



TJ Partners gathered in October to tour the center and see their good work in action!

You're Helping Make A *Diferencia!*

This Fall, we are off to an amazing start! In September, Todos Juntos began its 9th year by enrolling 150 new students, hosting the annual alumni reunion, and celebrating our partners with a breakfast and tour. Reuniting, reconnecting, and reminiscing are important to building community with our students, alumni, partners, and you. It's helpful and necessary to step back and focus in on the good that we're doing *juntos*.

Since inception, Todos Juntos has been a strong proponent of collaborative community and volunteer partnerships. These partnerships have been central to how we accomplish our mission. We know more is accomplished when we strategically align our resources to achieve our respective missions.

Today, we partner with 13+ local organizations to offer wraparound services in English, Early Childhood Education, technology, career development, nutrition, parenting, literacy, finance, mental health, and more. These partnerships strengthen our core programming and offer direct, intensive, and full wraparound services.

More is possible when we work *Juntos*

These relationships allow us to offer our families an experience that can bend to their specific needs. For example, in 2015, we had a mother enroll with her twin boys. Dalia enrolled wanting to learn English, but she also wanted to help her boys get ready for school, as they'd only ever been in her care. Sebastian and Damien experienced the expected separation anxiety, but within a few weeks we realized that little S needed some extra support. We reached out to various partners to make sure we helped Dalia navigate an unfamiliar system. Together with staff and partners we helped enroll the boys for healthcare assistance. We worked with Sonrisas Therapies to ensure that therapy could be done onsite to minimize disruption to their regular routine. Staff attended specialized training on sensory disorders. We also enlisted the help of a local psychologist to help connect Dalia with more information and a better understanding of specific needs. By the time the boys ended their second year at our center, each had forged a special bond with all TJ staff, both were well prepared for Pre-K, and mom had a network of support, too.

When we reconnected with Dalia last month, she shared that both boys are flourishing and that their Pre-K teachers are very happy with their development. She said that she believes their Pre-K experience would have been very different, if they had not attended TJ first. She shares, "I am really thankful to everyone, especially the teachers who showed a lot of patience and compassion. Both boys started Pre-K more confident, socially prepared, and with knowledge to grow. The personal and encouraging support we all received...well, I'm just very grateful."

Thank you for your part in helping to create meaningful opportunities for Dalia and her family!

Our Impact 2016-2017

Together we provided
17,650 hours of Instruction

Adults

92% Retention
100% progressed to next English level
100% feel more confident helping their children with homework

Children

90% Retention
100% Growth in math skills
On average students showed nearly two years worth of literacy improvement in less than six months.

Families

96,722 reading minutes
100% parents feel more confident in their role as parent
100% understand what it means to advocate for their children



Closing The Word Gap

The term “word gap” was introduced in a 1995 study, which found that low-income children are exposed to 30 million fewer words than their higher-income peers before the age of 3. Because the word gap appears during periods of critical development, its effects cannot be easily remedied by later interventions. However, findings in this study do suggest that informed and empowered parents, as well as language-rich environments, can place children on a path for reading success.

Todos Juntos is helping to bridge the word gap by giving families access to information, as well as a variety of learning opportunities. We offer access to a PBS Library Corner, onsite Parent Book Clubs, and in 2016, we introduced the Raising A Reader program.

Raising A Reader is an evidence-based program that encourages home learning and family reading time. During our weekly Mommy & Me classes, parents learn strategies to create a literacy-rich environment for their children, regardless of families’ language or literacy skill.

Through this program, students receive a different bag each week with 4 age-appropriate bilingual books. And in 2016-17, families logged more than 96,000 minutes from this program alone. We are proud of the commitment to learning that our families make daily. It is a wonderful experience to see first-hand the social and academic growth we see in their little ones.

Thank you to the Buena Vista Foundation for providing funding for this project! Todos Juntos!



Thank you to Kendra Scott on North Lamar for hosting TJ for a Kendra Gives in October. Thank you to everyone who shopped. Together we raised \$1,028 to help build up families through education.



Reconnect. Reunite. Reminisce.

TJ alumni visited us in September for a sweet reunion. It’s mind-boggling how grown our little alumni are. Some are in the 6th grade already! One former student brought teachers handwritten notes thanking them “for teaching me English words and being a part of my life...”. An alumni parent shared that the TJ community taught her about reading with her children, how to be a better parent, and taught her son everything he needed to be successful in Pre-k.

Visit us online for more photos and testimonials!

**INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED
AT TJ LEARNING CENTER?
CONTACT US AT
info@TodosJuntosLC.org
or call (512) 788-7255**

TodosJuntosLC.org



Upcoming Events:

**GIVING TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 28, 2017**

When you support students at TJ, you help build up our shared community. Please consider making a contribution this holiday season.

