

ANNUAL REPORT

NUESTRO
MUNDO INC.
2019 - 2020



Nuestro Mundo, Inc. advocates for social justice through quality dual-language immersion in the Madison Metropolitan School District and serves Nuestro Mundo Community School (NMCS) and NMCS students and families.

FROM THE PRESIDENT: OUR HEARTS REMAIN UNITED



When I began in my role as President of Nuestro Mundo Inc. (NMI) last summer, the MMSD Board of Education had just voted unanimously in favor of a five-year charter renewal contract, emphasizing that the school is a safe and welcoming place with first-rate teachers, staff, and scholars. I took over the reins of a diverse board, grounded by NMI's strong financial position and energized by a clear focus: secure a permanent home for NMCS.

We worked diligently over the course of the school year to achieve that goal, but of course the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in March radically shifted the Board's focus. As we approach this next school year, risks posed by the pandemic – both its immediate health effects and its more widespread societal implications – continue to dominate our attention. Part of NMI's response was to establish the Family & Staff Assistance Fund, which has so far provided over \$8,000 in support to our community.

Layered onto the hardships presented by the pandemic, 2020 has also presented yet another flashpoint in our nation's ongoing struggle to account for its history of racism. As we recommit ourselves to antiracist work in service of a more equitable society, the Board of Nuestro Mundo Inc. acknowledges that these are challenging times for our school, city, and national communities. And yet, we have not lost sight of our goal to find a permanent home for NMCS. Administrators, families, and community members continue to advocate for the school and for dual-language immersion education, in an effort to improve opportunities for students of color.

What we do would not be possible without you. Thank you to all our scholars, staff, donors and friends. We appreciate your support in all its forms: participation in Family & School Alliance fundraisers and events, time spent volunteering in the classroom, contributions of snacks and supplies, donations to the Big Share, and other financial gifts to NMI. I want to send out special thanks to PE Teacher John Wheeler, who planned and executed the school's first "Fun Run," which raised over \$8,500 last fall.

Ultimately, it is the resiliency of our community that will propel our strong and vibrant school forward, ensuring its continued excellence through these challenging times. Nuestro Mundo Community School will be an educational foundation that can continue to change the world for years to come, making it a better place for everyone. *Estamos unidos.*

Francesca Rodriguez
Board President

SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON: NUESTRO MUNDO COMMUNITY SCHOOL

ACADEMIC SUPPORT GRANTS

Each year, NMI supports teachers at Nuestro Mundo Community School with grant funds to enhance student learning. Popular purchases in the last year included books in both English and Spanish, board games in both languages, and STEM learning and makerspace building kits.

Fourth-grade teacher Kristen Scott reported, “I spent the grant money on several Spanish language games for my 4th grade class. This impacted student learning because they encouraged group cooperation and improved kids’ oral language skills markedly. They were excited to play the games. As soon as they walked in in the morning, students chose one of the games to play and with whom to play. This boosted morale and energy and set the stage for interactive learning.”

Also this year, the first-grade teachers pooled their academic support grant funds to take their classes on an unforgettable field trip to Cave of the Mounds. First-grade teacher Wendy Samaca shared, “For some students, this was a first visit. As we walked through the cave’s curvy path, students learned about rock formations and Wisconsin history. There were many exciting moments in the cave and a fun ride back to school. Thank you for providing the funds that made this relatively expensive field trip possible for all families!”



WHAT A FUN RUN!

Last fall saw the first-ever “Fun Run” fund-raising event at Nuestro Mundo Community School. Organized by PE teacher John Wheeler, the Fun Run challenged all NMCS students to have their families, neighbors, and friends pledge to donate a sum of money based on the number of laps they could run. Mr. Wheeler opted to split the proceeds of the event 50/50, with half the money going to the school’s PE Department and half going to Nuestro Mundo Inc.

The event was a success beyond anyone’s wildest dreams, raising a total of \$8,548.53! NMI sends huge thanks out to all the school families, neighbors and friends who pledged and supported their favorite runners!

SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON: FOOD PANTRY / LANGUAGE CLASSES

FOOD PANTRY: MEETING PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE

In February 2019, NMI provided start-up funding so that a food pantry could be established within Nuestro Mundo Community School. Thanks to Anamaria Peralta, Bilingual Resource Specialist at NMCS, the in-school food pantry was an immediate success. School families started to visit the pantry, being well served and feeling a warm welcome from Anamaria, in addition to benefiting from the convenience of having a pantry within their students' school.

