Committed to Her Daughter’s Academic Success

When Paulina wakes up every day, she knows it’s going to be busy. She helps get her husband off to work, her son off to school and prepares to walk to Mi Escuelita’s Bethany site to drop off her youngest daughter. Paulina has made up her mind that she will do whatever it takes to make sure her daughter has a chance at a better life and it all begins with her education. “I became a mother at such a young age and had to go right to work. I never went past the ninth grade”, says Paulina. “Now it’s very hard for me to get a good job”.

For Paulina, it is pleasing to see the progress her daughter, Paola, has made in the first few weeks of the school year. She says she is shocked. “It’s like I have a different daughter”. From counting, to the number of English words she speaks to the social skills she exhibits and even her requests to have her parents read to her, Paulina is impressed with all that her daughter is learning. She claims her daughter never showed that level of development with her babysitter.

Paulina’s family struggles financially and even the low tuition at the Bethany site was out of reach for this young family. Determined to give her daughter a chance at a brighter future, Paulina cleans and helps in classrooms at the Crossover site in exchange for tuition. She always has a smile on her face as she goes through her duties at Mi Escuelita because she is proud of the commitment she has made to her daughter and her little school. The end of the day involves a long walk back home, but it gives mother and daughter a chance to bond and talk. “My daughter tells me that she likes her teachers and her friends and that she is happy. If she is happy, then I am happy”, beams Paulina.

Paulina knows she will have to get up and do it all again the next day, but for her, it’s all worth the effort if it will benefit her daughter in the long run. It’s a mother’s love and a deep desire to see her children excel.
Volunteer Spotlight

We would like to thank Hadrien Reina and the Eagle Scouts, Troop 577 for volunteering their time and resources to paint, build and install new bookcases and a new door at Mi Escuelita Preschool, Cockrell Hill on September 22-23, 2012.

For Hadrien’s Eagle Scout project with Mi Escuelita, he recruited 18 of his friends and family to renovate the library at Cockrell Hill to ensure the children at Mi Escuelita Preschool would have a nice place to store and read their books. First they tore down the old book shelves and moved the books into storage. Volunteers then caulked, sanded, primed, puttied, painted and installed new moldings in the rooms. After completing those tasks, they also installed the new book shelves and organized the books onto the shelves. Everyone involved worked diligently and cheerfully to complete this special project.

The children, their families and staff at Mi Escuelita appreciate all the time, effort and resources that Hadrien Reina, the Eagle Scouts, Troop 577, friends and family put into making this project a huge success. We extend a big heartfelt thank you.

Volunteer Highlights

This year we welcomed returning volunteers and many new faces to give of their time and talent to the children at Mi Escuelita. We also honored long time volunteers at our annual Cena de la Mariposa dinner and auction on September 20th.

• Bill and Elaine Johnson were honored as Volunteers of the Year and received an award for over 15 years of dedication to the children at Mi Escuelita Preschool.

• Ernst & Young were honored as Group Volunteers of the Year and also received an award for countless hours spent participating in the Corporate Reader Program.

We are happy to report that we have 106 classroom volunteers this year from the corporate sector as well as local middle and high schools.

• Our youngest volunteers come from Ursuline Academy, Jesuit College Prep School and Episcopal School of Dallas and the students work on projects with the children in the classrooms.

Many corporations have chosen Mi Escuelita as their beneficiary for their Corporate Day of Caring or Impact Day. We thank every company for encouraging their team to help their community. Here are a few examples of the many projects happening at Mi Escuelita.

• Texas Instruments wowed the children at Buckner with fabulous Science Day experiments.

• Level 3 showed up in full force at our Crossover site and did a great makeover of the playground and outdoor area.

• Fluor Corporation assembled over 400 homework packets used to support the Together We Learn program.

• PepsiCo warmed the Cockrell Hill children’s hearts by getting measurements to provide each child with a coat for the winter.
Our school year is underway and the children are settling in to their classrooms. Many are excited to learn and are having fun adjusting to their new environments. They especially love working on their classroom projects. They love new supplies, especially when they come from their friends in the community. A new box of crayons makes the day seem like Christmas to our children.

If you would like to help and donate supplies please call our office (214) 526-0220 or visit our website at www.miescuelita.org to make a monetary contribution.

