

NUESTRO  
MUNDO INC.  
2023-2024

# 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: GROWING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER



Estimades amigues,

It has been a pleasure to serve on La Mesa Directiva at Nuestro Mundo Community School. And as I look back on my first year of Board involvement, and as a member of our executive team, there are a lot of accomplishments to celebrate. Likewise, there are a lot of goals we continue to work toward as a school.

## Accomplishments

- 5 year charter renewal from the Madison School Board - including approval of an International Baccalaureate Program & Full Day 4K DLI program
- Dedicated group of individuals who support the schools Family-School Alliance (FSA) and La Mesa Directiva (NMI)
- Receiving grants from the Baker Tilly Wishes Foundation & the Evjue Foundation to support our mission and the start of an IB Program at Nuestro Mundo Community School

## Goals

- Increase outreach to families & increased presence at outreach events within the community
- Achieve International Baccalaureate authorization to become an IB World School offering the Primary Years Program by fall of 2026
- Increase fundraising efforts to ensure the longterm sustainability of the IB program at Nuestro Mundo.

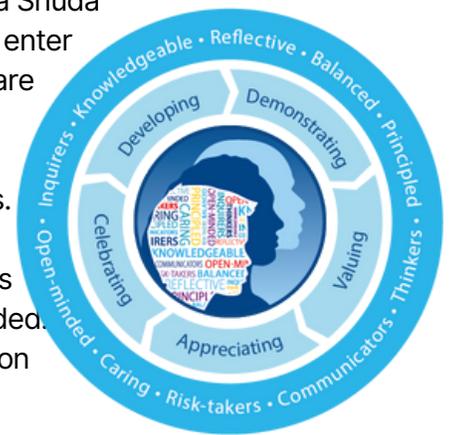
On a personal note, I am energized by the type of environment Nuestro Mundo offers for all families. Strong leadership, dedicated and compassionate educators and staff, and a highly engaged population of parents/caregivers are the foundation for a great school community. These are factors that make Nuestro Mundo the outstanding community that it is. Our school offers a quality education that holistically integrates approaches that are both culturally responsive and linguistically appropriate for all students and families. I invite you to read on to learn more about how Nuestro Mundo Inc. supported our community over the past year.

With gratitude,

Dominic Ledesma  
Board President

# NUESTRO MUNDO RECEIVES SIGNIFICANT GRANTS & DONATIONS TOWARD START OF NEW INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAM

2023-2024 marked the start of an exciting new chapter for Nuestro Mundo Community School! During our 2023 charter (contract) renewal, the Madison Metropolitan School Board approved our proposal to pursue authorization to become an International Baccalaureate World School offering the Primary Years Program with the condition that we fund it. Thanks to our community's commitment to and support of high quality public school education, we are confident that we will be able to raise the funds needed to sustain this world class program. To date, we are incredibly grateful to have received substantial support from **the Baker Tilly Wishes Foundation, The Evjue Foundation, and the Naab family**. Due to this generous support, we were able to apply for and receive IB Candidate School status and start IB staff training during the spring and summer of 2024. Director Forehand and Maestra Shuda, Nuestro Mundo's IB Primary Years Programme Coordinator, completed their Head of Schools and IB Coordinator training in June. An all staff training is scheduled to take place at the beginning of the 2024-25 school year. Read on to learn more about what Maestra Shuda says IB will look and sound like at Nuestro Mundo Community School. "When you enter our classrooms, you will see multilingual and culturally competent students who are actively engaged in their learning. Students will be thinking critically, problem solving, and conversing meaningfully with one another. You will see students asking questions and teachers listening to, posting, and honoring those questions. Students will have voice, choice, and ownership over their learning and explain their understanding and learning. Students will actively demonstrate the attributes of the IB learner profile such as being reflective, taking risks, and being open minded. Students will also continue to make a difference in their community by taking action through service learning connected to their units of inquiry."



## A NEW FULL TIME DLI 4K PROGRAM FOR NUESTRO MUNDO



Another exciting development that came out of this year's charter (contract) renewal is the addition of a new full time DLI 4K program at Nuestro Mundo school! This will be the first DLI 4K program within the Madison Metropolitan School District. Preschool is a vital age to foster curiosity, openness, self-awareness, and flexibility toward languages and culture. Dual Language Immersion supports this intercultural and communicative competence. Another benefit of DLI at the preschool level is having experiences and access to language models in both English & Spanish. Students develop a strong foundation that supports academic success as they continue on in the DLI program. The full-day program model opens up this opportunity to more families in support of the district's Early Literacy and Beyond focus area and belief that all children have a right to high-quality early childhood learning experiences. We are thrilled to be welcoming our inaugural DLI 4K class in the fall of 2024!