When the promise of sustainable third-party funding fell through for the 2019-20 school year, NMI's board stepped up again to make sure the pantry was able to continue operating. Generous individual donors, and corporate partners like Associated Bank, provided funding to make that continued operation possible. Over the course of the fall and into the winter, the pantry's operation grew steadily, with 35-45 families utilizing the pantry each month. Since the pantry opened, over 245,500 pounds of food has been ordered and distributed to date.

When the COVID-19 outbreak hit in March, and school grounds were suddenly closed, the food pantry's typical operation was compelled to pivot. Rather than having the pantry open at school each Friday afternoon, the pantry hit the road. From March through to the present, the pantry was a mobile one, operating each Thursday out of two U-Hauls and distributing 201,830 pounds of food in the neighborhoods where school families reside. The mobile operation is a collaboration between Nuestro Mundo, Frank Allis Elementary School, and Badger Rock Middle School.

NMI would like to acknowledge the following people for their efforts to operate the mobile pantry during the pandemic: Steven Blue, Sara Cutler, Joshua Forehand, Justin Kearney, Becky Ketarkus, Hong Tran, Katie Medema, Laurie Meulemans, Sandra Rivera and Anamaria Peralta.



BOOSTING BILINGUALISM FOR ADULTS

For the fourth consecutive year, Nuestro Mundo Inc. partnered with the Literacy Network to offer free language classes for adults. The Literacy Network provides a teacher for English language learners, and NMI provides a teacher for Spanish language learners, as well as providing snacks and child care. This last spring, the class schedule was expanded from the traditional eight weeks to eleven weeks. What didn't change was the classes' most enduringly popular feature: the Intercambio, or conversation exchange, where the English learners and Spanish learners come together to practice their new language skills by chatting with each other.

NMI is proud to support the language classes as a way to offer a cross-cultural learning opportunity and to build community among families at Nuestro Mundo Community School – although the classes are open to the general public. These classes are also a wonderful way for adults to model the importance of both lifelong learning and cross-cultural relationship building to our children.

SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON: SCHOLARSHIP & GRANT RECIPIENTS

DLI GRADUATES ARE COLLEGE BOUND!

Nuestro Mundo Inc. was honored to have awarded one \$1,000 scholarship each to Alexandra Chan and Sarai Gonzalez-Perez in June. Both were dual-language students who graduated from LaFollette High School in the Class of 2020, and both are headed to UW-Madison in the fall to continue their education.

Sarai Gonzalez-Perez is an incoming student in UW-Madison's College of Letters and Sciences. Annie Hank Braga, an AVID teacher at LaFollette, recommended Sarai for the scholarship, writing: "Sarai has taken advantage of opportunities in high school to grow not just as a learner, but also as a leader... While very goal-oriented and driven, she doesn't forget about her friends and peers and enjoys creating community with others. Simply put, Sarai is a remarkable young woman."

Alexandra Chan is an incoming student in UW-Madison's School of Nursing intent on a career in the medical field. Kristin Montgomery, a Spanish language teacher at LaFollette, said this in her letter of recommendation in support of Alexandra: "Alexandra [is] attentive, thoughtful, and quick to learn, all qualities that will serve her well in the future. She is a compassionate, trilingual (she also speaks Russian at home) global citizen who has overcome barriers and is setting out to make the world a better place."

NMI considers it a privilege to support these young scholars, and wishes both of them all the best as they pursue their goals.



Sarai Gonzalez-Perez



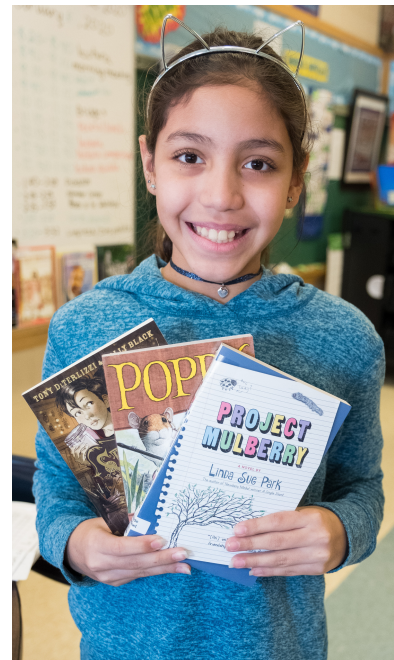
Alexandra Chan

NMI AWARDS GRANT TO HENDERSON TEACHERS

Thanks to the generosity and fundraising efforts of our community, NMI now offers a grant to creative and innovative projects that support DLI within the Madison Metropolitan School District. This year's recipients were Rachel Byrd-Felker and Iris Hill, both 4th/5th grade teachers with the DLI program at Henderson Elementary (formerly Glendale).

