

NUESTRO
MUNDO INC.
2024-2025

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.

Letter from the president



Estimades amigues,

It has been a pleasure to serve on La Mesa Directiva at Nuestro Mundo Community School this past year. As you will find in this annual report, the 2024-2025 school year has been marked by significant growth and opportunity, not only for our school community but for the Board as well. Here are a few highlights from the past year:

Accomplishments

- We are eternally grateful for the financial support for our school community from the Madison Community Foundation, Ascendium, and Endres Manufacturing Company Foundation, and others. We invite you to read through this report for longer descriptions about the impact these awards and gifts have had on our community.
- We would be remiss if we did not also mention the cherished “spirit of giving” that stems from families in a variety of ways throughout the year. Two examples include:
 - The record-setting amount raised through donations during our spring Fun Run.
 - Of the roughly \$19,000 that was raised, \$13,000 will provide direct support for activities sponsored by our Family-School Alliance (FSA).
 - Countless services, experiences, and other in-kind donations that Nuestro Mundo families provide through our Puma Auction
- La Mesa Directiva also reinstated the Family & Staff Assistance fund to meet unanticipated needs that may emerge throughout the year.
- This past year, we expanded our educational offering to include a 4K class!
- Nuestro Mundo continues to make sound progress toward International Baccalaureate (IB) authorization; the commitment of our school’s teacher and principal on this important effort will continue to position us well for academic excellence and educational innovation.
- I would also like to give a special acknowledgement to our Board’s vice president, Omar Urquizo, whose leadership is helping us explore and pursue new strategies for outreach and recruitment within the surrounding community.

Letter from the president



- Four new members (Charles, Brenda, Jackie, Erin) joined La Mesa Directiva this past year, offering us the opportunity to regain solid footing and stability after a period of changes and transitions. They are doing great work!
- We hired a local professional bookkeeping firm to help the Board track and manage our ongoing accounting needs. Susan's support is both valued and appreciated!

Goals

- Continue to recruit new energy, skills, and talents for Board membership
- Solidify plans for a comprehensive community outreach strategy to help recruit families to Nuestro Mundo's exemplary Dual Language Immersion (DLI) program
- Raise additional financial support through grants and other fundraising opportunities
- Hold a strategic planning retreat for members of La Mesa Directiva this summer
- Achieve International Baccalaureate authorization to become an IB World School offering the Primary Years Program by fall of 2026

Great schools make for great communities, and great communities make for great schools. I continue to be amazed by our Nuestro Mundo community. Our leadership, educators, and school staff go above and beyond to make this a safe and supportive place to learn and grow. Likewise, our parents/caregivers are equally valued based on the attention, care, and generous support they show for all members of our school community. Nuestro Mundo is a special place, and it is our humble privilege to serve its mission, vision, and values.

With gratitude,

Handwritten signature of Dominic J. Ledesma in black ink.

Dominic J. Ledesma, PhD
Board President



Nuestro Mundo receives significant grants from Madison Community Foundation & Ascendium Education Group toward start of new International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program

Nuestro Mundo was awarded a \$35,000 Community Impact Grant from **Madison Community Foundation** this past fall! Out of almost 90 applicants, Nuestro Mundo was one of 19 recipients of this grant in 2024. Community Impact Grants support Madison Community Foundation's mission of engaging Greater Madison in philanthropy to advance a more vibrant and equitable community and are made possible by donors who support the Community Impact Fund, MCF's competitive grant making program.

We had the honor of welcoming Angela Davis Director of Grant making MCF, to speak at our Black History & Culture Celebration in February. Davis shared that the committee realized early on that Nuestro Mundo was special. "This is more than a school, this is genuinely a community that works together to bring the best out of each other. You all believe in the work that's being done. You see the impact and success as the school, the community school. Madison Community Foundation wanted to be a part of this...The way you advocate for social justice through quality dual language immersion in MMSD stood out, we see you. You believe all students should have access to this high quality, relevant, and meaningful educational experience." Davis recognized the "incredible work being done right here in the community you have built and continue to take



to new heights," and closed her speech with a special bilingual message for students. "I know the power of having people believe in you. Even sometimes when you haven't believed in yourself...Your education is something no one can ever, ever take away from you. La educación es algo que nadie jamás podrá quitarte. Continue to let your light shine and don't let anyone or anything stop you from accomplishing all your goals and making all your dreams come true. There will be bumps in the road, we can all agree on that. But you know, you are

our future, and we believe in you." Thank you, Madison Community Foundation, for your commitment to building a more vibrant and equitable community through your investment in bilingual education!