# FAMILY & SCHOOL ALLIANCE ACTIVITIES

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The Family and School Alliance had a successful year of building school community, hosting events, fundraising, and appreciating Nuestro Mundo's amazing staff. FSA meetings provided an opportunity for parents to learn more about school wide initiatives like Welcoming Schools and for parents to provide input into how best to address issues like school attendance and communication.

The FSA had a very successful fundraising year thanks to the generosity of our school community and local business partners. Ian's and Monona Bakery & Eatery hosted fundraising nights for Nuestro Mundo, and the Fun Run in October was also a big success. Almost \$17,000 was raised through pledges during the first run at the school's new permanent building. These funds support physical education, arts, music, and resources for Nuestro Mundo. Our first school auction was also a huge success raising over \$4,000 in spring! Many thanks to all the families and businesses who donated to and purchased items.

The 23-24 school year was also full of events and celebrations. A strong showing of parent support and donations from local businesses throughout the year helped make our community events a big success. We kicked off the year with a Hispanic Heritage celebration in September, followed by a beautiful Dia de los Muertos celebration in November. 2024 started off with a Black History & Culture celebration in February, followed by an Indigenous storytelling event in March, and finished strong with a Día de Niños event and End of the School Year celebration. Funds raised through the FSA supported academic support grants for staff, school events, yearbooks, teacher and staff appreciation, kindergarten & fifth grade promotion ceremonies, and a school musical.

## ACADEMIC SUPPORT GRANTS

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Each year, through Nuestro Mundo's Family & School Alliance, NMI supports teachers at Nuestro Mundo Community School with grant funds to enhance student learning. Thanks to your generosity, NMI was able to provide \$7,760 toward these grants for the 2023-24 school year. Here's a snapshot of how these funds were used by teachers.

- Sensory tools, posters, & games
- Flexible seating
- Books & Posters
- Classroom supplies & materials
- Classroom decor
- Makerspace items
- 4th Grade Bowling Field Trip
- Spanish Book Bowl Treats
- Supplies for musical
- Unicycle Club Instructor
- Supplies for Circus Performance
- Classroom storage

- STEM materials
- Headphones
- Classroom organizers
- Sand timers
- Dry erase boards & markers
- Magnets & Building kits
- Magnetic Sentence Strips
- Arts & Crafts materials
- Classroom cart & stool
- Realia for cultural celebrations
- PE Equipment



# INDIGENOUS STORYTELLING EVENT

We had the honor of hosting a potluck and storytelling event with the Bizhiki Culture & Dance Company in March. The Bizhiki Culture & Dance Company was founded in 2016 on the pillars of public engagement and education with the goal of furthering people's understanding of indigenous cultures, food ways, and languages. For many indigenous communities, Biboon (winter) brings cold weather and storytelling, a time of reflection, laughter, and life lessons. Students and families enjoyed an evening of engaging and interactive Ojibwe storytelling



# BACKYARD HERO AWARD



Ashley Inda  
Volunteer  
Nuestro Mundo, Inc.



Congratulations to Ashley Inda for being recognized as A Backyard Hero through Community Shares of Wisconsin's Backyard Heroes Program. Backyard Heroes were recognized at CSW's Changemakers Awards at the UW Union South in September. We appreciate all the time, energy, and expertise that Ashley has dedicated to Nuestro Mundo through her various volunteer roles over the years including FSA president and room parent coordinator. Huge thanks to Ashley for her organization and leadership and for helping families feel connected and engaged at Nuestro Mundo Community School