With the grant funds, they purchased new books for their classrooms. Their application noted the books were "carefully selected to promote the development of thinking about reading." They went on to explain: "The complexity of these texts builds over time, while keeping the thematic focus on topics that are culturally relevant to our bilingual students. Our intention is to select texts which allow students to analyze particular authors' work, make connections between texts over time, and think deeply about elements of fiction such as character development and theme."

NMI is happy to be able to provide financial support for programs and initiatives that promote and sustain DLI education in our community and sends congratulations to the Henderson 4th and 5th grades. Enjoy reading the new books!



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS!

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020

While NMI is grateful for support in all forms, including time and donated goods, this listing reflects only direct financial support for Nuestro Mundo, Inc.

Please let us know of any inadvertent errors, misspellings, or omissions.

\$1,000 and up

Anonymous
Katy and Joe Kaufman
David Mackey

\$500 - \$999

Anonymous
Althea and Bryan Dotzour
Ashley Inda
Associated Bank
Madison Roller Derby
Joy and David Schroder
Bich Tran-Steichen

\$250 - \$499

Anonymous
Marilyn Ash
Ana Bonjour
CUNA Mutual Group*
Chris Hacker
Mikaela Hagen
Hayden Family
Caroline Hesse
Annrenee and Erik Nielsen

\$100 - \$249

Anonymous (8)
Piper and Josh Bacskai
Emily Camfield
Katharine Clapham
Susan and E. Rolland Dickson
Matthew Dinusson
eBay*
Laura Gibson
Becky Hagen
Joel Hagen
Linda and Jerry Hancock
Tina Hatch
Benjamin Hendrick
Barb and Jeff Homar
Jaime Irving
Seth Jacobson
Lowen Klein
Valerie Klessig-Palm
A. Clare Kunny
Brandon Lewis
Pamela McGillivray

\$100 - \$249, continued

Mariana Pacheco-Ortiz and Ramón Ortiz
Sandra Rivera
Rodriquez/Hancock Family
Janet and Eric Skuldt
Valerie Thomas
Yolanda Torres
Dean Traun
Eric Wallin
Judy Weis
Angela Ziehmke
Bonniejean and Eric Zitske
Emily Zoeller

\$50 - \$99

Anonymous (4)
Maureen Burns
Claudia Calderón García
Carolina and David Castellanos
Jorge Colin
Shannon Flasz
Joan Hagen
Jodie Henning
Mark Henschel
Jack Hodny
Anthony Jennaro
Emily Kangogo
Elisabeth Kuisis
Julia Lubsen
Crispín Luna
S.M. Mueller-Owens
Elizabeth Ortiz Meister
Laurel Schmidt
Carol Shirk
Erik Ulness
Heather Vilbrandt
Thomas Wilson

Up to \$49

Anonymous (21)
Nicolás Álvarez
Mayra Arellano
Gabriel Ávila Keyes
Melody Braaten
Rebecca Carvin
Aimee Furrie
Yolanda García Navarro

Up to \$49, continued

Rosalía Gittens
Karen Hartfield
Lorie Hodny
Patricia Hoppe
Alfonso Ipiates
Ellen Jacks
Jamie Jerred
Toni Kaiser
Amanda Keehn
Kathleen McCormick
Megin McDonell
Andres Montero
Glenis Montiel
Susan Moran
Yolanda Murillo-Solis
Nancy Nilsen
Javier Ocotl
Erin Olson
April Parrish
Emily Pease-Clem
Erick Rios Pérez
Nola Risse-Connolly
Sahira Rocillo
Shirley Scriver
Traci Sesko
Allison Shuda
Rebecca Smith
Lydia Steinberg
Francisco Valerio Romero
Cecilia Velazo
Carolina Velázquez
Justin Williams

** represents an employer matching gift*

THANK
YOU

SPECIAL THANKS & TRIBUTES

THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE!



In July 2019, Nuestro Mundo Inc. board member Mikaela Hagen married Kyle Lewis. The couple encouraged their friends and families to make donations to Nuestro Mundo Inc. in lieu of wedding gifts. Mikaela and Kyle's generous spirit was reflected back to them by their wedding guests. Including employer matching gifts, tributes in honor of Mikaela and Kyle ultimately totaled over \$2,000 in contributions. NMI extends its sincere gratitude - and congratulations - to Mikaela and Kyle, and to all the friends and families who made contributions to NMI in honor of their wedding:

*Anonymous
Maureen Burns
Katherine Clapham
Dr. E. Rolland & Susan Dickson
Matthew Dinusson
Samantha Echevarria*
Joan K. Hagen*

*Joel Hagen
Karen Hartfield
Benjamin Hendrick+
Seth Jacobson
Anthony Jennaro
A. Clare Kunny
Brandon Lewis*

*Laurel Schmidt
Kathy Schnier*
Eric and Janet Skoldt
Valerie Thomas
Erik Ulness*

**Received in the prior fiscal year
+Matched by employer (eBay)*

THANK YOU TO OUR WORKPLACE DONORS!

