, SSND

In honor of School Sisters of Notre Dame
 John Weider

Eileen Lewis
In memory of Leo & Loretta Rosendale
 Carmelita Madison
In memory of Francine M. Madison

Alice Mora
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In honor of Sr. Lucy Giacchetti, SSND

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In memory of Russell J. Irving, Sr.

Joanna Brigán, SSND
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In memory of Charles Markovich

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 Maria Burgan, SSND

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In memory of Espinos Family
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In memory of deceased SSNDs
 Betty & John Murray
 Patricia Warnick & Helen Reilly, SSND

In memory of Warnick and Reilly Families
 Mary Ann Bazata
 Joseph Cordero, Jr.

Miriam Patrick Cummings, SSND
*In honor of Sr. Bernita Hessling's
 100th birthday*

Lori Keen, SSND

Save the Date for Corazón's First Fundraiser

**Summer Fest, July 17th
 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**Church Parking Lot
 8231 S. South Shore Drive, Chicago**

Games for Children, Great Food, Raffles, Fun for All

Raffle Prizes

1st Prize Weekend Accommodations in
 San Francisco
 2nd Prize Laptop Computer
 3rd Prize iPod Shuffle

Chances \$5 Each, 3 For \$10

Please see Corazón's Website for More Information

To Request Your Chance Books or Make a Donation,
 call 773 - 221 - 0620.

Please Support Corazón and
 Help us Celebrate our Learners, Tutors, and Staff!



**All contributions to Corazón
 are tax deductible and
 directly support our programs.**

**Please consider a donation
 to Corazón a Corazón!**

**Corazón a Corazón
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 Chicago, Illinois 60617
 773-221-0620 (phone)**

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 corazon8235@gmail.com**