

NUESTRO
MUNDO INC.
2020-21

ANNUAL REPORT



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: HARSHER THE STORM, DEEPER THE ROOTS



The 2020–2021 school year was one for the history books. We never would have imagined starting a school year learning remotely. The pivot from in-person learning to remote learning was challenging, but our Nuestro Mundo community worked together to rise to the occasion.

In these unprecedented circumstances, we took this as an opportunity to plant our roots more deeply to weather the storm. The response from our teachers, administrators, and staff was swift and strong.

This year's Annual Report lifts the stories of ways that Nuestro Mundo Inc. and the greater NMCS community took care of each other and continued to stay connected to the school community throughout quarantine. If you are looking for a silver lining in this pandemic, we have found it through the amazing support of generous donors who gave to the Family and Staff Assistance fund—a financial assistance fund that was created as a response to the pandemic.

In spite of difficult economic times, NMI is fortunate to call this year our highest grossing fundraising year to date. Families who could afford to do so stepped up to pay their fortune forward to help families made more vulnerable in the pandemic. We are grateful that so many of you gave and continue to give time, talent and financial resources to caring for our kids, staff and school. This has helped NMI continue our mission despite the financial challenges COVID 19 has presented, and we know we can count on your continued support to see us through.

We are proud of the work of our staff and the support of our board, volunteers, and community. All your actions have shown us how to have hope in a time of hardship. We don't know what the future holds, but we know that the Nuestro Mundo community will meet future challenges together.

Harsher the storm, deeper the roots,

Francesca Rodriguez
Board President

SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON: FAMILY & STAFF ASSISTANCE FUND

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.

Throughout 2020-21, many generous donors continued to support the Fund with donations, such that NMI was able to continue providing support from the Fund to families in need. NMI would like to thank all the donors to the Fund for providing financial support that proved to be instrumental to families in crisis.



NEW BUILDING MEANS NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH AND EXPANSION

As you may know, local voters in the November 2020 election passed a referendum that allocated both capital and operating funds to the Madison Metropolitan School District. Some of the capital funds will be used to construct a new elementary school on Rimrock Road, adjacent to Badger Rock Middle School, to house the school now known as Frank Allis. When that school community moves into the new building, Nuestro Mundo Community School will permanently relocate to the current Frank Allis building at 4201 Buckeye Road. If construction goes as planned, that move will occur over the summer of 2023.

The Frank Allis building is approximately twice the size of Nuestro Mundo's current building in Monona, which provides many opportunities for expanding programming. Nuestro Mundo, Inc. hosted a community input session in April 2021, inviting school families and other stakeholders to dream about what might be possible with more space. Lots of families expressed interest in expansion upward into middle school grades, as well as downward into preschool.

Over the summer, the ideas generated in the spring were explored and refined in strategy sessions with NMI board members and NMCS teachers and staff. NMI's board continues to lead the necessary planning work to take advantage of the opportunities that more space will offer to Nuestro Mundo, and input from our community continues to be critical.

If you want to get involved in program expansion plans, please reach out to NMI President Francesca Rodriquez at frodriquez@gmail.com. Your voice counts!

SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON: ACADEMIC SUPPORT GRANTS

Each year, through Nuestro Mundo's Family & School Alliance, NMI supports teachers at Nuestro Mundo Community School with grant funds to enhance student learning. Last year, the pandemic forced shifts in how and where students learned, with classrooms becoming all-virtual and then hybrid (with both in-person students and virtual students).

Academic support grants also shifted to meet the challenges of the changing situation. For example, in 2020-21, grants funded a wide range of initiatives to support:

- Students learning from home, with art sketchbooks for every student to have at home for art class, as well as other supply kits with pencils, pencil sharpeners, watercolors, markers, etc. that were distributed to every student.
- Teachers delivering lessons from home, with purchases like standing desks and headphones.
- Maintaining school-family connections, with supplies to establish the routine materials exchange and pick-up opportunities at school, which enabled families to check out and use book collections from the classroom when school was virtual.
- Safe learning spaces when in-person learning became an option, with items like wagons for teachers to take learning outside.

Applying flexibility to the guidelines for grant use, NMI was able, very literally, to meet students and teachers where they were.



SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON: MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

When the COVID-19 outbreak hit in March 2020, and school grounds were suddenly closed, the Nuestro Mundo in-school food pantry was compelled to pivot in its traditional operation. Rather than opening the pantry at school each Friday afternoon, the pantry hit the road. From March 2020 through August 2021, the pantry has been mobile, operating each Thursday out of two U-Hauls that visit the neighborhoods where our school families reside. This mobile operation is a collaboration between Nuestro Mundo, Frank Allis Elementary School, and Badger Rock Middle School.