Nuestro Mundo Inc. would also like to recognize and thank donors who support us through Community Shares of Wisconsin's workplace giving programs. NMI is a member agency of Community Shares of Wisconsin, and these supporters donated to CSW but directed their giving to benefit NMI:

Anonymous (12), Michael A. Basford, Ana Bonjour, Marcus Chacon, Rafael Chavez-Contreras, Emily R. Dickmann, Anne C. Glorioso, Kristine Gutierrez, Marite T. Hagman, Jessica Kendall, Rachel L. Maske, James McNeilly, Elizabeth J. Ortiz Meister, Jose Vera Perez, Lynn A. Persson, Lyn Pilch, Gina M. Nolan, Hollis M. Rudiger, Melissa K. Schwert, Rebecca L. Smith, Corinne Splain, Roger L. Tesch, and James E. Vogel



FAMILY & STAFF ASSISTANCE FUND: PROVIDING A SAFETY NET



In March 2020, in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, NMI's Board of Directors established an emergency Family & Staff Assistance Fund to support vulnerable families. In the face of sudden job losses, health concerns and other disruptions, the Fund was established to provide a safety net to school families and/or staff negatively affected by the outbreak and its ripple effects.

The Fund provides relief to families in the form of Woodman's grocery and Kwik Trip fuel-only cards. At the time of this writing, over 40 families and/or staff have received support from the Fund.

Many generous donors stepped up to support the Fund, some with multiple donations. At the time of this writing, contributions to the Fund totaled over \$8,400. NMI would like to thank all the donors to the Fund for providing financial support that proved to be instrumental to families in crisis:

Anonymous (5)

Marilyn Ash

Piper Bacskai

Tara Beck

Melody Braaten

Emily Camfield

Shannon Flasch

Yolanda Garcia Navarro

Laura Gibson

T Chris Hacker

Linda Hancock

Katharine Hayden

Jodie Henning

Mark Henschel

Caroline Hesse

Jack Hodny

Lorie Hodny

Patricia Hoppe

Ashley Inda

Jaime Irving

Jamie Jerred

Emily Kangogo

Katy and Joe Kaufman

Amanda Keehn

Valerie Klessig-Palm

David Mackey

Susan Moran

Annrenee and Erik Nielsen

Nancy Nilsen

Erin Olson

April Parrish

Francesca Rodriquez

Joy and David Schroeder

Carol Shirk

Bich Tran-Steichen

Heather Vilbrandt

Eric Wallin

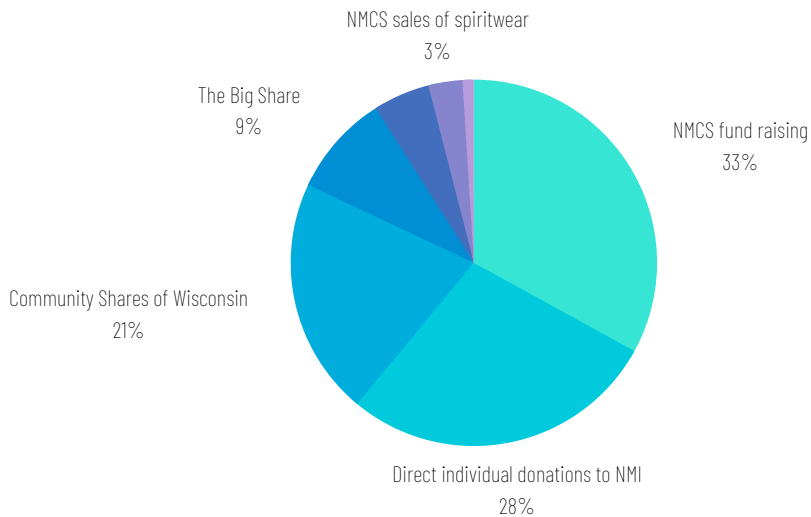
Judy Weis

Emily Zoeller

2019-2020 BUDGET REPORT

NOTE: These figures have not yet been audited.