We are also deeply grateful to **Ascendium Education Group** for their generous support! Nuestro Mundo was one of 40 recipients of a \$25,000 Good Neighbor Grant, as nominated and voted on by Ascendium employees. Good Neighbor Grants are part of Ascendium's employee giving program, Ascendium Cares. Through this program, Ascendium employees commit to making a difference in the communities where they live and work by volunteering their time, talent, and support to local organizations.

Good Neighbor Grants are one of many opportunities for employees to engage with Ascendium's mission to improve outcomes, particularly in education and workforce training, for learners from low-income backgrounds. Board president Dominic Ledesma shared that "Nuestro Mundo Inc. is very excited about the support the school is receiving from Ascendium Education Group" and that "funds from the Good Neighbor Grant will help strengthen the quality of Nuestro Mundo's educational experience and will significantly advance the school's pursuit of long-term goals and priorities." Thank you, Ascendium, for your commitment to high quality education in our community!



These grants are instrumental in bringing the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program (IB PYP) to Nuestro Mundo Community School (NMCS) and will make NMCS the first public school in the area to offer this highly impactful program. Evidence has shown the wide range of the IB program's positive impact. Research has shown that the Primary Years Programme (PYP) has positively impacted educators' teaching philosophy, their outlook on their students' future education, and their teaching efficacy. PYP has been equally, if not more, positive for students, improving their academic performance and overall wellbeing by emphasizing social-emotional learning to support self-regulation, social awareness, and relationship skills. This program undergirds NMCS's bilingual learners as we work together toward closing achievement and opportunity gaps.

IB Primary Years Program updates

Thanks to the generous financial support from our community, educators at Nuestro Mundo have been hard at work preparing for authorization to become an IB World School. At the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year, all staff completed a 2.5-day Making the PYP Happen IB Workshop. Two IB workshop facilitators traveled to Madison from Mexico to provide this workshop at Nuestro Mundo in Spanish and English. Grade-level teaching teams collaborated throughout the year to create transdisciplinary curricular units. Throughout the units students explore big ideas and real-world problems by connecting different content areas (science, social studies, literacy, etc.). Teachers support this learning with inquiry based learning and teaching practices. In the spring of 2025, teachers began teaching and reflecting on these units. Several teachers also had the opportunity to visit the Academy of Accelerated Learning in Milwaukee to observe the program in action and to learn from and connect with other bilingual educators.



¡Música y Movimiento! Latin Grammy winners bring bilingual joy to NMCS



Nuestro Mundo was thrilled to welcome the Latin Grammy-award winning musical group 123 Andrés to perform for students in February 2025. 123 Andrés performed an amazing bilingual concert that got students moving, singing, and learning! NMCS students are familiar with their music, which is featured in the Benchmark Education curriculum. Their music draws from rhythms and sounds across Latin America and encourages play, curiosity, and connection. 123 Andrés is also the author of many bilingual children's books, host of the PBS podcast Jamming on the Job, and recognized by Billboard as "rock stars for little language learners." FSA fundraising was instrumental in providing this amazing experience for students!

Family and School Alliance activities

The Family & School Alliance (FSA) had a successful year of building upon our thriving school community by hosting events, fundraising, and demonstrating appreciation for 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 on how best to address issues like school attendance and communication.

Through the Fun Run, fundraising nights, the school auction, gift card sales, and other fundraising efforts, the FSA successfully raised over \$24,000 for our school community! Special thanks to Nuestro Mundo parent, Kathryn Coppola, for organizing our second annual school auction which saw a 30% increase in funds raised! Over \$7,000 of funds raised this year went directly to teachers through Academic Support Grants to support student learning and success. FSA fundraising and volunteer efforts also facilitated numerous school-wide events and programming such as the Día de los Muertos, Black History and Culture, and Día del Niño celebrations. Funds raised by FSA also



helped bring 123 Andrés, the Latin Grammy-winning musical duo, to NMCS to perform their songs in Spanish and English, and supported the annual school musical, musical, the outdoor learning program, and the school's Makerspace. These enriching events were made possible through the hard work of FSA leadership and volunteers and the incredible generosity and support of our community members and local business partners.