Between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, our mobile pantry provided 207,275 pounds of food through its partnership with Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin, which is the equivalent of 172,729 meals. We served an average of 600 families. Wow!



LANGUAGE CLASSES

For the sixth 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.

Due to the pandemic, both language classes were taught remotely in 2020-21. Participants joined online small group classes through Zoom, and classes were offered at beginner and intermediate levels to tailor curriculum to participants' needs and goals. All participants report feeling more confident communicating in their new language by the end of the classes.

NMI is proud to support the language classes as a way to offer cross-cultural learning opportunities 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 RECIPIENTS

NMI awarded three scholarships to three fantastic DLI grads from the class of 2021. Giovanni Zavala Ibarra, Esmi Miranda-Naxi, and Melanie Martinez each demonstrated superior academic achievement and wrote beautifully about their experiences as bilingual students and people. All three students are graduates of Nuestro Mundo Community School and reflected fondly on the ways that bilingual education strengthened their sense of self and connection to family and community.

Each student also shared exciting ways that they plan to bring their bilingual skills into their future careers in STEM fields and education. Giovanni and Melanie are also graduates of the district's inaugural Personalized Pathways program (Health Sciences) at La Follette HS, which they balanced with their DLI classes throughout high school. Esmi, an East HS grad, will attend the University of San Francisco where she plans to study architecture. Giovanni is headed to the University of Wisconsin—Madison next year and Melanie will bring her talents to Madison College. We are so proud of them and wish them the best in their next steps!

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



DLI SUMMIT

On March 20th, NMI hosted a virtual DLI Summit with the theme of “Multilingual in the World”. After having to cancel last year’s Summit due to the pandemic, the committee was eager to offer a space that would bring together members of the community from the safety of their homes. The Summit was facilitated in Spanish with translation to English offered by Anamaria Peralta, Nuestro Mundo’s Bilingual Resource Specialist.

Parents, teachers, and community members involved in dual language immersion programs throughout MMSD participated in small group discussions to share their experiences including what they love about DLI and what could use improvement.

Alumni of the program, Jackie Barrera Gonzalez and Grant Borcharding, and supporters of Nuestro Mundo, Aitor Luna Olivares and Veronica Ponce Tecalero, were the panelists at the event, sharing their experiences as multilingual in the world. The panel was a highlight for participants who noted that they were excited to hear how DLI alumni continue to use their bilingual language skills.

DLI AVOCACY GRANT

NMI AWARDS GRANT TO LAFOLLETTE

Thanks to the generosity and fundraising efforts of many, NMI has designated funds to support creative and innovative projects that support Dual Language Immersion (DLI) in the wider Madison community. In the 2020-2021 school year, the \$500 DLI Advocacy Grant was awarded to La Follette High School's "9th and 10th grades DLI High Interest Choice Reading Spanish Language Arts Classroom Libraries." Teachers Tony Jennaro and Kristin Montgomery provided this summary of the impact of the grant funds:

La Follette's DLI team is always striving to create a programmatic experience for students that not only supports their linguistic development but also holistically encourages students to explore their identities and selves in diverse communities of their peers. We are particularly excited about the opportunity this grant has provided us to bolster our students' access to high-interest, identity-rich, developmentally and linguistically suitable Spanish language texts.

We were excited to find a wide range of texts highlighting diverse experiences of Latinidad among youth in a US context. It is also worth noting that as we curated these texts we noticed areas where we hope to grow our library in the future. Particularly, many books we have on this list are originally written in English and translated to Spanish, we know that our students can benefit greatly from texts originally written in Spanish from throughout the Spanish-speaking world.

Additionally, we want to make sure our library increasingly reflects the racial and cultural diversity of our DLI students and larger school community, so we know in future evolutions of growing our classroom library that we will want to focus on identity and criticality in a more expansive way. For now, we hope that all students will find mirrors and/or windows as they engage with these choice texts.



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS!

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN JULY 1, 2020 - JULY 30, 2021

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

Hayden Family
Katy and Joe Kaufman
David and Joy Schroder
Bich Tran-Steichen

\$500 - \$999

Anonymous (2)
Associated Bank
Kat Beyer
Stephanie and Jim Buske
Chad's Design Build
Dominique and Chris Hacker
David Mackey

\$250 - \$499

Marilyn Ash
C. H. Robinson*
Michelle DeLeon
Caroline Hesse
Ashley Inda
Rachel and Eric Kiley
Elizabeth and Karl Klessig
Francesca Rodriquez
Parthy Schachter
Bonniejean and Eric Zitske

\$100 - \$249

Thabatha Adler
James Ahearn
Piper and Josh Bacskai
Tara Beck
Katie Brown
Emily Camfield
John Curtain

\$100 - \$249 cont'd.