When the audit is complete, it will be available on our website: www.nuestromundoinc.org



REVENUE

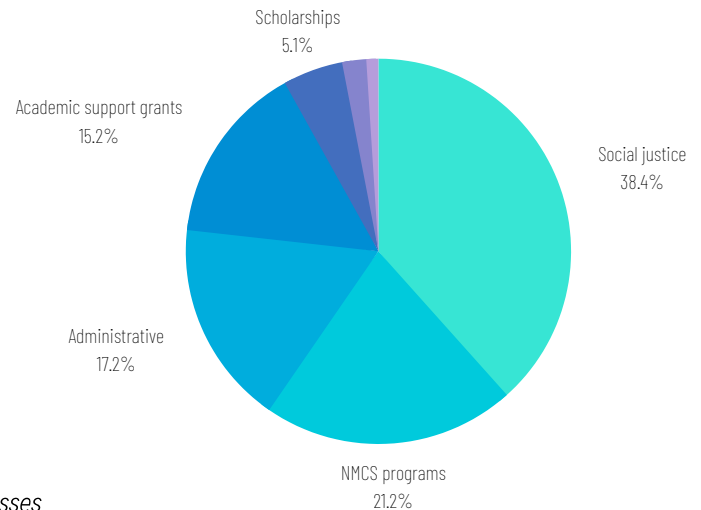
NMCS fundraising+	\$12,822.71 (33%)
Direct individual donations to NMI*	\$10,993.73 (28%)
Community Shares of Wisconsin	\$8,380.40 (21%)
The Big Share	\$3,470.22 (9%)
Business contributions to NMI	\$1,800.00 (5%)
NMCS sales of spiritwear	\$1,175.00 (3%)
<u>Other / interest income</u>	<u>\$500.03 (1%)</u>
Total revenue	\$39,142.09

+ includes revenue from Fun Run

* includes donations to the Family & Staff Assistance Fund

EXPENSES

Social justice#	\$14,865.83 (38%)
NMCS programs	\$8,128.68 (21%)
Administrative	\$6,684.87 (17%)
Academic support grants	\$5,950.00 (15%)
Scholarships	\$2,000.00 (5%)
DLI grants/enhancements	\$800.00 (2%)
<u>Board development</u>	<u>\$287.50 (1%)</u>
Total expense	\$38,716.88



includes expenses for Family & Staff Assistance Fund, food pantry, and language classes

A NOTE ABOUT PROGRAM AND EVENT CANCELLATIONS...

Just as COVID-19 has compelled us all in our individual lives to pivot and shift, so too have community organizations needed to pivot and shift. Nuestro Mundo Inc. is no exception. In the spring of 2020, NMI/NMCS's own cancellations included the annual DLI Summit, the annual Parent-School Partnership Program, the school's major fundraising event (Puma Pounce & Bounce), kinder and 5th grade promotion celebrations, and others. We look forward to bringing these programs and events back as soon as it's safe for us to do so.



JOIN US!

We welcome your greater involvement in the Nuestro Mundo community. Individuals can serve on NMI's board of directors. Families can participate in virtual-for-now community programs. Businesses can sponsor an event or fund key programs. Even during COVID, we benefit from volunteer involvement!

Nuestro Mundo Inc. is a totally volunteer-run organization. If you would like to help enrich the lives of children in our community, please reach out to inquire about opportunities to help us manage our website and social media presence, write grant proposals, plan events and programs, and more. We are eager to grow our base of volunteers! Interested? Email us at info@nuestromundoinc.org!

2019-2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Francesca Rodriquez, president
Ramón Ortiz, vice president
Becky Smith, secretary
Katy Kaufman, treasurer
Luz del Carmen Arroyo Calderón
Jerrod Buckner
Mikaela Hagen
Jeremy Pieper
Claudia Triana

Board members typically serve three-year terms, and the commitment includes monthly board meetings. If you're interested in board service, email info@nuestromundoinc.org for more information.



Ramón Ortiz

Thank you to Ramón Ortiz, outgoing vice president, for his years of service, his good humor, and his perceptive and forward-looking vision.

You will be missed, Ramón!

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Websites:

Nuestro Mundo Inc.: nuestromundoinc.org
Nuestro Mundo Community School: nmcs.madison.k12.wi.us

Facebook:

Nuestro Mundo Inc.
Nuestro Mundo Community School (page)
Nuestro Mundo Community School (group to join)

NMI / P.O. Box 6494 / Monona WI 53716 / info@nuestromundoinc.org

*Photography in this publication
courtesy of Althea Dotzour Photography*