

Learning and Loving Education Center

Nurturing the Seeds in South County



In the not too distant past, the Learning and Loving Education Center was unknown to many South County residents. However, the word about the programs available circulated among the immigrant population, and the program grew and grew. In recent years more and more people have visited the Center and experienced the energy, the efficiency, the educational opportunities, the enjoyment, the environment, the empowerment of the students. In this newsletter we thank our donors: foundations, businesses, organizations, and individuals. Indeed, we thank all of you who are reading this newsletter.

You are part of the history and accomplishments of the Center. Just in case you have need for more information about the Center, we share the following:

Did you have any idea...

that the Center started with 20 immigrant women and their children and today has 165 women and 45 children?

that over the course of these 25+ years, the Center has educated over 3,000 women?

that the small paid staff also gave over 900 hours of donated service last year?

that if we paid for the volunteers and volunteers teachers we would double our budget expense?

that we don't have a cleaning service, so staff and students help clean the Center?

that we depend on funding from grants, from businesses and organizations, from you?

that three of our women gained their U.S citizenship last year?

that over twenty of our women have gone on to study at Gavilan College?

that we met a \$25,000 matching grant from the Rademakers Foundation?

that the Board of Trustees is very active in planning and carrying through responsibilities to enhance the work of the Center?

that we received funding from the Gilroy Assistance League for rhythm instruments and CDs and that the kids love to play them?

that we still are partnering with Second Harvest Food Bank and receive free breakfast and lunch every day we are open, as well as food giveaway once a month?

that some days we receive up to ten large donations for our sharing room?

that we have women from seventeen different countries enrolled in the Center this year?



that the youngest student we have is 17 years old and she is from Nicaragua?

that the City of Morgan Hill and the Chamber of Commerce hold a special women's week in late August and that they chose the Learning and Loving Education Center to receive any money made?

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The Seed

WINTER 2019



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Did you have any idea.....(cont.)

that we have so many experienced, qualified teachers instructing students in our program – many with Master's Degrees and even some PHD's?

that we are on social media: Facebook, Instagram and Twitter?

that we have a Giving Circle that we hope to expand?

that you just might meet some of the Center's success stories around town working in the local community?

that there are so many more interesting facts that we could share, but we'll save them for another time!

that you are a very important contributor to the success of the Learning and Loving Center, and we so much appreciate you!

So did you have any idea that the Center would also influence your lives? If you have never visited the Center, come and see. This is indeed holy ground, and you will never be the same.



The Learning and Loving Education Center recognized Board Chair, Jim Yinger, on November 15th at the 14th Annual Morgan Hill Community Foundation's Philanthropy Celebration. We at the Center are so happy to have chosen Jim as our very special volunteer this year! Jim and his family have been part of the Center for a long time by being very active volunteers and generous donors. Jim was elected to the Board and assumed a leadership position as President, going above and beyond what is asked of a Board member! His passion, background in education and love for the Center is apparent in all he does. Jim will leave a legacy of increasing the visibility and viability of our Center. Thank you Jim, we are so grateful!



Spotlight on Staff

Laura is one of the first faces you might see when you visit the Center! Always cheerful, always smiling, always full of hope, ALWAYS bustling around! She is the go-to person; do you have items for our sharing room? Do you have a question about classes? Do you need supplies or something fixed? She's the one! Laura, a former student, now Facilities Manager, has been working at the Center since 2012. After receiving a Technical Degree in Mexico, Laura moved to the United States to pursue her dreams of continuing her education and studies. Her dreams were cut short, when family circumstances forced her to work rather than continue her studies. She looks at her time here at the Center as a blessing and an opportunity; one that she shares with other students. She encourages other moms to never stop believing and pursuing their dreams; to never stop helping themselves. Laura has been married for 27 years to husband Lorenzo, and has 4 children, Alexandro, Marco Antonio, Christian and Julliette. Thank you Laura for your grace and humility; for your dedication and loyalty to your work and to the women and children of the Center.

You are an inspiration to all.



Laura Vizcarra
Facilities Manager

This Season, Give the Gift of Education!



#GivingTuesday 2019

This holiday season, consider these ways to help give the gift of literacy to the women and children of the Center ~

- ◆ \$10 one flash drive
- ◆ \$25 one English book or school supplies
- ◆ \$70 one year's tuition for one student
- ◆ \$125/monthly or annual donation of \$1500 enrolls you in membership to the Giving Circle.
- ◆ \$2200 Annual cost to educate a student.



Thank You!



Mark your Calendars! 2020 Event Dates

- January 24th** — Super Taqueria fundraiser
- February 29th** — LLEC Bazaar & Open House
- March 1st** — 1st Annual Anniversary Pledge Drive
- April 25th** — Student Walk-A-Thon: Walk for Literacy!
- May 5th** — Cinco De Mayo: Cantina Night, Donor recognition
- May 20th** — Preschool graduation & Certificate presentation