



## NUESTRA COMUNIDAD

Mission Neighborhood Centers | Monthly Community Newsletter



### EMBRACING THE FUTURE WHILE HONORING OUR CORE VALUES

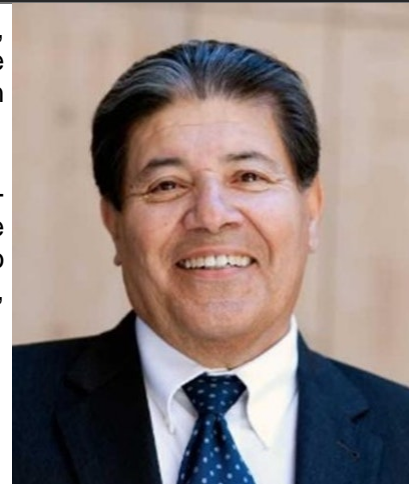
We welcome our new CEO, Richard Ybarra

We are happy to announce that our new CEO, Richard Ybarra, will be joining MNC on March 1, 2021. Richard's office will be located in our main office at 362 Capp Street in the Mission District.

It is exciting to bring someone who is not only a seasoned non-profit executive but also someone with extensive experience developing leaders and teams. We are looking forward to working with Richard as we continue enhancing our programs, investing in our community and developing our staff.

Richard is fully bilingual in English and Spanish.

Please [click here](#) for the full announcement.



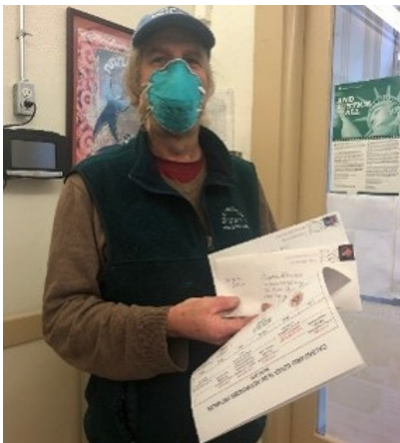
### HEALTHY AGING & DISABILITY PROGRAM

COVID-19 VACCINATION CAMPAIGN



COVID-19 vaccines are an important step in slowing the spread of the disease. Our Healthy Aging & Disability Program has been working diligently in providing our senior clients complete information about the COVID-19 vaccine. In partnership with UCSF's Memory and Aging Center, we facilitated an informational workshop with Stefanie Pina Escudero, MD to inform our clients about the myth and facts about getting the Covid-19 vaccine, its advantages and to provide clarity and dissipate misinformation they may have received. In addition, in partnership with United in Health SF, we have been able to provide the vaccine to our 65 years old and older participants. We are happy to report that both the interest and the response of our clients have been very positive

### INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITIES



In collaboration with the [San Francisco Friends School](#), our older adult's participants have been engaging in an initiative to connect with young students from the school. The initiative is called Pen Pals and participants and students exchange letters and cards via our US postal mail services. This provides another community connection for our older adults who are within the most vulnerable population at risk of suffering from isolation, depression and other health difficulties during this pandemic.

The feedback from our participants has been extremely positive. We always strive to provide our participants with a variety of resources and activities to keep them engaged and healthy.

On the other hand, we launched Zoom sessions to provide support to our Intergenerational program participants. During these gatherings the facilitator opens up the session with a topic for discussion about issues that important to our older adults such as respect, values and forgiveness among others. We also invite their family members to participate with them.