2024-25 Academic Support Grants

Each year, NMI and our Family & School Alliance (FSA) support our NMCS teachers with grant funds to enhance student learning. Thanks to your generosity, NMI was able to provide \$7,317 in grants for the 2024-25 school year. Here's a snapshot of how teachers used these funds to support our students:

- Sensory tools, posters, and games
- Flexible seating
- Books and posters
- Classroom supplies and materials
- Classroom decor
- 4th grade field trip to Creek Bed Farmacy
- Supplies for annual musical
- Unicycle Club instructor
- Supplies for circus performance activities
- Classroom storage
- Classroom organizers
- Dry erase boards & markers
- Building kits
- Arts and crafts materials
- Physical education equipment
- Speech therapy supplies
- Math & Language Arts program subscriptions
- Copa de libros materials
- Birthday cards
- Winter gear
- Butterfly habitat
- Book bins
- Classroom snacks
- Puppets
- Educational games
- Chair floor protectors



Growing together: Nuestro Mundo's garden grows into a living classroom

Amazing things have been happening outside at Nuestro Mundo's school garden! We have been able to grow our outdoor learning program such that every class has had a naturalist-led lesson series in the garden this past year. Students have also observed seeds growing in their classroom, participated in ecological restoration at our nascent oak savanna, spent time in fresh air learning in a thriving outdoor classroom, practiced the skills and process necessary to care for gardens, celebrated el Día de Muertos among cempasúchiles grown at school, and played in a healthy woodland habitat beneath the canopy of MMSD's largest and oldest tree.

This programming has been possible through your community support and our collaboration with our Allis Heritage Community Gardeners, led by the amazing Carol Troyer Shank; with our Rooted Gardener in Residence, Ms. Katherine; with family leaders on the Nuestro Mundo Green team; and with Nuestro Mundo's Advanced Learning teacher, Maestra Katie Hayden. Many thanks to Maestra Katie for her leadership in teaching, curriculum creation, and garden oversight!



Endres Manufacturing Company Foundation awards Nuestro Mundo a grant for English language classes for adult learners

We are deeply grateful to the **Endres Manufacturing Company (EMC) Foundation** for their generous financial support of our English Language Classes for Adults program. The EMC Foundation awarded Nuestro Mundo \$4,000 toward these classes, helping ensure that we can continue to offer this free, essential community resource in partnership with the Literacy Network and NMCS.

This past year, our community English program offered in-person classes for students with pre-literate to high-intermediate English levels. Free childcare was provided during class time so the students could focus on their learning. Enrollment numbers were strong, ranging from 16 students in summer to 31 in fall, and 26 in spring. All students were from low-income backgrounds; some were also refugees. Their ages ranged from 19 to 81, and many are the parents of children under 18. Students spoke a wide variety of native languages: Spanish, Haitian Creole, Arabic, French, Russian, and Wolof, and their home countries included Colombia, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Panama, Senegal, Ukraine, Venezuela, and Guinea. All students surveyed reported that this class helped them to improve English speaking, listening, reading, or writing skills and to feel more confident communicating in English. We are very proud of the students' dedication and progress! Here's what some of them had to say about their experience:

"This class is exactly what I need. The teacher is very good all the time explaining and helping."

"These classes are very good for the community."

"Sin comentarios la clase es buena y las maestras son excelentes."

"It helped me [to] improve communication at work."

"Yes, it helped me in my work and with school children."



Nuestro Mundo Inc. awards scholarships to three MMSD La Follette DLI program graduates

NMI is proud to name Angie Barrera-Gonzalez, Adriana Villagomez, and Yarielly Bautista Caballero 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. All three students are La Follette graduates and first-generation college students.