Supplies Needed for Our Classrooms

- Art supplies – tempera paint, paint brushes, glue, Crayons, etc.
- Paper products – paper towels, napkins, paper plates, tissue paper and toilet paper, Dixie cups
- Construction paper – all colors
- Age appropriate books in Spanish or English – Ages 2 1/2 - 5 years old
- Butcher Paper
- Children’s Music CDs for song time
- AA Batteries
- Child safe scissors
- Sand for sandboxes
- Big books
- Plastic cutlery (spoons, knives, forks)

Give the Gift of Education. Give Wings

Few things in life are as rewarding as preparing a child for the future. At Mi Escuelita Preschool, we start preparing them to succeed during the formative years. Not only do we teach them to speak, inquire, explore, count, write, color and draw, but we also teach them to say “please” and “thank you”. And most importantly, we teach them to share and care about one another.

As we near the holiday season and look to the end of the year, we reflect on the things we are thankful for and we always come back to being thankful for our Mi Escuelita children and for those of you who have become so important to us.

The gifts you give throughout the year have helped us ‘Give Wings’ to our children. Each of you choose to support Mi Escuelita for different reasons. Whether it is through your treasure, your talent or your time, we are honored that you have partnered with Mi Escuelita this year. Your donations make a difference that is not only measured in exceptional test scores, but one that can be seen in smiles and laughter of children.

As you prepare your year-end donations, please consider giving the gift of education to the children of Mi Escuelita. Your tax-deductible contribution will be used for books, program supplies, lunches and other necessary items that allow our children to learn and thrive. Thank you and God bless you and your loved ones during this holiday season.

KIDS HELPING KIDS
COLLECTING PEANUT BUTTER IN PLASTIC JARS

Mi Escuelita supports the North Texas Food Bank in collecting Peanut Butter (in family size plastic jars).

Items Being Collected: PEANUT BUTTER IN PLASTIC FAMILY SIZE JARS
Collection Dates: NOVEMBER 5 – DECEMBER 7
Drop-off at: ANY MI ESCUELITA LOCATION

For more information: (214) 526-0220 www.miescuelita.org
The need for change
In the Dallas Independent School District (DISD), 35 percent of students are not proficient in English, and many of them also come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Children who begin school with a limited vocabulary, poor reading skills, and little access to resources are facing challenges that could impact the rest of their lives. Reading ability in the first grade has been proven to be a strong indicator of where students will be 10 years later — children who do not develop these skills are more likely to repeat grade levels, drop out of school, and have limited employment opportunities as a result. Grade retention alone costs Texans $315 million annually. With the futures of so many children and the economic strength of the Dallas community in the balance, the time to act is now.

The opportunity for impact
A part of the solution is simple — instilling strong early reading skills can make all the difference in the paths children take. Mi Escuelita strives for the best outcome of every student by equipping low income preschool children, particularly those whose first language is not English, with the strong literacy, language and social skills necessary for success.

The impact of Mi Escuelita’s services over the alternative is striking:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No Early Childhood Education</th>
<th>Mi Escuelita’s Program:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language skills are under developed</td>
<td>• Student Assessments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children with limited English proficiency struggle in school</td>
<td>• Individualized learning plans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increased placement in special education and/or retention</td>
<td>• Language-rich lessons in English, literacy, math, science, computers and social skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increased likelihood of dropping out of school</td>
<td>• High student to teacher ratio: 9 to 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Decreased earnings generation</td>
<td>• Continued monitoring</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Preventative health services</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Family literacy components</td>
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SERVICES

OUTCOMES

Ensure early reading success
Ease transition into English language kindergarten classes
Increase likelihood of students remaining on grade level
Increase likelihood of graduation from high school
Improve future earnings generation

Every $1 spent on high quality programs like Mi Escuelita saves taxpayers $7
95% of Mi Escuelita children qualify for English language classrooms
Big Results from a Little School

The impact of high quality early childhood education programs has been documented in numerous studies, and Mi Escuelita’s programs have demonstrated similar success for nearly 35 years at a cost lower than other nationally recognized programs across the country. In Texas, half of all first graders from low income families perform up to two years behind their peers on skills tests. Mi Escuelita students, however, score higher than all other DISD students in math by 1.8 percentile points and in reading by 2.3 percentile points by the first grade. These results are promising given that research correlates success in first grade reading with positive academic outcomes 10 years later. Additionally, Mi Escuelita students are 15 percent less likely to be retained in grade than DISD students. Students are not the only beneficiaries of these strong outcomes — every $1 spent on high quality programs like Mi Escuelita saves taxpayers $7 in costs avoided by fewer students needing remedial or special education and other government assistance. Give wings — secure strong futures for these children and Dallas today — by supporting the early childhood programs of Mi Escuelita.

