



Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago OFFICE OF LATINO AFFAIRS

May 2015

Celebrating Women and Moms

Our Lady of Tepeyac's Annual Mother's Conference

On May 1st, Our Lady of Tepeyac celebrated their mothers in a very special way. They held their 4th annual conference with the theme being "healthy mothers, healthy children."

Site Director Petra Gutierrez shares, "We provided them with activities that are budget friendly and easy to do at home. The mothers also got to listen to the wonderful story of Edna Vasquez who is an ultra-marathoner. She motivated the mothers to believe that **nothing is impossible to achieve** as long as you have a positive mind set and the willingness to keep moving forward."

Edna Vazquez, having already run in Mexico, China, Belgium, Spain and Chile, will be running 250 kilometers (**approximately 155.34 miles!**) in the Gobi Desert in China this year and in the Egyptian Desert in 2016.

Other topics and activities covered were supporting literacy through children's games and rhymes, learning about a child's brain development, doing yoga, and understanding the importance of healthy snacks.

To learn more about our Child Development Centers, visit our [website here](#).



Participants of Our Lady of Tepeyac's Annual Mother's Conference.

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Did you know?

1. Every 30 seconds someone turns to Catholic Charities for help.
2. Almost 2/3 of them are women.
3. Our services impact every stage of life -- from infants to seniors.

Mother's Day Appeal

You can put women and children first with a donation to our [Mother's Day Appeal](#).

\$80,000 Challenge to Multiply Your Generosity

A generous donor has promised an \$80,000 challenge grant if we meet our fundraising goal by **June 30**.

Every dollar given for the Mother's Day Appeal will count toward this goal and help us earn \$80,000.

Catholic Charities Mom

Karina Lopez is a Case Aid in our **Senior Homecare Department**. She helps provide in-home homemaker services to homebound, low-income seniors who live in the southeast and southwest sides of Chicago. Having started out as an intern, she now balances a full-time job, school, and raising two little kids --a three and a four year-old.



"I feel that as women, we try to have too many expectations of trying to do it all -- the career and being a good family figure in the home. I struggle to do it all. I'm in school, working, and a mom... As mothers, we just try to provide the best for our families, doing the best we can for our children."

"When you think of your mom, and you think of all the things she did for you and accomplished during the day, you become really shocked by how much she was able to accomplish in just one day. It's hard keeping work at work and home at home. You get a call and you're out of the door because something's going on. Some moms are fortunate to have a good support team, but others don't."

Karina shares her motherly role with the seniors she serves. The Homemaker Services are designed to help with daily activities, which may include housework, meal preparation, laundry, shopping, and assistance with personal care.

Her own advice to working moms:

"Have pride in what you're doing every day. You are literally the nurturer -- the key to the household." She notes that it's important to also have yourself kept together. She recommends picking up a hobby, like going to the gym or going to church.

Karina will graduate with a degree in social work in 2018.

To Karina and to all mothers, thank you for your tireless energy and selfless love!

To learn more about our **Senior Homecare Department**, [click here](#).

Community Conversations: On The Table

On May 12th, the Chicago Community Trust kicked off its centennial year by inviting people to host community-wide conversations [On The Table](#). The goal was to celebrate everyday philanthropists and keep on building "the passion, energy, and devotion to the Chicagoland area."

To join in their efforts, the Office of Latino Affairs coordinated two events for community leaders, focused on **Latino Leadership and Engagement**.

- Marilu Gonzalez, City Southwest Regional Director, facilitated a breakfast discussion at the Chicago SW Regional Office. The breakfast was sponsored by the [Archdiocese Office of Peace and Justice](#).

Together we can do so much good.

To make a donation [Click Here!](#)

Ibero Update!

Mujeres Floreciendo

"Mujeres Floreciendo" is a women's support group at our City Southwest Regional Office and at St. Mary of Celle. It came about as a partnership with Loyola and Iberoamericana University in Mexico City to offer more support to our community members who are still dealing with the pains of migration.

During the past four months, the students and women met weekly and discussed different issues like self-esteem, empowerment, and family communication.

At the end of her semester with us, one of our Ibero students reflected: "I saw empowered women who were able to put names to their emotions, to regain their self-esteem and confidence, and to share and find in others the support that they never thought they had. The result was, in my opinion, the **power of community and love**, and the immense personal growth of the women who participated in the group."



One of our Ibero students with a woman from Mujeres Floreciendo.

- Members of the Latino Advisory Council, Lake County together with Dalia Rocotello, Director of Latino Affairs, facilitated a lunch discussion. Lake County Board Chair Eileen Lerum also joined. Lunch was hosted by the [Chicago Botanic Garden](#).

The discussion was lively, with many participants interested in continuing the conversation and proactively pursuing opportunities for action.



On The Table discussion at the City Southwest Regional Office

On April 30th, *Mujeres Floreciendo* had their last session with the Spring cohort of students. In thanksgiving, they celebrated with cake, flowers, and gifts.

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Catholic Charities fulfills the Church's role in the mission of charity to anyone in need by providing compassionate, competent and professional services that strengthen and support individuals, families and communities based on the value and dignity of human life. *In order to remain faithful to our mission, Catholic Charities is guided by these core values: Respect, Compassion, Competence, and Stewardship.*