Nuestro Mundo alumna, Angie Barrera-Gonzalez, is an exemplary and incredibly hard-working student who is described by her teachers as a “force of resilience, leadership, and empathy.” She co-founded La Follette’s Unión Latina and is a strong advocate and mentor for her fellow students. She was selected to participate in the exclusive Congressional Hispanic Caucus Leadership Program for which she traveled to Washington D.C. to speak with students from all over the country and meet with members of Congress. Throughout her tenure with Unión Latina, she has grown the program, built partnerships with many local organizations, and has been instrumental in organizing and fundraising for the group’s first field-experience trip to Costa Rica. She credits her teacher, Ms. Bravo’s mentorship for encouraging her to step out of her comfort zone and use her leadership to give back to her community. Angie is planning to study Legal Studies with a certificate in Chicano Latino Studies at University of Wisconsin–Madison (UW— Madison) and intends to pursue a career as an immigration lawyer. In her essay, she shared that she “wants to give back to the community that has always welcomed me, helped me, and reminded me that I belong.”



Adriana Villagomez, also an Nuestro Mundo alumna, is an exceptional and highly involved student who co-founded Unión Latina at La Follette High School. She is described by her teachers as “a visionary student whose leadership, creativity, and intellectual curiosity have transformed not only our school community but also the broader community.” She serves on the board for By Youth for Youth and Common Wealth Youth Advisory, volunteers at the Monona Public Library, and was recognized as Youth of the Year by the Boys & Girls Club of Dane County. Adriana has been instrumental in coordinating community outreach efforts such as the Reading Together program where high school students read with bilingual elementary students and securing grants for Unión Latina activities and opportunities. Adriana’s art, leadership, and community involvement have made a lasting impact on her community. She credits her DLI teachers’ unwavering support for her increased confidence that has allowed her to share ideas and turn them into a successful reality. Thanks to the DLI program and educators, Adriana shared that she “feels prepared to continue being a leader and inspiring future generations.” She says, “this program has not just educated me in two languages but also made me a committed citizen and leader in my community.” Adriana intends to study Childhood Development & Family Studies at UW— Madison in fall.

Nuestro Mundo Inc. awards scholarships to three MMSD La Follette DLI program graduates



Yarielly Bautista Caballero started in the DLI program at La Follette in 9th grade. She is recognized as an exceptional student with strong leadership who is deeply committed to her community. In addition to her leadership in Unión Latina, Yarielly created the first ever Dual Language Immersion Newsletter, increasing parent involvement and engagement in school life and building connections between students. She was also instrumental in establishing a bilingual poetry contest which provides multilingual students a platform to share their voices and experiences. Yarielly's strength and resilience have allowed her to persevere through many challenges which have helped shape her strong sense of identity. In her essay, Yarielly shared that, "Thanks to DLI, I learned to communicate with people from different cultures and learn more about their experiences. This program helped me to develop empathy, confidence, and my own voice, not just academically, but also personally. I can read important texts in both languages, participate in significant discussions and see how language influences our community and the way that we see people. Being a part of DLI has made me proud to be bilingual and bicultural." Yarielly is planning on studying business at UW--Madison).

Nuestro Mundo Inc. awards the DLI Advocacy Grant to East High School



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. This year's \$500 DLI Advocacy Grant was awarded to Rob Cunningham, Band Teacher at East High School. Cunningham's winning proposal, Mariachi at East High, creates opportunities for students to explore language, culture, and music together through a newly formed Mariachi Club. Grant funds from NMI went toward hiring a mariachi instructor. The club had its first performance at East's annual Día de los Muertos celebration where they were joined by Mariachi Corcel de Madison. The club currently has ten members playing traditional and non-traditional instruments and singing. The club is open to all students.

Kwik Trip Kares donates \$500 to Nuestro Mundo's Food Pantry, supporting our community through our Family & Staff Assistance Fund

Nuestro Mundo's food pantry was open to the community on Tuesdays from 12-4 pm during the 2024-2025 school year. Approximately 40 families utilized Nuestro Mundo's pantry last year, which provided 13,403 pounds of food, equivalent to 11,161 meals, through our partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank of Southern Wisconsin. We are very grateful to Nuestro Mundo Bilingual Resource Specialist, Anamaria Peralta, for running this program and to **Kwik Trip Kares** for donating \$500 toward personal care items and toiletries for our food pantry. This will ensure that more of these high needs items are able to be stocked in our pantry this year.



Thanks to community donations to the Family & Staff Assistance Fund, we were able to provide \$600 in gas and grocery cards to families in need this past spring. We will continue to work with Nuestro Mundo's social worker, Sandra Rivera, to ensure we continue to meet community members' needs as they arise. We are grateful to our partners and community members whose generosity has allowed us to continue providing and expanding food access and supporting transportation needs for our community members.