Sources: Cunningham, A.E. & Stanovich, K.E.; Early reading acquisition and its relation to reading experience and ability 10 years later; 1997 · Currie, J.; Early childhood education programs; 2001 · Kuhne, K. & Scotch, R.; The impact of Educational First Steps on student success in DISD; 2008 · Texas Education Agency

Mi Escuelita Preschool (214) 526-0220
www.miescuelita.org

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What a Difference A Year Makes!

I remember last year we were coming out of a sluggish economy and struggling to fill empty seats in our classrooms. In an effort to close the gap for our parents, this school year we revamped the tuition structure, which allowed us to fill each and every available classroom in every center. For the first time since 2007 we are fully enrolled. Unfortunately, our waiting list has already begun to grow as parents realize that a high quality education is economically within their grasp if only there was space for their child.

As I think back to last year at this time, I remember being overjoyed at the outcome of last year’s dinner. We raised a record breaking $163,000 for the children of Mi Escuelita. This year we set a goal of raising $250,000 for the Founder's Scholarship Fund. Well, we shattered last year’s record and beat this year’s goal by raising over $300,000! We were fortunate to work with the firm Estrada Hinojosa, who led the way toward our fundraising success by bringing in many new sponsors and with Marcia Hinojosa, who led an incredible committee and was relentless in her goal to make this the most successful scholarship dinner in our history. We are truly looking toward a better future not only for Mi Escuelita but more importantly for the children we are so blessed to serve.

At the end of this school year, Mi Escuelita will be losing its lease on its long-time home on Maple Avenue and we will be moving to a new location. We are in the process of searching for a new facility that houses a few more classrooms and we can potentially serve more children.

Overall, exciting new things are happening at Mi Escuelita and I feel the momentum changing in positive direction as we spread our wings and grow our organization to serve more children. We would love to have you visit one of our centers or read about us on our website at www.miescuelita.org and Facebook. Join us in building a better future for our children.

Give Wings,

Gayle Nave, Executive Director
Cena de la Mariposa Has Record Breaking Night and Raises Over $300,000

Truly a night to remember is this year’s annual Cena de la Mariposa which raised over $300,000 and is now the most successful event in our history. The best part is that many people had a role in making this a reality. It is because of the generosity of our guests, sponsors, donors, committee and staff who gave of their time, their treasure and their talent that we were able to make the evening a success and more importantly, “Give Wings” to children.

Cena de la Mariposa was presented by Estrada Hinojosa for the second year and was chaired by Marcia Hinojosa, who worked tirelessly to make the event a tremendous success. Their commitment to Mi Escuelita brought in over 30 sponsors to the dinner. The event included a VIP reception sponsored by Moet Chandon, a silent auction with over 100 fabulous items and a live auction with great trips, handcrafted items and even a cruise anywhere in the world. Over 480 guests joined us in raising funds for the Founder’s Scholarship Fund, including Secretary of State Hope Andrade, Mayor Mike Rawlings, and City Councilwomen Monica Alonzo and Delia Jasso. Miss Latina US, Sasha Zacarias and CBS11 Ginger Allen emceed the event and kept the evening upbeat. Our special guests included alumni children from Mi Escuelita who gave us an update on their academic success after preschool. Paul Trejo, an employee at Blackrock, Inc., working on Wall Street, spoke about the impact Mi Escuelita made in his early years. He received the Distinguished Alumni award.

Honored guests included Dr. Elba Garcia, County Commissioner, who received the Mi Escuelita Hero Award for her commitment to Mi Escuelita and the community. Ernst & Young were honored as Group Volunteers of the Year and Bill and Elaine Johnson, with Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church were honored as Individual Volunteers of the Year. Cena de la Mariposa 2012 was truly a night where our supporters earned their wings. Thank you again to our sponsors for making this evening a success.
Celebrate the Holiday Season and Support our Ornament Sale Benefiting Mi Escuelita Preschool

Each ornament is created by a child at Mi Escuelita and beautifully boxed.

$20 per ornament
(Order deadline: December 17, 2012)

Three Ways to Order or Make a Donation

- Call: 214-526-0220
- Online: www.miescuelita.org
- Mail: Mail in enclosed order form

Key Dates
Peanut Butter Food Drive
Nov 5 – Dec 14

Closed Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov 18 – Nov 23

Closed Christmas Holiday
Dec 24 – Jan 7