# COMMUNITY LANGUAGE CLASSES

The 23-24 School year marked another year of our longstanding partnership with the Literacy Network and Nuestro Mundo Community School to offer free English language classes for adults. These classes are made possible thanks to our partners and community donors. Classes were offered at the beginner and intermediate levels this past year and tailored to participant's needs and goals. Participants benefited from free level-appropriate text books, free child care offered during classes, and differentiated support from a volunteer teaching assistant. The fall session saw a record enrollment of 45 students. The spring session also had strong enrollment with 26 students, and the summer session had its highest enrollment in recent years with 20 students. Students ranged in age from 21-81 years old, and all came from low income backgrounds. Their literacy levels ranged from preliterate to high intermediate. 50-70% of students were Spanish speakers, and students' home countries included Brazil, Colombia, DRC, Ecuador, El Salvador, Gambia, Honduras, Mexico, Senegal, Nicaragua, Ukraine, and Venezuela. Students learned about introductions, expressing preferences, color vocabulary, household vocabulary, describing daily routines, food vocabulary, grocery shopping, and counting US currency. They also practiced multicultural awareness while discussing differences in color symbolism and special events. 100% of participants surveyed reported that this class helped them to improve English speaking, listening, reading, or writing skills and 96% of participants surveyed reported that this class helped them to feel more confident communicating in English. This past year also marked the milestone of two long time students completing 100+ hours of instruction over the past several years. We are very proud of their dedication and progress! Here's what some of the participants had to say about their experience:

"It's very good, very well. I will continue at a higher level because I want help with my carpentry work."

"Brilliant!"

"I learned speaking, conversation, vocabulary, reading, and writing."

"I am practicing more English."

"Literacy Network class help me with my work."

"I feel confident. Many thanks for the help!"

# NUESTRO MUNDO INC. AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO THREE MMSD DLI PROGRAM GRADUATES

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NMI is proud to name Alberto Martinez Juarez, Rylee Derk, and María Daniela Carvajal, as this year's recipients of the Luz Celedón DLI Scholarship. This scholarship was established to recognize outstanding students who have graduated from an MMSD Dual-Language Immersion program. We wish them all the best as they pursue their goals!



Alberto is a first generation college student that immigrated to Madison in elementary school. He is a dedicated student who persevered through the challenges that came with navigating and adapting to a new language and educational system to achieve his goals. During his time at La Follette, he excelled in AP classes and was a valued member of his class community who inspired others to reach for higher education. His teachers recognized his leadership, resilience, determination, and unwavering commitment to personal and academic growth over the course of his high school career. Alberto gives back to his community in many ways, including volunteering his time at his former elementary school, Nuestro Mundo Community School and will be studying at the University of Wisconsin Madison in the fall.



María Daniela Carvajal is a first generation college student who emigrated from Venezuela in 2019. After initially struggling to communicate during her first week of school, her parents enrolled her in the DLI program, and the change was immediate. Maria appreciated the sense of community and unconditional support from her classmates and teachers as she developed her bilingualism. During her time at Memorial High School, she excelled academically and was part of the People & AVID programs. She actively participated in school clubs and activities and was described by her teachers as a model student who is deeply admired and respected by her peers and teachers. Maria also served as a mentor to students who were new to the language and school district, encouraging them to not be discouraged by the immense barriers they faced and to not doubt their potential and ability to achieve it, just as she had thanks to her hard work and the support of her DLI community. She credits her father as her inspiration for never giving up and appreciates the sacrifices he made to ensure she and her siblings had access to educational opportunities. Maria plans to study Psychology at Madison College this fall.



Rylee is an exemplary student and a Nuestro Mundo alumna who has been part of the Dual Language Immersion program since kindergarten. She credits the program for being a catalyst that has pushed her to strive for personal, academic, and professional growth and success. She was sponsored by the Rotary Club to spend her junior year abroad studying in Chile and has taken rigorous coursework at La Follette including several AP classes. The Rotary's Youth Officer commended Rylee on her hard work to achieve her goals, her adaptability, and perseverance during her time abroad. Upon her return from Chile, Rylee started an Interact Club to promote the youth exchange program and help others become student leaders. Rylee plans to study Computer Science at Northern Michigan University in the fall.

# NUESTRO MUNDO INC. AWARDS TWO DLI ADVOCACY GRANTS TO LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS

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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 2023-2024 school year, two \$500 DLI Advocacy Grants were awarded to Katherine Perez Lohr at Memorial High School and Paulina Bravo Valenzuela at LaFollette High School. Perez Lohr's winning proposal, Nuestra Historia en Murales, brought together a team of students and teachers at Memorial to design a mosaic that represents and enhances Hispanic culture with the goal of proudly expressing Hispanic culture and heritage through art, so that our whole community can appreciate it. Perez Lohr believes that art is one of the most effective ways to build a culturally diverse community. Bravo Valenzuela's project, Muralismo en LaFollette, will include a collaboration between Ethnic Studies Classes, DLI teachers, and muralist Rodrigo Carapia, to create a mural that represents the ethnic and racial diversity of La Follette. Bravo Valenzuela shared that this project will create moments for joy and bonding between students and support the representation of Latino and Chicano artistic traditions and life stories at La Follette.



