

April 2015

**Week of the Young Child:
Meet Dr. Cary Rositas Montemayor**

The Week of the Young Child took place April 12 -18. In recognition, we are highlighting our **Child Development Centers**. Our centers located throughout Chicago and in Berwyn and Summit offer high-quality, culturally diverse early education programs that prepare over 1200 children each year for kindergarten readiness. The centers also work with parents, reinforcing the importance of education and offering parents the tools they need to succeed.

Dr. Cary Rositas Montemayor, Catholic Charities Early Childhood Project Manager, works with our child development centers to implement and monitor the **Dual Language Model**, a program designed to "enhance the expressive and receptive English language skills" of those whose primary language is not English. It builds on their maternal language (Spanish). We are grateful for Dr. Rositas Montemayor's work in enhancing our programming to the community.

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



Dr. Cary Rositas presents to parents on the issues related to Dual Language Learners.

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**Wish List
(for Early Childhood Centers)**

- Children's books, especially Spanish
- CD's with Spanish children's songs
- Arts and crafts supplies
- Computers for classroom
- Sofas for school classroom
- Game table for classroom
- Karaoke machine
- Storage cabinets
- Laminator machines
- Large waterproof mats
- Staff lounge table and chairs
- Rain ponchos for school children

Volunteers are needed and welcome to help

- assist in the classrooms
- maintenance/custodial work
- as receptionists

Do you have expertise in music, art, dance, or theatre?

Share your time and talent and help provide our children with enriching opportunities in the arts!

Happy National Volunteer Week!

Catholic Charities is grateful for our incredible volunteers who dedicate their time and talent to our programs. Each year, we welcome over 15,000 volunteers, who, individually and in teams, allow us to serve so comprehensively.

This month we recognize two teams: On April 1st, members of the **Northern Trust Latin Heritage Leadership Council** served at our Casa Catalina Basic Needs Center, unloading boxes of packaged foods from our truck, preparing grocery bags, and distributing food to over 300 individuals and families in need living in the Back of the Yard community in Chicago.



Volunteer group from *Northern Trust* at Casa Catalina

On April 11th, members of the **Catholic Charities Latino Advisory Committee** and their families sponsored and served dinner to veterans living at [Cooke's Manor](#) on the Hines VA Campus. The residents expressed their gratitude for a special meal and visit.

We extend our thanks to these teams and to each and every one of you who have impacted lives through your service.

Learn more about volunteer opportunities with Catholic Charities at www.volunteerbridge.com or contact our Volunteer Relations Department at (312) 655-7322 or volunteer@catholiccharities.net

Advocacy Days

Every 30 seconds someone counts on Catholic Charities for help.

As the State's FY16 budget is negotiated, our Board of Advisors and Administration share a grave apprehension for any budget that would leave vulnerable people unprotected and without access to basic human needs.

Did you know?

Early Childhood Program

1. The Dual Language Model's piloting stage benefited **115 children and their families**.
2. In partnership with the Mexican Consulate, the pilot groups started a **library lending program** of Spanish books to encourage more parents to read to their kids at home.
3. English-speaking preschoolers learn words and phrases in Spanish, allowing them to connect with grandparents and relatives who only speak Spanish.

Celebrating Success!

Child Development Centers that have received both national and state accreditation -- e.g. the *ExceleRate Gold Circle of Quality* (the **highest quality state award!!**):

- ~ Chicago Lawn Child Dev. Center
- ~ Cordi Marian Child Dev. Center
- ~ Grace Mission Child Dev. Center
- ~ Our Lady of Tepeyac Center
- ~ St. Blase Child Dev. Center
- ~ St. Joseph Child Dev. Center
- ~ St. Mary of Celle Center

Latino Affairs Social

Last month, our Latino Advisory Committee hosted a Latino Affairs Social at the Union League Club. The goal was to invite colleagues and friends to learn more about Catholic Charities and the role of our different board committees such as the Latino Advisory Committee and the Junior Board.

This year, we welcomed **triple the attendees**, with more than 70 guests and dozens expressing interest in becoming involved in our mission.

If you are interested in becoming involved with our Board Committee

On April 14 and 15, staff and members of our Board went directly to Springfield to talk with legislators and advocate on behalf of the lives we serve. Members are now planning follow-up meetings at local district offices.

To learn more about how you can help us advocate, we invite you to contact Stephanie Johnson, Director of Government Relations, at (312) 655-7020 or smjohnson@catholiccharities.net



Board member Goya Vega-Byrnes with City Southwest Regional Director, Marilu Gonzalez, on the Capitol steps in Springfield, IL.

work, please contact our Office of Latino Affairs at latinoaffairs@catholiccharities.net



Violeta Hernandez, Kristina Mulhall, and Judith Hernandez at the Latino Affairs Social.

Contact Us:

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Connect with us

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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.*