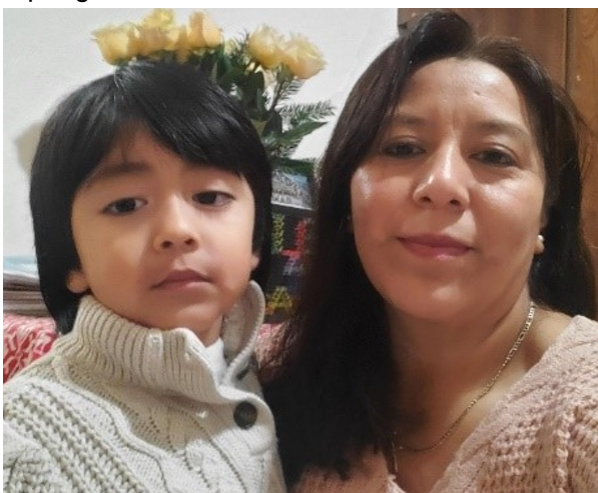
## CHILDREN'S SERVICES PROGRAM

MNC and IFR- Instituto Familiar de La Raza partnered to provide families a virtual series around Healthy Relationships, to create community, learn and share how to preserve healthy and fun relationships! It's one of our family engagement topics we provide yearly, but this year with the pandemic, the need for balancing healthy family relationships became critical. It's an area that we continue to support families through ongoing conversations and resources for children and their families. The IFR Mental Health Consultants lead the conversations with interactive games and activities to open dialogue amongst all participants. Some conversations were extremely difficult and sensitive, but a trusting space was created to foster families to share in community. The Family Services Specialist also assisted co-facilitating break out rooms and support the group process.

The three workshops included the following topics:

- 1/25 Fun and healthy relationships/Tips. (16) families attended
- 2/1 Conflict resolution and communication/Tips (15) families attended
- 2/8 Adult relationships and the impact on children, with a focus on the cycles of domestic violence/abuse. (19) families attended

About 50 participants in total, and half attended multiple sessions! Truly a collaboration success! Families are deeply interested in additional topics, and we're planning to offer more this coming Spring!



Here's a family testimony from Women's Building:

"I really enjoyed participating in these classes that offer different topics, because one can learn something different from each workshop. Not only one learns from facilitators but also from parents and families who share their experiences. As a mother, we are always doing things in a hurry without taking into account the importance of giving time to our children and being patient. I love attending and want to continue attending when another opportunity is offered. By Humberta Merino

One of MNC's early care family engagement goals is to ensure family supports are provided to families transitioning to Kindergarten, to ensure their next academic journey is set up for success! We're happy to share that out of the 160 families transitioning to kindergarten next school year, so far we have 150 (93.75%) who have submitted their applications for the first round with their school of choice!

Due to the pandemic majority of school applications were offered virtually, which created barriers for families who lacked resources and were just uncomfortable using new virtual applications. MNC worked closely with SFUSD to provide educational workshops and one-on-one support when needed. Family Services Specialist went above and beyond in working with families to complete all steps necessary, including meeting individually in person or over the phone to walk them through each process, assisting in obtaining supporting documents and providing comforting support through for many families an unfamiliar and not a user-friendly process. Families expressed their deepest appreciation for the ongoing support and how that contributed to reducing anxiety and fear they were experiencing. Majority of families applied with the school district, and a few with local charter and private schools.

Our FSS team continues to follow-up closely with the (10) families who still need to submit applications now for the second deadline, to ensure families have supports necessary. Thereafter, support is provided until all families officially receive their placement letters!

**YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAM**

Where is Mission Girls?

Our Mission Girls program and staff relocated to 701 Alabama Street right next to the Latino Hub at Mission Language and Vocational School, Inc. (MLVS) We are operating as a safe and secure essential services hub to our community. Last year before the pandemic and resulting lockdowns, the Mission Girls farewell event was one of the highlights of the year, now the girls are busy at school in their new hub. For Valentine's day the girls decorated their site and exchanged sweets with each other.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT EMPLOYEES' DONATIONS

On January 22, 2021 a representation of employees from the San Francisco International Airport (SFO) brought to MNC three pallets of essential items to be distributed to our community. They and their co-workers took the initiative to collect donations across airport employees to provide COVID-19 relief to those in need. They selected MNC as the community organization they wanted to bring these to knowing we will diligently distribute them to our community. We distribute the donations through our Essential Services hub in our Bayview location.



In the picture (left to right) we have our CFO, Sebastian Alioto and our COO, José A. Rodríguez, welcoming the staff from SFO and accepting their donations.

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