## FOOD PANTRY: NEW PARTNERSHIP & INCREASED DEMAND

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Nuestro Mundo's food pantry was open to the community on Tuesdays from 12-4 pm during the 23-24 school year. Approximately 40 families utilized Nuestro Mundo's pantry last year. Between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024, our food pantry provided 19,679 pounds of food, equivalent to 16,399 meals, through its partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank of Southern Wisconsin. 53% of offerings were fresh produce, dairy, or high protein, providing community members important access to nutritious food at a time when more and more people are struggling with food insecurity due to rising housing costs and extra pandemic era Foodshare benefits ending.

We are excited to announce an additional pantry partnership with St. Vincent de Paul. They'll be supporting our pantry through weekly food deliveries, access to free medicine through their pharmacy, and clothing vouchers. They also provided shoes and coats for students this year. A huge thank you also goes out to Anamaria Peralta, Bilingual Resource Specialist, for running the pantry's day to day operations. It takes a village to fight food insecurity, and we are grateful to our partners and community members whose generosity has allowed us to continue providing and expanding food access for members of our community.



# THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS!

## CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN JULY 1, 2023 - JULY 30, 2024

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.*

### **\$15,000**

*The Evjue Foundation*

### **\$10,000**

*The Baker Tilly Wishes Foundation*

### **\$1,000**

*The Naab Family*

### **\$500 - \$999**

*Katrina McCann*

*Ginny Powers*

*Derek Peterson*

### **\$250 - \$499**

*Richard & Ann Streiffer*

### **\$100 - \$249**

*Anonymous (2)*

*Anthology*

*Luz Arroyo*

*Althea & Bryan Dotzour*

*\*Patrick Heck*

*Kathryn Kaufman*

*Laura Komai*

*Familia Ledesma*

*Olson Lenz*

*La Familia Marín*

*Rebecca McAtee*

*Rod & Diane Nelsestuen*

*Rashids*

*The Rodriguez-Hancock Family*

*Becky Smith*

*Allison Shuda*

*Dan & Ann Shuda*

*Katharine Stubbendick*

*The Urquizo Family*

### **\$50 - \$99**

*Anonymous (3)*

*Familia Armstrong*

*\*First Business Bank*

*Wendy Hathaway*

*Laura Kieliszewski*

*The Olson Family*

*Andrew Pyatskowit*

*Ruth Pyatskowit*

*Richard Wagner*

### **Up to \$49**

*Anonymous (3)*

*Piper Backsai*

*KSE*

*Delia Esquivel*

*Jessie & John Gallagher*

*Sarah Harkey*

*Ellen Jacks*

*Claudio Lopez*

*Anthony Ocelotl*

*Chico T.*

*Angela Z.*

*Eric Zitske*

*Thank  
You*

*\*Represents a matching gift*

# 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.

*Anonymous (4)*

*Marcus Chacon*

*Hildy Feen*

*Mel Freitag*

*Ross Gatzke*

*Natalie Harburn*

*Sharon Holthaus*

*John Lalande*

*Sophia Lawrence*

*Chris Louderback*

*Rachel Maske*

*James Mcneilly*

*Jerri Morales*

*Megan Murray*

*Joanna Obrien*

*Elizabeth Ortiz-Meister*

*Lynn Persson*

*Francesca Rodriquez*

*Hollis Rudiger*

*Nathan Schorr*

*Gabriela Serrano*

*Cori Splain*

*Roger Tesch*

*Vinny Yoccum*

*UW Credit Union*

*(Coporate Match Gifts)*

# 2023-2024 BUDGET REPORT

## Revenues

Grants	\$26,757 (37%)
NMCS Fundraising	\$16,820 (24%)
Community Shares of Wisconsin	\$8,930 (13%)
Business Contributions	\$5,953 (8%)
The Big Share	\$4,783 (7%)
Direct Individual Donations	\$3,355 (5%)
Grocery Gift Card Fundraiser	\$3,320 (5%)
Other / Interest Income	\$930 (1%)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$70,848</b>

