

GOING PLACES

An Evening to Remember

It's hard to believe that it has already been **10 years** since Todos Juntos opened its doors. When we opened in 2009 there was a need for a place where parents and children could learn together and over the last 10 years we did just that - *juntos* we created a 2GENeration center for families.

We knew we had to celebrate this milestone in a big way, and thanks to a tireless group of volunteers, we did just that! With jazz music courtesy of **Matthew LaRocca** and a dinner prepared especially for us by the chefs at **St. David's Episcopal Church Catering**, over 150 guests dined and mingled and celebrated our first ten years.

Our inaugural honorees were special friends - **Carmel Borders** and **Austin Community College** for the **Amistad** (friendship) and **Comunidad** (community) awards, respectively. It was important to recognize them both because they have done so much for our little escuela since inception!

And speaking of special, a moving moment in the evening came when Todos Juntos student, **Maria De La Luz Reveles**, shared her experiences as an English student and mother to a Todos Juntos little learner. We are so grateful to Maria for bravely sharing her story.

All in all, our guests raised over \$65,000 for our little escuela, funds that will be translated into books so our students develop a lifetime habit of reading, trainings for our teachers to bring their best lessons to our learners, much-needed classroom supplies, engaging learning experiences, and so much more. Gracias amigos - here's to 10 more!

(See page 2 for event photos!)

Adult Student Book Club

Todos Juntos is once again offering an an Adult Book Club to our ESL students! Students are reading the much-loved Stuart Little- a story about a boy that looks like a mouse... or is it a mouse that acts a boy?

"In our book club not only do we work on vocabulary and understanding the story, but we also improve critical thinking skills by trying to predict what will happen next and reasons why characters acted one way over another", explains lead ESL teacher Amber Miller.

By reading books that are challenging enough to keep them interested, but appropriate for a family reading, TJ students achieve even more language milestones and learn crucial skills for reading at home with their little ones - and their big ones!



MEET TODOS JUNTOS VOLUNTEER, ESTHER DIAZ

What is your professional background?

I am a professional translator and trainer, but helping immigrants, refugees, and asylees is my passion.

Why do you serve the community?

I really take to heart the message of Jesus in Matthew 25:34-36: 'For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.'

Also, my father came to this country as a very poor immigrant. A teacher encouraged him to go to college and others helped pay his way. Helping people is my way of giving back on behalf of my dad.

What are some services or connections you offer TJ families?

Making phone calls, writing business letters, finding good schools for children, finding GED classes for adults, finding affordable healthcare, finding affordable housing, finding financial assistance for college, etc.



Thank you
for all you
do,
Esther!

Stuart Little-
Tricky words for
ESL students.
Are they tricky for
you?

- yawing
- keeling
- berth
- gait
- hip

Amplifying Opportunities

I Live Here
I Give Here

Amplify Austin is an opportunity to see our name in action: 24 hours of Todos (everyone) working Juntos (together) to make Austin a great place for everyone. On February 28th and March 1st, 51 supporters helped raise over \$5,500 for our escuela.

This campaign, now an Austin mainstay, is especially important for our center and our families, as it provides general operating funds to support every day needs. Funds raised during **Amplify Austin 2019** will help us to continue providing education and opportunities to local families for the rest of the academic year.

And, did you happen to catch us on the local news that day? As part of their Amplify coverage, **KVUE** visited the Center during Mami & Me! Thank you to **I Live Here I Give Here** for organizing another incredible year and to everyone who helped support our school this year!

A few favorite moments from our 10th Anniversary Event!



MEET TODOS JUNTOS BOARD MEMBER, DAN SHARPHORN

Tell us how you first got involved in with TJLC ...

My daughter had volunteered with the children, loved it, and told me about it.



What do you wish other people knew about TJLC?

How much you can help with so little. Visiting the Center and seeing the children and their parents so excited and eager to learn is a moving experience.

What's it like to be a board member for TJLC?

It is a delight to be part of such a great organization and work with a decent, caring group of people, whose only agenda is to do what is right for the students and the staff.

What do you recall as the hardest part of sending your own child to school?

We were fortunate to be in a safe and familiar environment, with a good school close by such that there really were no hard moments. I wish it could be that way for all families.

Thank you, Dan!

What Our Students Are Saying

Q: Why do you like to come to TJ?

A: Teachers, books, draw, play, dance! - Irving, age 4

"I like to come to the center so me and my children can learn" - María, Adult ESL student & Irving's mom



Mark Your Calendars!

Here is what's coming up at Todos Juntos Learning Center this Spring

4/11: Mami and Me 10th Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Picnic

5/15: Adult Students' Graduation

5/16: Early Childhood Student Graduation