Sally Droster
Laura Gibson
Hafner/Hatch Family
Collin Hagen
Linda Hancock
Danielle Lawrence and John Wheeler
Nathan Olson
Mariana Pacheco Ortiz
Ginny and Chris Powers
Shirley Scriver
Rebecca Smith

\$50 - \$99

Shannon Anderson
Susan Anderson Delgado
Luz Arroyo
George Ash
Sarah Byerley
Shannon Grace
Liz Hinkes
Toni Kaiser
Joseph Kanke
Lowen Klein
Valerie Klessig-Palm
Joe Leung
Erica K. Lopez
Elizabeth Ortiz Meister
Kelly Santiago
Daniel Shuda
Yolanda Torres
Jessica Vasquez

Up to \$49

Deborah Buchanan
Mark Buffat
Mayra Falcon Pineda
Kate Gomez-Phillips
Suzanne Hayes
Jeanett Juarez
Emily Kangogo
Elizabeth Lara
Crispin Luna
Brian Marshall
Berta Martinez
Simona Perales
Alyssa Rivera
Gloria Solis
Michael Thompson
Claudia Triana
Amy True
Amanda Versch
Carol Ziehmke

**Represents an employer matching gift*

*Thank
You*

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 and other workplace giving programs. NMI is a member agency of Community Shares of Wisconsin, and many of these supporters donate to CSW but direct their giving to benefit NMI.

Jodi Auron
Martin Bailkey
Michael A. Basford
Jenny M. Binzley
Cynthia M. Blankenship
Ana Bonjour
Jeff Carter
Marcus Chacon
Emma Cleveland
Frances Coan-Meredith
Katherine Davey
Emily R. Dickmann
Sheryl Dwinell
Peter Fiala
Ross Gatzke

Zachary Godfrey
Laura Graves
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Terry Ruzicka
Daniel Jon Shapiro
Rebecca L. Smith
Corinne Splain
Matthew Strickland
Roger Tesch
Carol Ann Van Hulle
Alberto M. Vargas
Michael Verhagen
Maggie Wolf

2020-2021 BUDGET REPORT

Revenues

*Direct individual donations to NMI	\$13,370 (38%)
Community Shares of Wisconsin	\$7,757 (22%)
NMCS fundraising	\$6,280 (18%)
The Big Share	\$4,176 (12%)
NMCS sales of spirit wear	\$1,585 (5%)
Business contributions to NMI	\$1,450 (4%)
Other / interest income	\$423 (1%)
Total revenue	\$35,041

Expenses

Social justice #	\$13,492 (49%)
Academic support grants	\$4,600 (17%)
Administrative	\$3,947 (14%)
Scholarships	\$2,000 (7%)
DLI grant/enhancements	\$1,363 (5%)
Other program expenses	\$1,012 (4%)
NMCS programs ^	\$954 (4%)
Total expense	\$27,368

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

^physical school closure and public health measures prevented typical school programs, which traditionally represent a much greater share of NMI expenses

These figures are reflected in our audited financial statements. Our full audit is available to the public and can be found at www.nuestromundoinc.org.

2020-21 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Francesca Rodriquez, *President*

Luz del Carmen Arroyo Calderón, *Vice President*

Becky Smith, *Secretary*

Katy Kaufman, *Treasurer*

Jerrod Buckner

Mikaela Hagen

Caroline Hesse

Jeremy Pieper

Aaron Seligman

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.

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Websites:

Nuestro Mundo Inc.: nuestromundoinc.org

Nuestro Mundo Community School: nmcs.madison.k12.wi.us

Facebook:

Nuestro Mundo Inc. [Page](#)

Nuestro Mundo Community School [Page](#)

Nuestro Mundo Community School [Group](#)

P.O. Box 6494, Madison WI 53716, info@nuestromundoinc.org

JOIN US!

We welcome your greater involvement in the Nuestro Mundo community. Individuals can volunteer as mentors in the classroom, help with events and after-school clubs, or serve on NMI's board of directors. Families can attend community programs. Businesses can sponsor an event or fund key programs.

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!

The Family & School Alliance acts as Nuestro Mundo's PTO and works to build community, celebrate staff, generate financial support, and provide opportunities for families to volunteer and support the work of our school. Interested? Email alianza@nuestromundoinc.org for more information.

Some photography in this publication is courtesy of Althea Dotzour Photography