Nuestro Mundo Inc. Grant Funding

Grants received between July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

\$35,000

Madison Community Foundation

\$2,000

Jewish Federation of Madison

\$25,000

Ascendium Education Group

\$720

Healthy Classrooms Foundation

\$4,000

Endres Manufacturing Company Foundation

\$500

Madison Area Master Gardeners Association



Nuestro Mundo Inc. Individual Donors

Contributions received between July 1, 2024 -June 30, 2025

Thank you to all our donors for your ongoing support of the NMCS community and DLI advocacy! NMI is grateful for support in all forms, including time and donated goods. This listing reflects only direct financial giving by our generous donors over the past year. Please let us know of any inadvertent errors, misspellings, or omissions.

\$500 - \$999

Kathryn Kaufman

In honor of NMCS's outstanding staff and faculty!!!

Gary & Shay Olson

Derek Peterson

Ginny Powers

David & Joy Shroder

Luz Arroyo

Althea & Bryan Douthour

Andrew Kohrs

The Ledesma Family

Dave and Renee Peot

Shirley S.

Dan & Ann Shuda

Becky Smith

The Opgenorth Family

Soumya Palreddy

Sam Potter

Hannah Roberts

Meghann Shutt

Michelle Roznowski

MT

Urquizo Family

\$250 - \$499

Matt Bents

In memory of Gary Bents

Mel Freitag

Alexandra Roznowski

In honor of Finn McGehee - Go Pumas!

Phillip Stefonik

In honor of Ann and Malia Ahearn

\$50 - \$99

Anonymous

Oswaldo Aca

Tara Beck

Patrick Heck*

Elizabeth Johnson

Mary Lou Kaeppel

Libbey Meister

In honor of the teachers, staff and alumni of NMCS

Jessie & John Gallagher

Luke Mertins

Up to \$49

Anonymous

In honor of Darlene Rocque

Anonymous

Aimee Cadena

Deisy & Cruz

Amy Curran

Althea Douthour

Kerman Eckes

Kiri H

Sheila McCabe

Eileen Newcomer

Vanessa Prado

The Wegers

\$100 - \$249

Anonymous

In honor of Great Grandpa Bob + G.G Cindy

Anonymous (2)

*Represents a matching gift

Nuestro Mundo Inc. Workplace Donors

Nuestro Mundo Inc. would also like to recognize and thank donors who support us through Community Shares of Wisconsin (CSW) 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 (17)

Jenny Binzley

Marcus Chacon

Nan Enstad

Hildy Feen

Kelly Giese

Mel Freitag

Ellen Jacks

Sharon Holthaus

Ashley & Tyler Inda

Ada Johnston

John Lalande

Rachel Maske

James Mcneilly

Jerri Morales

Elizabeth Ortiz-Meister

Nathan Schorr

Roger Tesch

UW Credit Union

(Corporate Match Gifts)

Thank
You

2024-2025 Budget report

Income

Grants*	\$67,220(56%)
FSA Fundraising	\$30,674(26%)
Individual & Business Donations	\$14,923(12%)
Grocery Gift Card Fundraiser	\$5,431 (5%)
Other / Interest Income	\$ 1,159 (1%)
Total Income	\$119,407

*Some grant funding received this year will be used toward programming and International Baccalaureate expenses in the 2025-26 school year.

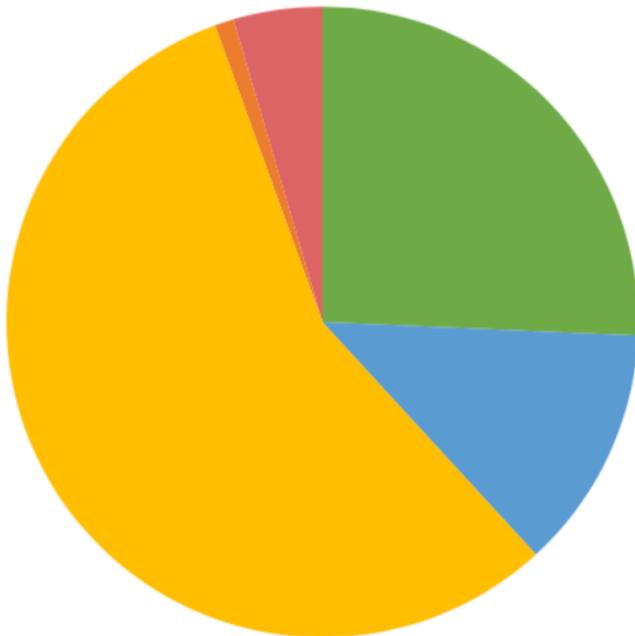
^ includes expenses for DLI scholarships and DLI advocacy grant
includes expenses for food pantry and language classes