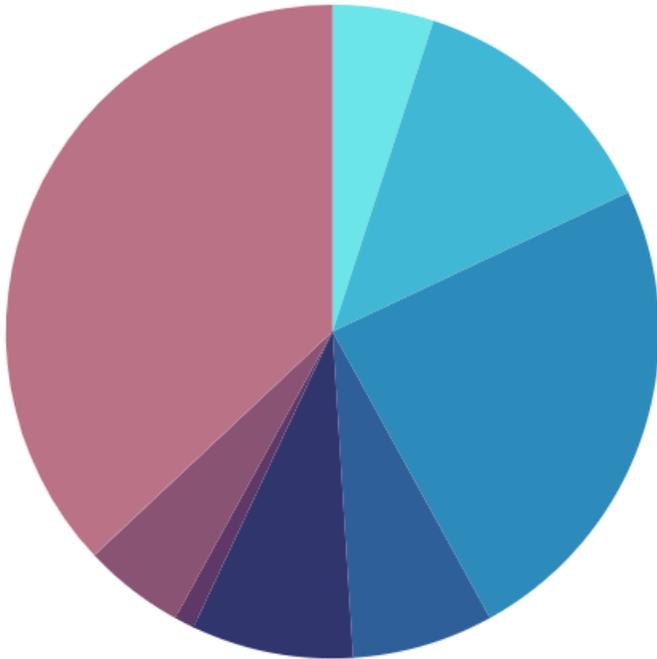
## Expenses

Administrative & audit	\$15,361 (36%)
IB Program	\$9,388 (22%)
Academic Support Grants	\$7,984 (19%)
Spiritwear	\$3,119 (7%)
Social Justice #	\$2,470 (6%)
NMCS programs & events	\$2,119 (5%)
DLI Grants & Scholarships	\$2,059 (5%)
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$42,500</b>

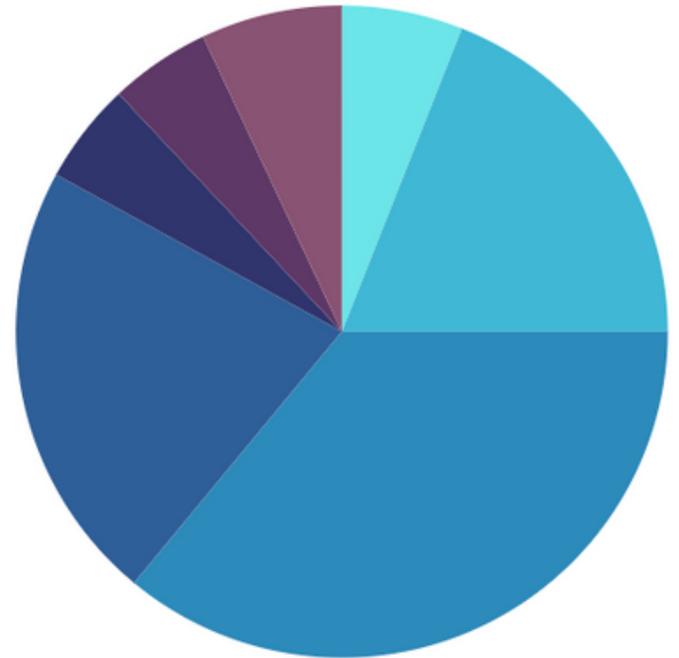
# includes expenses for food pantry and language classes

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](http://www.nuestromundoinc.org).

## Revenues



## Expenses



# 2023-24 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Dominic Ledesma, *president*

Omar Urquizo Saucedo, *vice president*

Udaí Olivares, *secretary*

Nathan Olson, *treasurer*

Gabriel MacLeod

Nina Nelsestuen

Udai Olivares

Allison Shuda

Erika Evelyn Walker



## KEEP IN TOUCH!

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**Nuestro Mundo Inc.**

Building a better world...together!

NMI IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:



## JOIN US!

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Interested in helping enrich the lives of children in our community? We are always eager to grow our base of volunteers and welcome your involvement! 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 volunteer-run organization with just one part time employee. We are always looking for community members who are willing to share their times and talents and serve on our board of directors. Board members typically serve three-year terms, and the commitment includes monthly board meetings. Potential ways to help include joining NMI's executive committee, managing our website and social media presence, writing grant proposals, coordinating programs, and more. Interested? Email us at [info@nuestromundoinc.org](mailto: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](mailto:alianza@nuestromundoinc.org) for more information.

### Websites:

Nuestro Mundo Inc.: [nuestromundoinc.org](http://nuestromundoinc.org)

Nuestro Mundo Community School: [nmcs.madison.k12.wi.us](http://nmcs.madison.k12.wi.us)

### Facebook:

Nuestro Mundo Inc. [Page](#)

Nuestro Mundo Community School [Page](#)

Nuestro Mundo Community School [Group](#)

### Nuestro Mundo Inc.

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