Expenses

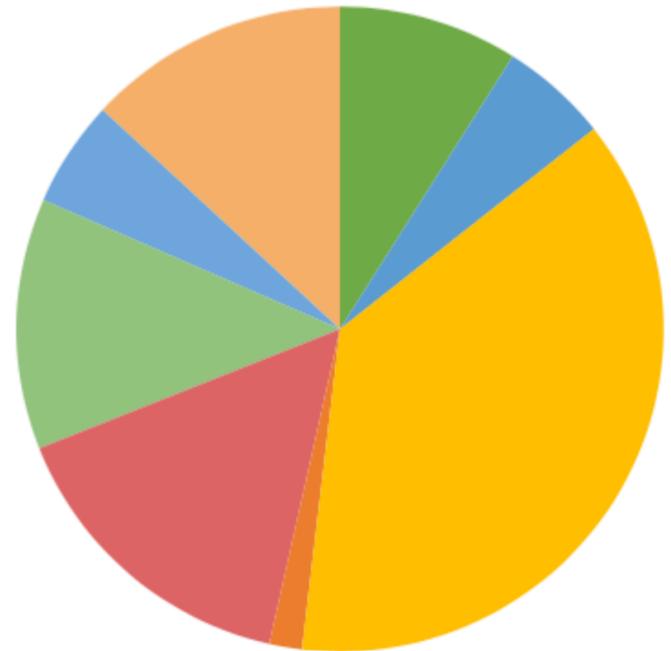
International Baccalaureate Program	\$30,449(38%)
NMCS/FSA Program Expenses	\$12,549 (15%)
Board/Admin Expenses	\$10,638 (13%)
PE Department Expenses	\$10,201 (13%)
Academic Support Grants	\$7,276 (9%)
DLI Enhancement^	\$4,370 (5%)
Social Justice Expenses #	\$4,336 (5%)
Teacher/Staff Appreciation	\$1,320 (2%)
Total Expenses	\$81,139

Our accounting is managed by our board's finance committee with the support of a professional bookkeeper; financial figures are reviewed monthly by the Nuestro Mundo Inc. board.

Income



Expenses



- FSA Fundraising
- Academic Support Grants
- Social Justice Expenses
- Individual & Business Donations
- DLI Enhancement
- Board & Admin Expenses
- Grants
- International Baccalaureate Program
- Interest
- Teacher & Staff Appreciation
- Grocery Card Fundraiser
- NMCS/FSA Program Expenses
- PE Department Expenses

2024-25 Board of Directors

Dominic Ledesma, president
Omar Urquizo Saucedo, vice president
Udai Olivares, secretary
Nathan Olson, treasurer (outgoing)
Charles Donaldson, treasurer (incoming)
Jackie Barrera-Gonzalez

Nina Nelsestuen
Tammy Pineda
Ana Selenske
Allison Shuda
Brenda Vazquez Carranza
Erika Evelyn Walker



We'd like to express our appreciation for outgoing board members Ali Shuda, Evelyn Walker, Udai Olivares, and Nathan Olson. Thank you for your leadership and for sharing your time and talents with our school community. 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!



Nuestro Mundo Inc.

Building a better world...together!

NMI is a proud member of:



Join us!

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](#)

Nuestro Mundo Inc.

P.O. Box 6494, Monona, WI 53716

info@nuestromundoinc.org

We welcome your greater involvement in the Nuestro Mundo community. Individuals can volunteer as mentors in the classroom, or 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. If you would like to help enrich the lives of children in our community, please reach out to inquire about opportunities to join our executive committee, help manage our website and social media presence, write grant proposals, coordinate programs, and more. We are eager to grow our base of volunteers! Interested? Email us at info@nuestromundoinc.org!

The Family & School Alliance (FSA) acts as Nuestro Mundo's PTO and works to build community, celebrate staff, plan events and programs, 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.